

## **Reflection of my time here at ODU**

during my time at ODU pursuing my Degree in Cyber security and while taking the courses belonging to this major I've been able to rapidly grow my understanding of not only the technical aspects of cyber security but also the social aspects of it as while and how that affects things like cybercrime and how it can lead to an increase of cybersecurity related risks. This is because the biggest weakness in any digital security is always the human factor and if people the backbone of your defense become manipulated or disgruntled with your company or organization that can lead to major security risks being opened up without you knowing about it. I know that many people wanting to be cybersecurity professionals may at first think that all they need to know is how to defend networks and from cyber attacks or being able to perform your own cyberattacks for pentesting purposes but the most important thing a cybersecurity professional can know that i've realized during my time here is how to ensure that your colleagues are informed on how social engineering works and how cybercriminals can use that manipulate them into unknowingly giving them access to your computer or network and also making sure that your employees and colleagues are well taken care of within the organization to insure that they don't become disgruntled and then do something to threaten your security. Once you have taken care of the social side of things within your organization then you already have a level of digital security that most don't and with that being said. Overall I would say my time at ODU has been extremely rewarding with everything I have been able to learn that I otherwise wouldn't have been taught about. Now I would like to reflect a little more on some of the courses I've taken here for my major.

While taking courses here at odu for my cybersecurity Major some had more of an effect on me than others, so I will be focusing on those particular courses for this reflection. The

courses I'm talking about are CYSE 301 cyber techniques and operations, IT 315 intro to network and security, and lastly CYSE 300 introduction to cybersecurity. These courses like I said earlier had the biggest impact on me and contributed greatly to my understanding of cybersecurity on a more technical level. Some of the things I've learned in these courses have been how to create networks and the equipment needed to build it. I've learned about the different protocols used in networks such as UDP and TCP connections, Which is very important understanding to have in cybersecurity because if you don't understand how these different protocols work and their pros and cons you might not be able to properly set up firewall rules and the such to block out unwanted connections from unknown sources. This also leads me into learning about how firewalls work and how to properly configure them. I'm telling you all this because these are some of the things that are most important for a cybersecurity professional to know and these courses helped me to understand these concepts.

Of course though not everything has sunshine and rainbows these courses were not the easiest in the world and that makes sense due to them teaching complex and technical subjects, but I was able to overcome those hardships and challenges. You may be asking how? And to answer that I would say I overcame them by turning to other sources to give me a better understanding of the topic such as youtube, google, and of course my professor which allowed me to gain the insight I needed to approach problems I was having with hands-on assignments from a different angle. Another thing I would to touch is that a lot of the courses I've taken have been complementary to each other which helped me alot in some of my classes for example in my CYSE 270 course I learned how to used linux, which came in handy during my CYSE 301 course which routinely gave me assignments in Linux. Now let's continue on to my reflection of my IDS 493 course.

The IDS 493 course is a class designed to help students create and design an e-portfolio for them which contains useful information of the class, skills, and experiences they have made during their time at ODU, which is helpful for when students are finally ready to start their careers outside of the classroom once their time here ends. The most important valuable thing i've learned from this class was how to design a website which is accessible by people who may have disabilities which may negatively impact their ability to view the site, for example making sure the color palette of the website is made in such a way to allow for anyone to be able to read the text in the website without problems, which is a very important thing. If I had to show one thing of my portfolio to someone I'd probably like to show them my courses that I've taken since I think that's the most important part of my e-portfolio. The most challenging thing for me when it came to this class was definitely figuring out how to use wordpress and get the results I wanted from it, but I was mostly able to figure everything out simply by asking questions and googling things. I think with more time I could improve my e-portfolio simply by being able to add more things to it and being able to fully flesh it out in its contents. Previous courses helped me be able to complete this course by giving me content to add to my portfolio for example my CYSE301 class. Without that I wouldn't have been able to add content about the things I've learned in cybersecurity that have had a large impact on my understanding of my major.

In conclusion, my time at ODU has been filled with many different opportunities to learn and grow with so many different courses to choose from. I have gained skills in linux, windows, firewall configuration, networking and much more. The cybersecurity program here at odu has been amazing and i've learned countless things that will help grow my career in cybersecurity, one such thing is being able to think in an interdisciplinary way because sometimes to solve problems you can't just think like a cybersecurity professionals sometimes it requires to think

like a criminologie professionals or even an economic professionals because as i've said before cybersecurity has to deal with cyber risks not only in the digital domain but also in the social domain as well and being able to understand why someone may do the things they do from an economical or criminological standpoint which could give you the necessary insight in why cybercriminals may do certain things, which depending on what your specific field in cybersecurity would be very useful, like for people working in digital forensics. Now lastly to end things off let's talk about what happens after ODU. Well once I'm done here I plan to hopefully get a cybersecurity job in the public sector maybe for the FBI, NSA or the DHS. Then after a few years of that I'd like to become a contractor, But no matter where I end up I hope to continue to learn and grow within my field, so I can do my part in making sure this country and our citizens can live in a slightly more safe cyber environment in our ever growing digital world.