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CYSE 368

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<p align="center">Reflection Paper 6</p>

Q. What is your name and what is your role here?

A. My name is Shawn. I am 27 years old, and my role is a Pen Tester.

Q. How long have you been working at the NSA?

A. I've been with the Agency for roughly 5 years, two of which have been with this group.

Q. What made you want to start working here?

A. NSA had a well-known presence at one of the career fairs held by Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where I attended. I visited their exhibit and had a wonderful interaction with their staff. I then decided to take a closer look at the jobs they were offering. I then decided to apply after seeing their posting for a summer intern. I fell in love with the mission and the work I was doing there after being accepted and beginning to work there, feeling a sense of fulfillment I had never experienced before. After earning a degree in computing security from RIT, I applied for the Development Program (DP), which essentially lets me move offices in search of the places where I can contribute the most to the mission and where I want to stay. I joined the Pen Test group as one of my offices. After a year, I was overjoyed to be a part of such a wonderful team. I have been a member of the Pen test Group for the past two years, having joined after I completed the program.

Q. How did you find yourself getting into your work role and what do you find the most important quality to have in the work role?

A. While in the DP, a friend who worked in that office informed me about it, and because I had never done offensive cyber in a professional setting, I decided to give it a shot. The most important attribute is to be open-minded and not scared to ask questions. I've seen many people come into this office and not get as much out of it because they were afraid to talk to the people here and had a closed mindset, believing there was only one way to perform particular penetration techniques.

Q. What are some of the best pen testing certs in your opinion?

A. The regular Pen testing certs can be like CEH and PenTest +, but in my opinion its those hands-on Pen Test certs that are really worth it like HackTheBox Pen Test cert or OSCP.

Q. How do you stay updated with the latest vulnerabilities and exploits?

A. I subscribe to several cyber-related news sites, and I also check for new exploits and CVEs that have been identified so that I can try to mimic the steps they took. I also do one HackTheBox Machine of varying difficulty to keep my abilities up to date.

Q. What advice would you give to people going into this work role or just going into cyber?

A. "Never stop learning and stay Curious" Cybersecurity is a continuously growing industry, with new vulnerabilities, attacks, and technology constantly emerging. Continuous learning is key for staying ahead.