

Kerby Guillaume

Personal Narrative Essay

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How I Would Introduce Myself Professionally

My name is Kerby Brian Guillaume and I currently attend Old Dominion University pursuing a Bachelor degree in Cybersecurity, looking to graduate around December 2026. I plan to use this degree to expand my career into Information Technology and ultimately work as a cybersecurity engineer. As of right now, I am gaining knowledge on cybersecurity fundamental concepts, concepts needed to pass the necessary certifications, and hands-on experience with systems such as Active Directory, Microsoft Azure, and Kali Linux operating systems. Specifically, I plan to start off as an End User Help Desk Support and expand my talents to an Identity and Access Management Engineer role. I've always engaged in technology despite where I've worked at as working with tech has always been a passion of mine. Especially with my current employer as an HVAC sales associate, I handle a lot of behind the scenes software using CSD and implementing that with some customer support assistance which puts me in the best position for a help desk role. I've always worked in teams and I believe that working in teams that are open and always down to help one another will always be the recipe for the success of an organization.

Key Experiences That Shaped My Path

One experience that influenced my career direction was working in a warehouse environment. While the job was not directly related to IT, it taught me the importance of efficiency,

organization, and problem solving. I often worked with inventory systems and technology that helped track products and operations. Seeing how businesses depend on technology to manage daily tasks sparked my interest in learning more about the systems behind the scenes and eventually led me to explore careers in IT and cybersecurity.

Another experience that shaped my career direction was taking cybersecurity courses and participating in hands-on labs. Learning about topics such as network security, ethical hacking, risk management, and incident response showed me that cybersecurity is much more than just working with computers. I enjoyed investigating vulnerabilities, analyzing security incidents, and learning how organizations defend against cyberattacks. These experiences confirmed that cybersecurity is a field where I can apply both technical skills and critical thinking to solve real world problems.

Working toward industry certifications has also had a significant impact on my academic and career goals. Preparing for certifications such as the CompTIA Security+ exposed me to a wide range of cybersecurity concepts and industry best practices. As I studied, I gained confidence in my abilities and developed a deeper understanding of the skills employers look for in cybersecurity professionals. This experience motivated me to continue expanding my knowledge and reinforced my goal of building a long term career in information security.

What I Learned Along The Way

From these experiences, I developed several skills that will help me throughout my IT and cybersecurity career. Working in a warehouse strengthened my ability to stay organized, pay

attention to detail, and solve problems under pressure. My cybersecurity coursework and certification studies further improved my analytical thinking and technical skills, teaching me how to approach challenges strategically and find effective solutions. One of the biggest challenges I faced was stepping into a completely new field and learning complex technical concepts. At first, topics such as networking, security frameworks, and threat analysis seemed overwhelming. However, through persistence, hands-on practice, and continuous studying, I became more confident in my abilities. Overcoming these challenges taught me that growth comes from pushing beyond my comfort zone and staying committed to my goals.

These experiences strengthened my interest in cybersecurity and changed the way I view technology. I now understand that technology is not only a tool that helps organizations operate efficiently, but also something that must be protected from constantly evolving threats. Learning about cybersecurity has made me appreciate the importance of safeguarding information and systems that people rely on every day. As a result, I am motivated to continue learning and developing the skills needed to contribute to the cybersecurity field and help organizations stay secure.

Where I Am Headed Now

Studying real world cybersecurity threats has shown me how much impact cybersecurity professionals can have on both organizations and individuals. It has made me more aware of the risks that exist in today's digital world and inspired me to be part of the solution. Knowing that my work could help protect sensitive information and prevent security incidents gives me a strong sense of purpose and direction for my future career.

As I stated earlier, I'm currently on the path of moving on from my current employment and landing a Help Desk Support position for the right company. I'm currently studying for my Security+ certification and after earning that certification, I will be moving on to study for the Microsoft Azure AZ900 Certification. While doing so, I'll be familiarizing myself more with Active Directory, handling password resets, user provisioning and management which are all skills necessary to operate in help desk. I plan to work in help desk for a little over a year and then I look to expand even further to the cybersecurity realm, specifically in IAM. To do so, I'll study for Okta certifications in addition to SC-300 certs as well. Once I have the essential knowledge with MFA and other technical skills, I will break into IAM and hopefully expand even further from there.