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CYSE368 Internship

Reflective Journals

<div align="center">Reflective Journal 3:</div>

This journal marks the 150-hour point of my internship at the Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab as a cybersecurity intern. As time progressed from my previous journal entries, the whole ILab became quite different from my initial expectations. The workload, responsibilities, and day-to-day operations are on a level I could not have predicted. I have come to accept that my primary objective at the innovation lab is not purely cybersecurity practice but to also educate the ILab's community on fundamental STEM concepts. So far, I have taken part in many functions and workshops that teach both children and adults the basics of robotics, programming, and cybersecurity, and I expect to continue these events until the end of my internship at Brooks Crossing. While enjoyable, my main focus each time I am there is the creation of the cyber lab and various cybersecurity challenges, which are tailor-made by myself and other interns to teach a wide range of cybersecurity concepts. These challenges can either be released online or taught alongside a live class at the Brooks Crossing space. However, as field trips and functions ramped up in quantity, I found myself having less time to work on cybersecurity challenges and instead dedicating most of my time from the last journal to now running field trips and making robots for kids to program. Something slightly disheartening to encounter when dealing with the many functions and workshops is the confirmation that virtually everyone I have taught/helped has a very poor understanding of how their computers and phones actually work and how susceptible they are online. While seeing this level of technical illiteracy

firsthand was alarming, it further reinforces my belief that the cure to this lack of understanding starts with core-level education.