Journal Entry: Social Themes in the Cybersecurity Analyst Role

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After watching the video, I was surprised by how much the role of a cybersecurity analyst relies on social behaviors, not just technical skills (Indeed, 2020). While it's easy to imagine analysts sitting behind a screen analyzing threats, the video emphasized how communication, collaboration, and social awareness are just as important.

One of the key social themes was **communication**. Cybersecurity analysts have to explain complex technical issues in a way that non-technical people can understand. Whether they're reporting threats to management or guiding employees through safe online practices, they need strong interpersonal and communication skills to make an impact (Furnell & Clarke, 2012).

Another important theme was **collaboration**. Analysts work with IT teams, HR departments, legal teams, and sometimes law enforcement. Responding to a cyberattack or preventing one often involves multiple departments. That means analysts must know how to navigate different workplace cultures and build trust with various groups (Dhillon & Backhouse, 2001).

The video also touched on the **importance of ethics and social responsibility**. Analysts often need security clearances and are held to high standards, both on and off the job. Their personal behavior can affect their professional credibility, which ties back to the idea of public trust and accountability (Anderson & Moore, 2006).

Lastly, there was a clear emphasis on **understanding human behavior**. Since many cybersecurity threats—like phishing—exploit people rather than systems, analysts must think like attackers and users. They rely on knowledge from psychology and sociology to build better awareness programs and prevent social engineering (Workman, 2008).

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In summary, the job of a cybersecurity analyst is deeply social. It's not just about stopping threats—it's about helping people understand and respond to them.

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