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CYSE 368

Cyber Clinic Internship

Reflection Paper #3

Some of the most rewarding weeks at the Cyber Clinic thus far have been these last few weeks. Our team got hands on with the City of Suffolk environment for the first time and ran a full Tenable vulnerability scan on their SQL servers. This represented the transition from theory to practice as the prior meetings were mostly about meeting the Suffolk staff and Q&A sessions. It was the first time for me to fully utilize the Tenable tool outside of labs and witnessing the actual vulnerabilities, the data, and understanding how those weaknesses could affect a city network really made me realize just how serious and complicated cybersecurity is in a municipal setting.

Highlights included visiting the City of Suffolk IT department and attending a vulnerability management meeting. Watching how they process and deal with daily threats made me realize that cybersecurity is a continual effort. Joshua Cox and his team were transparent and professional and made me think about how coordination and trust between it and leadership is important. It was enlightening to see how many variables come into play when it comes to mitigating cybersecurity risk such as, frequently being up to do on hardware firmware, replacing legacy systems, coordinating with other departments with the intent of having as much of a secured multilayered system as possible.

I learned so much about audience awareness at our dry run presentation. Since our actual audience is members of Suffolk's IT department such as Joshua Cox, so we decided to cut down on the slides and just focus on what we did in our scans instead of cramming

technical data on the screen. I learned that it's not about showing off how much we know; it is about communicating effectively and clearly. We are going to use all the feedback that came in and refine our report and presentation before delivering it. All that we have learned so far from learning design/improv principles, constructing professional emails and learning about the Valor top 10 Security Checklist has been building up to this moment. I learned how to lead, collaborate, and present real technical work in a way that others find useful.