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Professor Duvall

## Class Speaker: Darren Spencer

### Career

The first thing Mr. Spencer spoke about that resonated with me was his career. He is a Senior Digital Forensics Analyst and a part of the CART division. CART stands for Computer Analysis Response Team. CART team members are digital forensics specialists who use advanced technology, software, and forensic concepts to help solve cyber challenges. He does a lot of incident logs and said "It is a great skill to have, if you can read the logs and tell the story of what happened you are an invaluable asset."

I am still exploring careers and I have loved learning about digital forensics from speakers, movies, and assignments and seeing a man who has been doing this job for years is inspiring. Mr. Spencer is an expert in his field and he has passion in his voice as he discusses his work over the years. I want to experience the passion I see on his face as well as work in the government. The job Mr. Spencer has requires a top-secret security clearance (TS/SCI). Also, I want to work for the FBI, and I am applying for the honors internship program so I would love to follow in his steps a bit.

### Interconnectedness

Mr. Spencer's job shows the ways we are connected and unaware of. He brings up the way our cars track our data and when crimes are committed our vehicles and devices around us pick up data. It is difficult to do anything without being seen or caught due to surveillance equipment or our phone pinging nearby cell towers. Also, our discussion on wearable medical devices shows we can find someone with something such as a Holter Monitor or help them remotely by sending a pulse. The study of our world and technology can be seen in the job Mr. Spencer does. Our use of technology is a cripple and an asset. This resonates with me because I often carry 3-4 devices with me at all times and seeing how these devices monitor me scares me and also makes me feel relief. I feel scared because knowing my day-to-day life is monitored shows privacy is a farce today. We are never really alone is a concept I can barely fathom. I feel relieved because of people like Mr. Spencer. If anything happens to me I am happy to know I have a high likelihood of being found increases.

### The Future

As technology increases and becomes more advanced on the “good” side, criminals increase their skills as well. Mr.Spencer said that “someone will always build a better mousetrap.” If something is Persistent and preys on emotion it is likely a scam. He got scammed because of this and the only way we can stay protected is by staying vigilant and watching what devices we bring into our lives. I see the future will be bright if I work hard in my field. This talk was inspiring and I am now considering a new job as a digital forensics analyst to fight off cybercrime in the future

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Mr.Spencer was the perfect guest speaker. He gave a real-world view of his job in the FBI and he didn’t hold back his knowledge. He helped me understand the way we are connected and increased my interest in the digital forensics field. I believe that this world will only become stronger and digital tools more advanced. I also understand that as this world increases the criminals will become more vicious. They will be smarter to find ways to avoid detection.