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CYSE 200T
Professor Duvall

Working in the Public Sector IT and CS

BLUF: Neal Millar speaks with the class on his experiences throughout the years working in the public sector. This article summarizes the top three topics that resonated with me.

Background

Neal Millar was introduced to the IT field through his military service in the Navy. He started as a biology major in college. In the Navy, he gained his technical background from piloting then went to graduate school for space system operations and physics. He worked his way up to Navy Authorizing Official. He's been on multiple deployments including Hawaii and Iceland and worked on a payback tour in Pentagon space reconnaissance systems. Today, he works in the Suffolk public sector. Mr.Millar's background interests me because I am currently thinking of joining the military to gain a secret clearance and become an officer in the Air Force. Sharing his experience gave me a better idea of the job I may be able to be a part of and the benefits of travel sweetens the deal. Another minuscule thing is piloting. I have always wanted to fly and doing government work is a dream of mine.

Emerging Trends

Using Mr. Millar's experience from as early as the 1980s to now we asked about emerging trends and jobs we should look at. We were told to look at Artificial intelligence and machine learning and their growing prominence in our society. Although these two topics are growing rapidly Mr. Millar's biggest tip to looking at jobs and getting them is to build a strong foundation first. He said there are jobs and internships available. Resources such as the Monarch internship and CoOp office, Suffolk city page, announcements, LinkedIn, etc offer jobs and internships. This was an important topic because I am currently looking for internships and learning where to find these opportunities is important to me. Also, trying to find out where I should focus in the future it is important to know the current trends and the important tools when I start my career.

Advice

During his presentation, Mr.Millar gave us advice and tips on the industry. His main tip is having good teamwork. He says that in the IT industry, we will have to work with many people

from customers to our colleagues to solve problems. Another piece of advice is to put in hard work and have a good technical background. IT is an evolving field that no individual can get comfortable in because creating stronger security never stops. To be in the field we must put in the work and be lifelong learners. Hard work is always researching and understanding the hardware and software as best as possible. This hard work will help us build a strong technical background. Mr. Millar said "This job is making connections, even if they seem disconnected," this means that this field is for puzzle solvers. Lastly, he said we must work with precision and actively pursue opportunities that may arise. His advice resonated with me because I am working my way in the field and I like to know what qualities will help me succeed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Neal Millar was an amazing speaker and brought a lot of knowledge to our class. The knowledge he provided about his background, emerging trends, and advice was informative. Mr. Millar gave our class but more importantly me a better view of the field we are going into. From his presentation, my love for cybersecurity is more prominent than ever and I am excited to continue my journey no matter where I end up.