

e-Portfolio Reflection

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### **Introduction**

College is the best four years of your life. College can truly be the best time of your life. It is a great place to experiment and find yourself. Four years seem to fly by in a blink of an eye. In four years, I have grown in every way imaginable. I have grown physical, mentality and emotionally. I can showcase my personal growth through pictures, communication, and actions. While it is important to showcase personal growth, academic growth is just as important. Using an e-Portfolio site I can showcase my academic growth. I have gained numerous skills from the classes I have taken at Old Dominion University. As an Interdisciplinary Studies student majoring in cybersecurity, my degree program has allowed me to take classes from different disciplines. Through these classes, I have acquired valuable skills for my professional career. Skills I have gained in my degree program include research, cybersecurity/ information technology, and analytical thinking. I have developed more skills but these three are the skills I believe to be the most valuable for my future. I have improved my old skills and learned new ones.

I developed strong research skills by taking classes in Information literacy, Cybersecurity, and Cybercrime courses. Communication and Information Technology is a research course, from the Information literacy discipline. Introduction to Cybersecurity is a Cybersecurity course, and Cybercrime and Cybersecurity is a Cybercrime course. Both from the interdisciplinary discipline. I developed cybersecurity and information technology skills by taking information technology, and cybersecurity courses. Taking Introduction to Network and Security, Introduction to Information System, and Digital Forensic introduced me to these skills of networking, programming language, and forensic process. Introduction to Network and Security and Introduction to Information System are Information Technology courses, from information technology discipline. Digital forensics is a cybersecurity course from the interdisciplinary discipline. I developed stronger analytical skills by taking these three courses, Public Speaking, Probability and Decision Analysis and digital writing. Digital writing and public speaking are communication courses, in the discipline of communication. Probability and Decision Analysis is a statistics course, in the discipline of business analytics.

Building an e-portfolio is a timely task. You have to know what you would like to showcase to your audience. Whether you are making e-portfolio for employers, yourself, change of career or for self-expression knowing your audience is important. Knowing the path, you want to take is valuable when creating your portfolio. Once your path is set, you can showcase the best skills to represent your path. Having a plan will make everything work more smoothly. You can demonstrate your interests through your portfolio plan then implement it. This can be difficult if you do not have a clear path you want to take. A plan can be a necessity when creating an e-portfolio, however, plans change. I need a plan that is adaptable and can handle my changing path. The skills I chose for my e-portfolio represent the changing path I am on. These are the skill I believe are valuable in any work field. My major directs me towards certain careers path; However, though interdisciplinary studies I have gained other skills.

### **Research**

Research is an important skill because it demonstrates patience and attention to detail attention to detail. Wanting to pursue a career in cybersecurity, knowing how to conduct research is a great skill. There are new threats discovered regularly. I can use my research skills to

conduct research on new threats, prevention solutions, and similarity. Being able to collect, analyze and intercept information are skills beneficial on the job market. I decided to demonstrate my research ability with three artifacts that challenged my research ability. The three artifacts I chose to display my research skills through research papers I wrote for different classes in different disciplines.

While taking Communication and Information technology, I wrote a paper about the disparity in sentencing between crack and cocaine offenders. From this assignment, I learned about the history of the sentencing disparity, the war on drugs and the myths about crack-cocaine. The process of completing this paper was a long process. I had to conduct a few searches for reliable resources. I had to find scholarly articles to support my decision which is important. The right sources affect a paper's credibility. I learned this lesson from my UNIV 150 course. This introductory course in college writing helped me build earlier research skills. I learned new search techniques to find the right information by narrow and expanding my search phrases.

For Introduction to Cybersecurity, I wrote a paper discussing the importance of cybersecurity in e-business and e-commerce. This assignment taught me the consequence of data breaches, e-business, and e-commerce key terms and recommend cybersecurity prevention measures. I found it difficult deciding which information was most important to include in the paper. There is so much valuable information about e-business and e-commerce. I used my organization skills to outline my paper. I followed the outline to gather all my information and organize it accordingly. I took notes and tracked the sources that I used. I learned this research skill from my poetry assignment for my Literature class. I kept details notes of the sources and artists I researched for the poetry assignment. This kept me organized and made writing my paper less difficult.

I wrote a white paper about the cause and effects of cyberbullying, technology influence on bullying, statistics, and resolutions. I learned how bully has changed over the decades, influences of bullying and policies that could make a difference. Completing this assignment involved finding sources from different areas. I looked at sources from government, activists and state agencies. Integrating the information from different areas was to challenge process, through writing techniques learned in communication and information technology I was able to combine my information. I learned transition phrases, opening words and proper conclusion phrases.

Completing these assignments required me to find reliable sources, analyze the sources and format a report stating my point of view on the topic. Research requires attention to detail, organization and writing techniques. These are the research skills I have acquired by taking these classes. These are important for the career I want to have. Organization skills are qualities employers want for applicants looking for jobs in the Information technology and cybersecurity world. I would like to go into compliance. Compliance deals with regulating and making sure businesses follow the standards.

### **Cybersecurity**

I am a cybersecurity student, the skills I gain in this discipline are vital to my career path. As I student I have learned different programming languages, how to use different software tools

and complete many hands-on assignments. Cybersecurity skills I have gained include network analyze, system management, cracking passwords and steganography. The artifacts I chose to demonstrate my cybersecurity ability skills, pushed me to my breaking point but resulted in a successful outcome. I chose to display my skill with hands-on assignments and a website.

I designed a network, a network topology, and a budget for a high school information technology system for Introduction to Network and Security. Taking this course, I learned all aspects of networking and security practices. This class was hands-on, I learned to design different network plans and structures for hands-on assignments. Creating a plan for a network can become overwhelming. There are many moving parts. Each part is connected to the other. A course like C++ programming helped me complete this assignment. In C++ programming the code is connected to all components. If the code has an error nothing will work. I always checked my code to make sure everything previously worked. I had to adapt that method when completing his assignment. I caught any mistake before it was too late.

For Introduction to Information System, I created an HTML website about a professional in the technology industry. From this assignment, I learned about Michael dell, his company, and his philanthropic work. I gained skills in HTML web developing skills, and HTML programming. I learned the steps and process of creating an HTML website. I designed the layout, elements, HTML content, and the specifics like color, sizing, and digital attributes. I demonstrate cybersecurity /information technology skills through my ability to create and execute an HTML website, write HTML code, digital attributes like forums, buttons, and linked webpages. Classes like public speaking helped me complete this assignment. Creating a speech is similar to creating a website. The first stages both include planning. My presentation for my speeches is equal to the website I had to build. I used my skills of Public Speaking to perform my presentation of my website as well. I used changing phrases and covered everything discussed at the end of my presentation.

For Digital Forensic, I a digital forensic lab for a medium-size police station. I designed the maintenance plan, staffing roles and implemented an accreditation plan. From the is assignment I learned the requirements of a digital forensic lab. Requirements for storing evidence and equipment needed. I gained skills in the management and design of forensic labs. My criminal justice digital forensics class helped tremendously with this assignment. I learned a lot about collecting evidence and the chain of custody in Criminal Justice. I used my knowledge from that class to choose specific equipment for the lab. Finding the right accreditation plan was the hardest task of this assignment. I had to use my research skills to find the right plan for the department. I used that knowledge to implement this lab. I was able to use my knowledge of the laws and procedures to improve my cybersecurity skills.

Jobs looking for Cybersecurity professionals want candidates to have skills demonstrate by my artifacts. Based on the path I decide to take, I may work with any element discussed in my artifacts. Knowing the proper forensic techniques matter. I can showcase knowledge of the digital forensic environment. I can identify secure procedures and the chain of custody. This is important when looking at careers in government like the FBI, Homeland security or any company that deals with collecting evidence. With my assignment for network security, I showcase my understanding of securing a network. The best topology to handle traffic and

materials needed to complete a large project. Working with the internet, knowing languages like HTML can be an asset when searching for careers related to security.

### **Analytical Thinking**

Analytical thinking refers to one's ability to problem-solve, gather information, identify problems and issues, organize information, and visual thinking. This is a skill everyone has. I decided to showcase this skill because it is a skill I been perfecting the longest. Taking Public speaking, Business analytics, and Digital Writing, I have developed stronger analytical thinking skills. The assignments I chose demonstrated my ability to draw conclusions, identify and organize problems and integrate all material. Each of my artifacts showcases my analytical thinking skills used to complete higher-level assignments.

I chose to represent analytical thinking skills in public speaking with my persuasive speech. my goal was to persuade my audience to watch the TV show Power. I knew Power was a popular show and would easily sway my audience. I knew the crowd I was presenting to so I chose something related to their demographic. I learned the plot, creator and director of Power. This assignment taught me how to efficiently communicate and create a persuasive speech. Creating this assignment required me to use my analytical thinking skills by brainstorm, write a speech and make decisions based. Incorporating videos, gifs land auto timing aspects. I watched a tutorial to learn how to implement those aspects in my presentation. I had to set the timing just right to create an experience for my audience. My Art History class helped me create this assignment. The rule of 3, sensory colors and texture themes of art history were taken into consideration when designing the presentation. I made the presentation as luxurious as the show. I used the best visuals of photos, and scenes of the show.

For Probability and Decision Analysis: business statistic the artifacts Homework r from the class. I chose is assignment taught me how to use Minitab, interpret data and make decisions. I learned to demonstrate analytical thinking through, problem-solving, interpret graphs into data, drawing conclusions based on probability and data. Completing this assignment involved attending tutoring sessions once a week. Interpreting graphs and probability can be very difficult. Through tutoring, I was able to understand the equations and techniques associated with different static problems. The math courses I took helped me with the course. Math is my favorite subject, working with numbers is fun for me. Precalculus 1 and 2 are credited to my success in the class. Formulas from those classes were taught in Probability and Decision Analysis. Having completed problems like those in the past, I was able to understand better.

My building block assignment had three parts, a presentation, a paper, and a visual. My visual was a card game based on the material covered in class. I created "What do you meme?" inspired cards. The meme cards were created based on the six themes discussed in class. Every card matched to a photo card and discussed. My Digital writing 307T building block assignment allowed me to present my understanding of the material and the topics covered in class. I was to identify new media, remediation, convergence, mediums, the message and deskilling. This assignment demonstrates my ability to brainstorm, draw conclusion and understanding of the material covered in class through a visual presentation and paper. I had trouble understanding the material. The theory was hard to grasped but after researching explanations and reading other interpterion I understood the concepts better. English comp and philosophy helped me complete

assignments for this class. I had to interpret theories as I did in philosophy. I learned to draw conclusions from I had to use the skills and ten quotes I learned from my English courses to write my assignment.

Analytical thinking is an important skill for any field. Showcasing my growth and skill is important. Problem-solving, brainstorming and drawing conclusions are all key functions in cybersecurity. In the field, I will be faced with problems I have to solve. Having the skill is necessary if I want to pursue a career in government or public policy. By taking these classes I have been able to work and improve my analytical thinking skills.

## **Conclusion**

Reflecting on my academic career I have gained da lot of skills. The three skills that I wanted to showcase in my e-portfolio are research, cybersecurity/Information technology, and analytical thinking. I have demonstrated my abilities through assignments from different disciplines. Each assignment has taught me something I can use in my professional career.

I learned effective research methods and Microsoft skills to develop, format and present a research paper. I learned a new research technique, how to work efficiently in a group, and create charts and tables from someone else's data. My abilities to conduct research, organize, and format a research paper is demonstrated through this paper. From cybersecurity, I have learned to develop, design and identify important aspects of a business network design through hands-on experience. I learned to write HTML code, and create digital attributes like forums, buttons, and linked webpages. I also learned to design and management plan of my forensic lab. I have strengthened my analytical thinking through brainstorm, draw conclusion and understanding of the material covered in class through a visual presentation and paper. Problem-solving, interpret graphs into data, drawing conclusions based on probability and data to better my skill. Each skill will play a role in my future career. These are the skills most wanted.

Interdisciplinary methods and theories were important to understanding my coursework because my degree reflects my interweaving on different disciples. I have taken classes from different disciplines. Each course I have taken has taught me something. I will be able to use the skills I learned and incorporate them into my work life. In my courses, I had to use more than one method to complete my assignments. I used the skills and techniques I learned in one discipline and to complete assignments from different disciplines. For example, the skills I learned from public speaking are used whenever I am presenting or creating presentations. Classes like IDS 300W taught me the meaning of interdisciplinary studies. It helped me understand how my courses integrate different elements. It's important to be an interdisciplinary thinker because my field integrates different disciplines. I will use a mixture of disciplines in my field of study. The cybersecurity industry is a mixture of technology, information technology, and criminal justice. Taken classes from different disciplines have prepared me to create enter the field.