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Reflection Paper 2

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NCDOC

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## **Internship Reflection Paper**

### **Second 50 Hours**

Continuing my work as a SIEM developer for a further 50 hours has been both challenging and rewarding. The constant demands of the job have allowed me to meet my learning objectives and develop my professional skills. Recent real-world events have impacted my responsibilities at work, and the developing situations have provided insight into how real-world events impact the cyber-world. As a result of the political unrest in Iran, I was asked to develop new detections to protect global Navy networks. The support of my team helped me navigate this suddenly high-pressure situation with real-world demands as I worked to protect organizational assets in a time-sensitive manner. Recent events and increased responsibilities at work have allowed for many situations to reach my learning objectives, especially critical communication skills and applying foundational cybersecurity skills to a real-world setting.

Although these recent situations have been challenging and emotionally difficult to navigate at times, I have risen to the occasion. Working in a team environment

provides necessary support and an opportunity to collaborate, relieving some tension and pressure from the everyday demands of the job. The last 50 hours will help prepare me for future employment situations in which I might feel unprepared, overwhelmed, or anxious.

Additionally, I have continued developing my professional communication skills. My immediate supervisor provided me with valuable feedback after a recent situation wherein I did not communicate effectively. My supervisor was out of the office for the day when the above situation occurred, and my team and I stayed late to develop the detections. Knowing the situation and that what was being asked of us was critical, my team got to work quickly. In the heat of the moment, wanting to provide timely and high quality products, we did not think to inform our supervisor. When my supervisor arrived at the office the next day for an early meeting regarding the events that unfolded, she was still unaware of the work that her team had done, leaving her unprepared for the questions that followed. Following the meeting, my supervisor reviewed the importance of effective and timely communication, especially in situations with that much visibility. I have prioritized communication to ensure all team members are informed.

As I reflect on my last 50 hours, I can envision myself continuing to grow in the field of cybersecurity. Cybersecurity promises a wide array of opportunities, and I appreciate how diverse my day to day might look. I bring a grounded approach to the workplace that benefits my team and overall organization. I also pride myself on my efficiency and thoroughness in all my work. Although my work does not always feel rewarding, taking a look at the bigger picture helps me gain perspective and feel as if

the work I do is meaningful. Without effective and high-quality cybersecurity, systems would fail and many vulnerable people would remain unprotected. Reminding myself of the value of my work gives me a clearer sense of purpose.