ePortfolio Reflection:Cybersecurity

Elsie Gonzalez

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Professor Jessica Stanley

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This reflection of my ePortfolio is an amalgamation of my educational journey in learning from courses of instruction, collaborating with others, internship experience and other educational pursuits that complement my earned skillsets. My major is Cybersecurity with a minor in Training & Development. My reason for choosing Cybersecurity is because of my passion for bettering the security of network systems because of my own experience. Throughout my courses, there have been discussion boards, assignments, or scholarship opportunities asking why you wanted to pursue a career in Cybersecurity. Unfortunately, breaches and stolen personal identifiable information are all too prevalent, and many of us can say we have fallen victim to them. The more I learned throughout my education at Old Dominion University, the more I gathered on why my information was subject to such breaches. Besides there being malicious activities, sometimes these situations are exacerbated because of human error or how the the security of network was set up in the past. Now more than ever, not knowing about how to secure a network is not just dependent on the IT/Cyber professional; all professionals should endeavor to safeguard information and train to identify malicious activities. I learned many skills in my educational journey like program languages with Python, network building with my IT courses of instruction, writing intensive research papers with my interdisciplinary class and how incident response measures are conducted with my internship with governance and compliance. My holistic experience with my educational journey has been fulfilling and has far exceeded my expectations; but mostly, what you put into your journey is the experience you will gain, and the future professional growth in your chosen field. I am fortunate to have experienced my training, educational activities all tying in to make me into the professional I am today.

Programming Language – Python

One of my first initial courses of instruction was about Basic Networking and Programming Language of Python. This was my first experience with programming languages, and for me, it was intense. This course required many hours of practice, consultation with the instructor, and teacher's assistance. As a Cybersecurity professional, these are basic skillsets that one should have since tools that defend a network system use Python, Linux or PowerShell. During the course we were able to learn how to use variables to store information, demonstrate the ability to use if/else statements, create loops of actions, dictionary functions, and the use of modules and string manipulation. There are a series of assignments that were created leading up to be able to perform a final project. For the final project, I was able to create a client and server that were able to connect, and you can use it to talk like you would in a network. This specific skillset is useful for positions like a socket analyst where you would essentially defend a network where you monitor, detect any threats, and perform incident responses. This course of instruction was able to give me the foundations necessary with program languages, and as a Cybersecurity student you can further expand your knowledge to be more marketable for future professions.

Network Building

Another skillset that is also important for a Cybersecurity professional is knowing the ins and out of a network architecture. Learning how organizations and enterprises' network operate, was an interest of mine to expand my knowledge. Some of the courses of instruction that I took concentrated on finer details of network security and network architecture. I wanted to showcase my ability to be able to conduct a case analysis, and how to build a network architecture with the appropriate specifications. In my experience with my two Information Technology classes, I was able to learn more about how a secure network looks and operates. In job specific duties, having

a deep foundation and familiarity with a network system is a must. Being able to talk to employers on what steps or protocols they would follow to secure a network is vital, and the basis of network security. I am fortunate to have taken these courses, applied the knowledge during major projects, and in my internship with governance and compliance. To secure any network, the Cyber professional must be an expert on the foundation of network security.

Intensive Research

Continuing my collection of artifacts, I felt that displaying a project from my interdisciplinary class nicely showcases my ability to effectively communicate and my writing skills. These skills are important to have and show because in our line of job incident responses are part of job descriptions. In some job advertisements, there are positions strictly for incident responses. With this in mind, we are taught how to use monitor and detection systems, knowing different kinds of threats. But it always ends with knowing how to respond and resolve incidents. This requires one to write a report that will be reviewed by supervisors and most likely leadership. During my IDS 300 class, the sole focus was learning how to use several steps in research, how to synthesize information, and have different ways to show unbiased research and conclusions. Again, this is a great way to show future employers or an intended audience on your skills of written and verbal skillsets.

Conclusion

Building this ePortfolio is an important course to showcase your illusive career as a Cybersecurity professional. During my educational journey, I have learned a lot of theory, performed projects and took an internship that will lead me to the area that I want to become an expert in Cybersecurity. Gathering meaningful artifacts to showcase and strengthen the outcome

of the acquired skills is essential to show all types of audience. I want to show my skills to future

employers, and I know it is important to show them technical skills, verbal and written with

research skills and adept knowledge of network architecture. As an all-around Cyber

professional, I hope this ePortfolio shows me as the professional they will want.

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