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Reflective Essay

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Introduction

When applying for a job it's important to understand what an employment team is looking for in their candidates. They want to know you inside and out and where you could be useful in their line of work. When I transferred to the school of cybersecurity from being a criminal justice major, it was challenging adjusting to the new environment and I had to pick up a whole new set of skills while still retaining the ones I gained from my previous degree. All of the skills which I developed are from many applied and core courses I've taken to fulfill the requirements for my degree. They range from very technical knowledge of coding and various cyber threats, networking on a digital and physical level, and interdisciplinary skills. Three of the strongest skills that I've attained are my knowledge of cybersecurity policies and current events, my interdisciplinary research skills, and my general knowledge of computers and their components. These skills are broad and unrefined as I'm still being introduced into the field of cybersecurity. However, I hope to sharpen my current skills as I learn more technical knowledge and complete my certifications.

Cybersecurity Policy and Current Events

One of the most important parts of cybersecurity is understanding how it is applied to our world and how certain events have shaped the policies and strategies that are applied to our infrastructure today. As many people already know, cybersecurity is ever evolving and continues to do so exponentially with the advancement of technology and the political climate of the world. This is very important because technology has changed drastically in both design and function over time and having laws from five, ten, or twenty years ago become obsolete and are a poor representation of the current cyberspace. I performed research on a multitude of different cyber policies and the one I used for the assignments for my policy class was the General Data

Protection Regulation (GDPR). It is the back of data protection for the European Union, and it holds corporations responsible for obtaining explicit consent from users to collect their data as well as informing them of what the data will be used for. It also penalizes companies who fail to adhere to the guidelines of the policy.

In my Windows Server Management class, I performed research on a wide variety of current events in the cyber world. They were all related to stories of cyber-attacks that have occurred in the past decade and stories of Penetration Testers and hacker groups performing their work. This gave me insight into how the field operates and how important these jobs are to the function of domestic and international infrastructures. At the end of the class I completed a research paper on the Colonial Pipeline Cyber Attack that occurred in May of 2021. I explain in detail the lead up to the attack, the effect it had, and the software that was used by the hacker group.

Interdisciplinary Research

It is commonplace for people in a STEM related field to perform research from time to time. Whether it be for a project or for self-education on a specific topic. Interdisciplinary studies gave me a useful tool to use while performing my research. This class taught me the effectiveness of taking information from a variety of different fields. It helps to make your research more concrete and helps you gain a better understanding of the subjects you use. Whereas performing research but only coming from one perspective could leave out crucial information that could strengthen your argument and the facts you provide. The research I performed was on the effects of virtual reality on the human body. I took knowledge from the function and technology of the devices and theories from both psychology and anatomy to determine if any long terms effects would occur with consistent use. Virtual Reality devices are

like putting two tv screens close to your eyes and place the user into a completely generated environment that they can interact with and play games in. Some games can involve the user moving their body in very strenuous ways such as fighting or platforming games. These programs have led people to believe that the user could develop psychopathic tendencies if they consistently play violent games or degrade the brain with how much blue light your eyes are being exposed to. The results of the study that that there is no current evidence to determine if there could be any psychological issues from long term use. However, symptoms such as nausea, headaches, dizziness, and eye strain could deter people from persistent use.

Computers and Their Components

Since I was a kid, I've used computers to help me explore the world inside the internet and to entertain myself whenever I had nothing else to do. I had an iMac growing up that kept photos albums of my early childhood and is what became my main computer up until I left for college. As I grew older, they became a much more vital role in my life when schools started to issue personal laptops to do schoolwork on and began using my personal computer for playing games and talking with my friends. This is how I grew to become familiar with computers with varying operating systems and what components go into a computer to make it run. This became especially true after I received my first gaming laptop to take to college with me. Knowing what runs your computer helps with troubleshooting any potential issues the computer may have and can allow you to help other people with any issues should they arise. While I haven't worked for any IT services, I work currently as a media technician for Old Dominion University, and I help campus groups and clubs with setting up audio and video services. I occasionally help clients with any computer trouble they may be experiencing. It has been a very surface level experience

for troubleshooting and I future experiences can give me better opportunities to help people with more advanced issues.

Conclusion

It is my hope that my skills will continue to flourish as I progress in the field of cybersecurity. Since transferring into this program, I have felt personally fulfilled in my interests and I am excited for the possibilities that await me. I'm hoping to get my Security + certification this summer so I can start applying to jobs for when I graduate this coming spring. Once I have attained more defined skills, I will update this when obtain more refined skills. I just started learning to program and I'm soon to be working with Python and C++ this coming fall. I began research into becoming a Pen. Tester because they have a very dynamic job and I think its cool that they are hired to hack corporations that need improvements in their security. I know that I have only scratched the surface of this field and I'm hoping I'm gifted golden opportunities to prove my worth to anyone that will hire me. I'm excited to learn and expand my horizons in one of the most dynamic fields in the world.