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Reflection Paper 1

Date: 09/10/2025

ODU Fall 2025

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Internship Reflection Paper

First 50 Hours

Working as a System Administrator for TIAG for the first 50 hours has given me insight into the infrastructure and the daily operations of my organization. During this period, I focused on learning about the server architecture, Databases, Vulnerability Management, and workstation Patching. Some of the tasks I completed were the patching of the servers and workstations, completing hardware/software lists, and ensuring users had the correct name associated with their workstation in Active Directory.

Some of the important meetings I attended were (without getting into specifics due to the nature of my job), overall tasking of departments, and the progress reports of taskers. In these meetings, I got to learn about the roles and responsibilities of each department, each team, and each government employee (we call them Civs) in my department. This was insightful because now that I know who they are, I can ask them questions if needed.

The value of patching and hardware/software lists are 2 of the most important things I've learned. Patching is the process of identifying vulnerabilities present on a device and patching accordingly. I got to see how my organization checks vulnerabilities through a software called ACAS, looks up the IAVA using Tenable, and deploys the software on devices remotely using the Windows server tool MCEM.

Hardware/Software lists are important because they allow you to keep track of devices and the Software on such devices. For instance, there was a new image that needed to be deployed on all workstations and tracked via the Hardware/Software list for future Audits.

In addition to work, I was allowed time to study for a new certification, the AWS Solutions Architect Associate. I am currently about 50% through the Udemy Course I bought. This certification will help me understand more about building solutions for an organization using AWS.

I chose to start studying this certification because my goal is to become a DevOps engineer by 2026. And understanding a cloud provider will be instrumental in my understanding of the development pipeline, Kubernetes, api management, etc.

Overall, writing this reflection #1 about the first 50 hours has laid the foundation for a successful internship. I was able to meet the team, meet leadership, and establish myself as part of the organization. The next 50 hours will be interesting as I am learning fast, and I was told that I would get more exposure as I go along. This organization has been extremely helpful when it comes to training, shadowing, and allowing me to ask

the right questions. Honestly, I thought I had no interest in cybersecurity principles like patching workstations, but it is something I can definitely see myself doing over the next couple of years.