

Reflection Paper 3

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Reflection #3 (150 hours)

After completing 150 hours of this internship, I've spent a lot of time looking back on my development. I must say, at first, I had no idea what to expect. I was just hoping I could keep up; I was nervous and didn't feel prepared. Despite this, I still knew I was very interested in cybersecurity. Fast forward to the present, and I am not only more confident, but I also know which path I want to take. Real-time monitoring ended up being one of the most valuable parts of the experience.

Though I had heard of Wireshark and other vulnerability scanners before, using them in real-world scenarios changed my perspective on everything. I began to look at what exactly and specifically those tools were displaying rather than simply clicking about. Everything is connected — how you avoid threats, how you detect them, and how you respond to them.

Another task I had to complete was a security review for a mock network setup. That one definitely challenged me a bit. At first, I felt stuck because I didn't really know where to start or what to focus on. But once I got into it, I realized it wasn't just about pointing out what could go wrong. I had to think about how serious those risks were and what they could actually mean in a real situation. That really changed how I looked at things.

This entire experience has allowed me to grow in a variety of directions. I've gotten better at using tools and I've also gained more critical thinking skills and become more like someone who works in the industry. To be honest, I've come to understand that cybersecurity is about more than just technology — it also involves people, collaboration, and the ability to think clearly under pressure, especially when there isn't an obvious solution.

Conclusion:

Overall, this internship experience has been a major turning point in my journey toward a career in cybersecurity. It gave me technical skills, sharpened my thinking, and helped me discover what I am truly passionate about. I am excited to take what I've learned here and apply it to future challenges and opportunities in the field.