

Introduction

I have completed my functional final set of 50 hours at my Virginia Air and Space Science Center internship. This will be a reflection of my duties and responsibilities, the help I provided, and possible links to cybersecurity which can be reflected in my internship.

My Scheduling

My scheduling remained freelance, with near full freedom to choose hours that I would work. I finished with the ODU Men's swim team in late march, so for the time between then and now I was doing daily 2-3 hour shifts starting at approximately 10AM every day. This would allow me to have the options of doing either backend jobs at the facility, or running an exhibit of my choosing for the low to medium amount of patrons present at the time. I also took weekends off, with a few Saturday or Sunday shift exceptions.

Work That I Performed

As described in prior reflections, a major part of my role was setting up, maintaining, and performing exhibits for patrons. One such example was a task which I'd been asked to do every morning when I arrived: cleaning and resetting the rig-a-ma-jig. This exhibit was located in the early learner gallery and allowed children and their parents to assemble makeshift machines using wooden planks, nuts and bolts, tethers, and wheels. I developed a personal layout for these materials as requested by my supervisor, organizing them categorically in a clean, accessible nature. Another task I would partake in was the setting up and performance of the paper airplane exhibit. This involved placing supplies and diagrams onto a cart, providing examples of functional

paper planes for patrons and offering guidance to them when they had issues. This has a certain indirect link to cybersecurity: a common entry job is IT helpdesk labor, which also involves advising and fixing issues. We can liken the paper planes to computers that a user would see issues with, and I was the technician who would resolve issues that came up. Clearly, this is a stretch, but in a public-facing educational internship placement, metaphorical links to my major are a functional and helpful reflection. I also did a few backend tasks. The first major task was disassembling a cart which possessed a rather archaic robot arm and a few devices. The devices were a LAN setup to control the arm, for use in an exhibit. However, the arm was outdated and the exhibit discontinued, so my task was to locate the proper tools, disconnect all wires, undo the screws, and store the robot arm and all of its control components elsewhere so that the cart may be reused. My other task was related to the museum's "pedal planes", mini model planes which children could sit in and pedal around. I had two tasks with these: cutting and fitting rubber tubing to act as bumpers on the wings, and removing the drive shaft of one of the planes in order for it to be mounted as a photo op prop. The first task can be likened to setting a template or blueprint in an IT position. The first bumper tube which I cut was the template, and all of the ones after became much simpler as there was no longer a need to plan or innovate, but to replicate.

Reflection Post-Work

The main thing I learned in this role is simply that it is important to make yourself useful on all occasions. Whenever I had downtime, I would simply text my boss or walk to her office, and inquire about any jobs around the building which needed completion. This helped not only to make the work more fulfilling, but also to hasten my perception

of time during the shifts. As I move into the field of cybersecurity post-grad, I will be keeping this in mind in order to accelerate my career growth and the expansion of my relevant knowledge.

Conclusion

Working at the VASSC was fulfilling and helpful. It is a good addition to my resume, will provide a good reference for future employment, and supports my graduation from ODU. I am thankful for the opportunity provided to me by both the school and the VASSC.