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Reflection #1 (50 hours)

Starting my new internship, I was required to take on several tasks that have improved my knowledge of cybersecurity outside of the classroom. Some of my several responsibilities include tracking network traffic, spotting possible weaknesses, and helping the team to improve general system security. These hands-on activities helped to make connections and made it clear how much of what I've learned in class can actually be applied in real-world scenarios.

One of my primary responsibilities has been to examine system logs and identify any unusual patterns or irregular activity that may indicate a security issue. This has been a big part of helping with detecting threats early.. One of the most impactful parts of my experience so far has been participating in simulated breach scenarios. These training courses gave me chances to look at how attackers may try to access certain systems and how to keep an eye on and log probable points of access. It has allowed me to begin to think like an attacker and always be a few steps ahead.

In addition to that, I've had the opportunity to draft incident reports and recommend updates to response protocols based on different outcomes. These assignments have really pushed me to think critically and have shown me just how important precision and attention to detail are—especially in a cybersecurity environment.

Although my internship is fully online, it feels practical and instructional. Firewalls, vulnerability scanners, and access control systems have become increasingly recognized to me. These first fifty hours helped strengthen my career's basis and shifted my emphasis toward professionalism. I am already learning a lot on what I intended to perform in terms of threat recognition, risk assessment, and documentation; I am eager to keep learning throughout this internship.