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**CYSE 368 – Cyber Clinic Internship**

**Reflection Paper #2**

Over the past few weeks, my experience in the clinic has shifted from orientation to real client engagement and leadership. We met with Greg Tomchick, CEO of Valor, who shared how he built his company while at ODU. His story stood out because he recognized he did not fit the traditional corporate mold and chose an entrepreneurial path that lets him push creative solutions for clients. He also provided a digital security checklist and a client script that model clear, plain-language communication. Those materials reinforced that consulting is as much about structure and delivery as it is about technical accuracy.

I was assigned to the City of Suffolk team and volunteered to serve as team lead. Given my age, Navy background, and comfort with responsibility, stepping into leadership felt natural. Our point of contact, Joshua Cox, now sends instructions directly to me, and I relay tasks and timelines to the team. This has sharpened my communication discipline, especially in aligning action items and confirming understanding.

Because we are working with municipal systems, we all signed NDAs and were reminded not to include sensitive technical details in any deliverables. That boundary is important. It reflects real-world expectations around confidentiality, chain of custody, and public trust.

Technically, my focus is expanding. Joshua sent guides so I could get a head start with Tenable, since vulnerability and exposure management will make up a major portion of our work. I am also brushing up on Microsoft Defender and related hardening practices so I can better translate scan results into prioritized remediation steps.

Overall, this phase has deepened my appreciation for how leadership, ethics, and communication integrate with technical skills. I am learning to structure client interactions, protect sensitive information, and guide a team while building hands-on experience in tools that matter.