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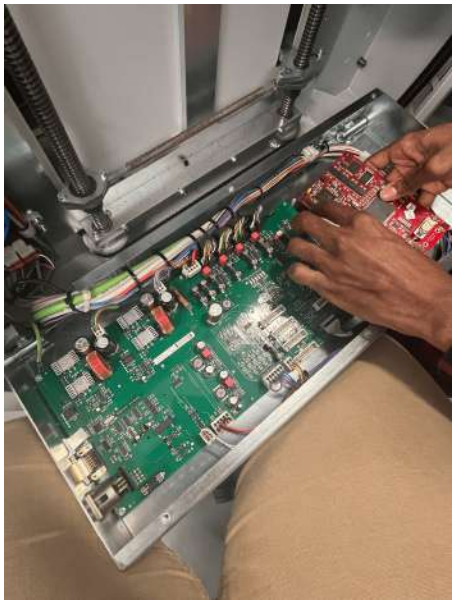
Reflection #3
July 29, 2024

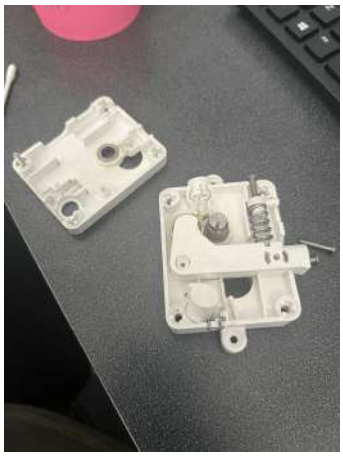
My Experience at ODU's Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab

In the final weeks of my internship, I acquired several new skills and insights. Firstly, I learned how to replace a computer processing unit on a speedy300 laser engraving machine. While I have not had much experience with this machine and still do not completely understand how to use it I was tasked with replacing an essential part to get it up and running for makerspace night. Initially I was very frustrated with the process as I could not locate the processor that needed to be changed. After some help from customer support me and my coworker were able to successfully replace the processor and fix the machine. While I have never had any experience with something like this it was rewarding to solve the issue and I felt very accomplished after. It also sparked an interest in that side of technology that I did not have prior to this internship. After that day I was motivated to troubleshoot on some of the older printers and get them working again. These experiences have taught me that even though I shy away from challenges at times, I enjoy the feeling of accomplishment that comes with completing them. I have also decided that in the future I will make it a priority to keep challenging myself so that I do not become stagnant in my career.

Additionally, I have a newfound interest in the maritime industry as a career path. I spent some time talking to some volunteers from the maritime industry at the iLab and I think that it would be interesting for me to get into considering that I would like to stay in the area after completing school. Additionally I found that I am becoming more comfortable in professional settings and starting conversations with people. In the past that has been a challenge for me so it is relieving to see that working here has helped me get better.



This is the inside of the panel that housed the CPU (in red) that was replaced. I took this picture while my coworker was fitting it into the correct position.



This is an older model 3d printer that I was working with to decide if they can be used for a project. The two main issues were plate adhesion and material feeding malfunctions.