

Writing Assignment 1

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IDS493

I found a job listing from Dragados USA, Inc for a position they dubbed *IT Network Administrator*. I figured this would be a good job listing to look at because it directly relates to my degree, cybersecurity, and it is also the sort of job I am looking to have someday, though I know I will likely have to work my way up to a higher level position such as this one. I consider this “higher level” because the job listing on Indeed says that the salary is \$110,000 a year, which is certainly not an entry level salary (Dragados USA, Inc, 2023). Dragados is a construction company who has been around for over 70 years and has been praised highly on different ranking lists in recent years (*Dragados USA official website, 2021*). Some people might wonder why a construction company would be looking for a network administrator, but with the way the world is now, everything is online and connected through the Internet worldwide, and people who have established a construction company probably don’t care much about learning how to set up a network, so they pay somebody else who is skillful in that area of expertise. I will analyze this job listing and use details from the Dragados company website to determine how well I might be able to do in this position and what skills I might need to acquire over the coming years in order to make myself more valuable to be able to land a job like a network administrator for a company like Dragados.

The reason I clicked on the link was because network administration is something I hope to do as a career someday, but in the opening full job description, I immediately realize that this position is above my level of current experience. The first sentence of the job description lists this as a “Lead IT Network Administrator” position, meaning Dragados is likely looking for somebody who has not only a college degree, but also multiple years of experience in management IT positions as well as relevant experience with tunnel boring machines and providing “on-site end user support” (Dragados USA, Inc, 2023). When I scroll down to the

“required qualifications” section, I see that they prefer a Bachelor’s in Computer Science or Cybersecurity as well as requiring at least five years of experience and OSHA 10 construction safety, further reinforcing my initial idea that this is not an entry level position ((Dragados USA, Inc, 2023). In that same section as well as the “skills and abilities” section, the job listing mentions multiple network mapping tools (such as Nmap and Nessus) as well as Wireshark, SSH, and traceroute (Dragados USA, Inc, 2023). Listing specific programs and applications leads me to believe that these will be used in the network with the tunnel boring machine and so, if I was trying to apply for this job, I would make sure to learn those things or brush up on my knowledge of them so that I am able to adequately answer questions about them in a potential interview as well as make sure I am truly capable of using them to do the job Dragados needs me to do.

In the “duties and responsibilities” section, there is an emphasis placed on being able to “act as a liaison” and possessing effective communication and collaboration skills (Dragados USA, Inc, 2023). That connects with the previous description of on-site management in the full job description, meaning that I will likely be talking with people with different knowledge bases on the things happening during the project. Since the company will be working on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel project, there will be a large number of people I would possibly interact with including on-site construction workers and foremen, OSHA safety workers (perhaps why I would need OSHA 10 safety compliance), project managers, architects, mechanics for the machines used, along with a thousand other people. Part of acting as a liaison would be communicating between higher-ups and on-site workers. A soft skill required in this would be the ability to effectively translate ideas and reports from multiple different people into actions that can be taken to facilitate the project. I would also have to be at least somewhat

knowledgeable in the vernacular of both sides of the project where I can communicate to the on-site workers what I might need from them in order to effectively run the network for the tunnel boring machine, as well as effectively communicating to the managers what resources or leeway I might need from them in order to do my job the best.

One reason I would actually like to go for a job like this is because it seems like it would be fulfilling to be a part of something that is so big and impactful such as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel where millions of people travel over each year. Not only that, but I would be able to do it by providing a service that there are not a large number of people that are able to provide. The reason the job pays so well at \$110,000 a year, is because it is a combination of skills – network administration, understanding of construction environments, on-site management, effective communication, etc. – that is not a common combination. I have taken courses at TCC and ODU that have provided me with a good baseline for a job like this so, while I may not be a good fit right now because of my lack of relevant experience, this job or one like it could be a good fit for me in the future when I gain experience in network administration and communication skills. I will also have a Bachelor's degree soon to prove to employers that I am knowledgeable in cybersecurity and networking and have taken classes like IDS 493, where I learn about how to make myself more valuable to jobs and how to look for jobs that fit my skillset.

References

Dragados USA, Inc (2023, January). *IT Network Administrator*.

<https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=1232392a5cfc4afe&tk=1gnr3kuekk7b5800&from=serp&vjs=3>

Dragados USA official website. (2021). Wwww.dragados-Usa.com. <https://www.dragados-usa.com/>