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Reflection #: 1

## **Internship Reflection – KALO (Cybersecurity Internship)**

My internship with KALO has been an eye-opening experience that has allowed me to see how cybersecurity works outside of a classroom setting. So far, I have been responsible for training my supervisor on the human element of cybersecurity and monitoring his networks as he conducts business with foreign entities. These responsibilities have given me a clearer understanding of how cybersecurity risks actually play out in day-to-day business operations, especially when international communication is involved.

One of the most meaningful parts of my internship has been focusing on the human side of cybersecurity. It is easy to think of cybersecurity as just firewalls, encryption, and software tools, but I have learned firsthand that people are often the biggest vulnerability. I have worked directly with my supervisor to improve awareness about phishing attempts, social engineering tactics, password security, and the importance of multi-factor authentication. Walking through real-world examples of breaches caused by simple mistakes has helped make these risks feel more real and immediate. This experience has reinforced for me that cybersecurity is just as much about behavior and awareness as it is about technology.

In addition to training, I have been monitoring network activity while my supervisor communicates and does business with foreign entities. This responsibility carries added importance because international business relationships can introduce unique risks, such as targeted phishing campaigns, business email compromise, and exposure to foreign cyber threats. My role involves reviewing communication patterns, looking for suspicious activity, and ensuring secure communication channels are being used when sensitive information is exchanged. Being able to apply what I have learned in school to a real, active network has made the experience far more meaningful than working in a controlled lab environment.

This internship has also pushed me to improve my professional communication skills. Explaining cybersecurity risks to someone who is not deeply technical requires patience and clarity. I have had to learn how to translate complex ideas into practical advice that makes sense from a business perspective. Instead of focusing only on technical details, I try to connect security

recommendations to real business outcomes. That balance between protection and productivity is something I now understand much better.

Looking ahead, my role at KALO is evolving into something even more exciting. I will be working closely with my supervisor and another young tech professional to develop secure AI software tailored specifically to the company's business needs. This next phase combines cybersecurity with artificial intelligence, which is an area that is rapidly growing and becoming increasingly important. Our goal is to build an AI system that improves business operations while keeping security at the center of its design. That means thinking about secure coding practices, access controls, data protection, and continuous monitoring from the very beginning.

What stands out to me most about this opportunity is the chance to build something securely from the ground up. Rather than adding security later, we are intentionally designing the AI system with protection in mind from day one. This approach reflects modern cybersecurity best practices and shows how important it is to think proactively rather than reactively.

Overall, my internship at KALO has helped me grow both technically and professionally. I have gained real experience in user training, network monitoring, risk assessment, and business communication. I have also seen how cybersecurity decisions directly affect international operations and overall business strategy. As I move forward into developing secure AI software, I am excited to continue building my skills and contributing in a meaningful way.

## **Conclusion**

My experience at KALO has shown me that cybersecurity is not just about technology, it is about people, processes, and forward-thinking design. Training leadership on security awareness and protecting international communications has given me real responsibility and confidence in my abilities. As I begin working on secure AI development, I look forward to applying everything I have learned so far in a way that supports both security and innovation. This internship has strengthened my foundation and better prepared me for a future career in cybersecurity.