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CYSE368 Internship

Reflective Journals

<center>Reflective Journal 4:</center>

This journal marks the 200-hour mark of my cybersecurity internship at the Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab. The ILab is an ODU-affiliated learning hub for all ages in the community to work on projects and learn STEM fundamentals. One of the primary services of the ILab is to host field trips that are run by the program manager and interns like myself. These field trips have increased in number quite steadily since the beginning of my internship and are now occurring around once a week or sometimes more. While assisting in running field trips takes away time from other duties of my position like creating a cyber lab, working alongside my fellow interns allowed me to learn more about my colleagues in the same field. Due to recently switching from computer science to cybersecurity and taking classes online, I did not have much of a chance to get to know other cybersecurity majors at ODU. Working with them in a close environment, however, opened my eyes to the different backgrounds cybersecurity majors can come from. There were many times when we interns were together preparing robotics kits or rubber band cars for kids to build where I was surprised by the military, psychiatric, or firefighting backgrounds my fellow interns came from before switching to cybersecurity. The hands-off style of management at the ILab paired with interns choosing their own schedules and projects made me realize that the discipline to pursue my own education was essential not only to the success of my internship but also to my cybersecurity career. This internship and my coworkers' origins made me realize that cybersecurity is something that can be learned

regardless of background and prior education, so long as the correct resources and research are

utilized.