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Reflection Paper 3

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Internship Reflection Paper 3
Final 50 Hours

Working as an assistant technician at Tech For Troops for the final 50 hours was a bit of a drag. I only got to try one new task and continued tearing down desktops and laptops into their individual parts. Tony, who I was going to ask to get me working in another area, had retired. On my final day, I talked with the CEO, Mark, about my experience at Tech For Troops and what I learned.

For most of my remaining time I simply kept breaking down laptops and desktops. By the end, we had actually caught up on all the computers to disassemble. When I first arrived at Tech For Troops there was a large box full of laptops and another with desktops. The one with desktops emptied a couple times, but would refill quickly as they receive desktops often. The laptop box would be added to sometimes, but I got to see it gradually go down to the bottom.

Some days there were a group of people that would come in and buy some of the computer things we were going to disassemble. From what I heard, I believe they were

going to resell what they bought at a discount from us. I finally got to shred some hard drives one day. I shredded well over 200 of them and filled all of the trash bins. Surprisingly, I found myself not getting antsy after doing the same action over and over for hours. After filling them, I needed to load them onto a cart to bring to a large box to dump while wearing a mask to avoid the metal dust.

I helped a little with some Certificate of Destruction (COD) work. Though, towards the end there were newer interns helping with that and even a new regular employee being shown the ropes. I was able to help them a little with getting started, but that was it as I wasn't shown some of the things they were going to be doing.

The value of perseverance was pretty much all that was reinforced in my final 50 hours of work. There are always going to be times in work that things just go on as usual without any big changes. Persevering through those times is necessary to keep a stable job. I may have to reflect further in the future about where I want to work in cybersecurity based on whether the work will be steady or not.

In addition to work I went on two day trips with friends visiting Virginia from Florida. The first day was a hike up Crabtree Falls. It was very exhausting, but luckily that was on a Saturday so I was fully recovered for work on Monday. The other was a day trip to Busch Gardens, which I had a little trouble planning how I'd get there and back. That was less exhausting, but I was still a little tired the next day in part because I got home so late.

Overall, the final 50 hours have been an okay continuation of my internship with Tech For Troops. I became pretty good at taking computers apart without needing to ask for help. I'm not sure that I'll be able to apply a lot of what I learned in the future. There is a chance that I will if I need to go into IT to break into a cyber position. The lessons of working with others in a work environment are going to aid me in my future career.