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Reflection #2

I can confidently say I have found my footing in this internship at the Earth Viability Center. I signed an NDA, so I cannot go into too much detail about exactly what I do, but I can say I have grown comfortable with my workflow. I spend my day in two-hour increments across my two internships and my schoolwork, rotating them so I don't become too stagnant. This specific kind of high-stress time management has become an important skill for me since I hope for the future that I have a work-from-home job to be a more present parent to my children.

What mainly changed from this reflection to the last is my confidence. I have become more confident in my ability to adjust to new situations and to better trust my own knowledge. Being surrounded by people who know more than I do doesn't automatically mean I am less valuable or less qualified; it just shows me paths where I can improve. That change in perspective has helped a lot with my self-direction, as I didn't get stuck in the spiral from “wow, I don't know anything” to “ok, let me try and learn about that.” A specific example I have is learning to use ZAB, a web proxy pen testing tool. I never knew this tool existed. The school itself lacks information about more modern tools, so we focus on older

tools like JackTheRipper or Metasploit. These older tools aren't bad, but they can become limited as technology advances. One thing I do not like about that learning experience is the concept of "we don't know what we don't know," meaning there is a lot of technology out there that exists that we can use, but we have no clue of its existence, and may never know of its existence because we are never told that it exists in the first place! There could be a magical tool that's better than the rest when it comes to pen testing or traffic sniffing that I may never find, because where would I even begin to look? I will not say it is the school's responsibility to teach us, students, how to use every tool imaginable, but it would be greatly appreciated if it at least mentioned the existence of these other tools as a stepping stone for exploration.

In conclusion, these last 50 hours have challenged me to find new ways to define my worth. I have grown comfortable with my flaws and figured out how to improve them rather than focus on them. This internship has forced a lot of self-reflection, made me question what my role is in the workplace, carved out expectations for myself, and to stick to them. Most importantly, I am not trapped by the belief that I must always prove myself by taking on multiple jobs in hopes of proving my worth, which won't benefit anyone, especially not me.