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CYSE 368 – Cyber Clinic Internship

Reflection Paper #1

So far, the first 3 weeks in the Cybersecurity Clinic have been a great experience. All I knew from the internship is that we would be providing pro bono cybersecurity services to local small businesses. In the beginning, we got introduced to how the clinic works, what's expected of us, and we met some of the main people involved like Professor Duvall, Lee Acheampong, and Carla Belfiore. I appreciated that they gave us a clear picture of how this internship is designed to help us gain real-world experience working with actual clients.

One of my favorite parts was the design thinking sessions and improv drills led by Dr. Baaki. He walked us through some creative thinking exercises, and the "Yes, and" activity really stood out to me. It helped me think differently when working with a team and reminded me that how we communicate ideas matters, especially in cybersecurity consulting where we're trying to build trust and offer solutions, not shoot down ideas. Having these design principles is crucial to our careers because a majority of the time we will come into a scenario where we would have to talk about highly technical assessments or topics to people who aren't necessarily equipped or trained in the subject matter.

We also reviewed cyber ethics and went over the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0. That's been helpful because it gives a structure for how to approach security assessments and client planning. My group also did a practice case study where we had to help a small town recover from a major ransomware attack. Their entire infrastructure went down, even the library systems, and they ended up paying a million dollars to get access back. We used NIST guidelines to come up with a strategy to help them avoid something like that again.

I also submitted my top three preferred clients: City of Suffolk, Blue Water Advisors, and Neptune's Fury Coffee. I hope to get placed with Suffolk since I want to gain more experience in public sector cybersecurity.

Conclusion: These first few weeks have been a solid start, and I'm looking forward to working directly with clients soon.