

Evan Liu-Phillips

CYSE368 Internship

Reflective Journals

Reflective Journal 1:

This journal entry covers the first 50 hours of my internship with Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab and my initial thoughts and tasks. The BC Ilab is an instructional hub for stem education and outreach for all ages, affiliated with Old Dominion University. Their website and application process did not give much information about my role as a cybersecurity intern. The true scope of all the BC Ilab interns is much wider than I would have expected, we essentially learn a little bit of everything to assist in any events that may take place, inside and outside of the field of cybersecurity. At the beginning of my internship I was tasked with learning CAD and other softwares to assist in projects involving 3D printers, fabric printers, CNC routers, laser engravers, resin printers, and other miscellaneous technologies. While initially confused with these responsibilities as a cybersecurity intern, I have come to realize that helping K-12+ with stem learning and technological literacy by using the aforementioned softwares and machines is a way to fundamentally train the youth/everyday people to be more conscientious online. The best way to know a system is to know its individual parts and processes; as it stands currently, there is a great disparity between the amount of computers/virtual systems the average person uses and the understanding of how a computer/IoT system works. This disparity gives way for numerous avenues for cyber attacks. A more permanent and sustainable solution begins at what my internship does, educating at the fundamental level at a critical learning age to try and close some distance in the ever-growing knowledge gap.