IDS Writing Assignment 1: Cybersecurity Analyst

Kristofer R. Vargas

Old Dominion University

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Dr. Gordon-Phan

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IDS WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1: CYBERSECURITY ANALYST

Abstract

For this paper, I chose the position of Cybersecurity Analyst as listed by the company ARKS Enterprises in Virginia Beach, VA. The position itself is generally considered an entry-level position, but this particular one may more accurately be categorized as mid-level, as there are a plethora of qualifications and work experience that are desired by the employer when sorting through prospective employees. This essay will comprise of a deep and thorough analysis regarding the specific roles and responsibilities that come along with assuming the position of Cybersecurity Analyst, as well as the specific skills that one must possess to adequately perform. In addition to this, I will relate my personal experience as a student and the coursework that I have undergone to the position itself, in order to surmise the specific ways that I have been prepared and groomed to be able to accept this type of job in the future.

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       As the world of technology and the digital realm continue to grow and develop, it has become paramount that adequate resources and funding be pumped into fields such as IT and Cybersecurity. As these two fields have begun to boom, more and more students have begun to focus their attention on them and take their chances at becoming professionals post-graduate. As these wide-eyed rookies begin to enter the job market, entry level and mid-level positions have become highly sought after and the competition for these jobs has never been fiercer. One of the positions that can generally classified as an entry-level Cybersecurity/IT job would be Cybersecurity Analyst. As a Cybersecurity Analyst, there are a plethora of qualifications and skills that companies will be searching for among the sea of prospective employees. Being able to meet all of these qualifications and possessing the necessary skills to charm an employer could be what makes or breaks an individual's chance of receiving their dream job offer, so it is important to fully dive into what these requirements are, what the position will be responsible for, and how your previous coursework or internships will apply towards the position. As a budding cybersecurity professional in my final semester of university, that is exactly what I will be seeking to accomplish in this essay. The specific position that I will be putting under the lens of my analytical microscope will be a Cybersecurity Analyst job offered by the company ARKS Enterprises. This position is specifically stated to be a mid to senior level position, so when relating this back to my own prospects, this would be more of a job that I would strive to work my way up to rather than obtain right out of university.

       Before specifically looking in the role of Cybersecurity Analyst, it is important to first perform an overview of the company that is hosting the position. In this instance, the company of interest is ARKS Enterprises. ARKS Enterprises is a Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) that deals with the fields of marine technical service, hardware and software design,

programmatic support, and cybersecurity. The company CEO is David K. Edwards, who is a

Navy veteran that describes the mission of the company as to "Ensure customer success through

knowledge and technology". As ARKS Enterprises has dealt with high standing customers and

the extremely vital role of providing cybersecurity services and strategical development for

protecting critical infrastructure, one can assume that the Cybersecurity sector of the company is

highly skilled and not willing to accept just anybody for their open positions. This is supported

by the job itself being classified as mid to senior level in position, as a company of this standing

would most likely try to avoid hiring individuals that are relatively green in terms of experience

and new to the field. The support services for Cybersecurity provided by ARKS Enterprises is

where the position of Cybersecurity Analysts comes into play. At ARKS Enterprises, the basic

qualifications when it comes to accumulated experience prior to applying are stated to be 3+

years of experience with network administration at least a single year of experience with

Cybersecurity. In addition to this, the employer expects those applying to have a vast array of

related knowledge, including knowledge about networking protocols and multiple operating

systems, and knowledge regarding data analysis, trend analysis, and mitigation strategies that fit

into each of these forms of analysis. Rounding out the basic qualifications, the individual

applying must qualify for TS/SCI clearance, which is a security clearance of high standing that

grants the recipient access to sensitive information and data. When it comes to qualifications that

are desired but not required, an associate (of arts or of science) in Information Systems,

Information Security, IT or Cybersecurity is desired but not required. Additionally, DoD

8570.01-M Information Assurance Manager Level II Certification is desired and can help to

make an individual's resume more attractive to ARKS Enterprises scouting department.

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        When looking at this position through my own personal view as a prospective employee, I fully acknowledge that it is not within my reaches at the current moment. As I stated in my introduction paragraph, this position is more akin to something that I can use as a future motivator to encourage myself to work towards. Dealing with Navy clients and the plethora of high-level responsibilities that come with being a Cybersecurity Analyst at ARKS Enterprises would be too much for a newly minted professional. But through the accumulation of work experience and the skills and certifications that can be gained through gradually working up the Cybersecurity job ladder, one can assume that they would be ready to take this job after a handful of years working. However, even without all of this experience, I am able to see a lot of relation between what is required of the position and the coursework that I have completed up to this point. The first example that comes to mind is a course revolving around the ins and outs of Linux called Linux System for Cybersecurity (CYSE 270), as well as the different utilizations of the operating system, which is one of the things that the position expects people to be familiar with. Two other courses that I believe would directly translate towards meeting some of the skill requirements of the job would be Cybersecurity Techniques and Operations (CYSE 301) and Cybersecurity Fundamentals (CS 462). Cybersecurity Techniques and Operations delved deep into the technical aspects involved with Cybersecurity and the different situational modes of operation to deal with common occurrences that would be seen in a professional setting. Cybersecurity Fundamentals had a large focus on the method of collecting and analyzing different types of security-related data in order to identify vulnerabilities, which is another set of skills that would be a daily requirement for performing the duties of a Cybersecurity Analyst. Those three courses are what I would directly link to aiding in fulfilling the hard skill requirements of the position. On the other hand, I do think there are a handful of soft skills that

would be needed in order for the position to be performed at its most optimum level. For example, time management is invaluable in almost all forms of employment and can not only ensure that you are able to maintain your job but can also aid in getting promoted due to being seen as reliable by upper management. Through juggling the coursework that the Cybersecurity major has thrown at me and club activities, time management would most definitely be a soft skill that would be able to immediately translate into this position. The other main soft skill that comes to mind would be critical thinking skills. Being a Cybersecurity Analyst, and any other position within Cybersecurity and IT for that matter, involves many high-stakes and stressful scenarios that can put workers in a tight bind. Dealing with Cybersecurity matters, and critical infrastructure as in the case of ARKS Enterprises, means that failure to correctly carry out duties can result in heavy consequences financially and asset-wise. Being able to operate calmly and concisely no matter the situation at hand can greatly benefit a Cybersecurity Analyst and as a result would greatly benefit the entire company.

Given the current state of affairs within the Cybersecurity job market, the position of Cybersecurity Analyst is a great starting point for employment that can help a new professional get their feet wet in the industry. Though this particular position at ARKS Enterprises is a higher-level job that would most likely be seeking a more experienced and battle-tested candidate, the job title itself can be found at entry-levels for different companies. Instead of striving for the Cybersecurity Analyst job at ARKS Enterprises immediately after the completion of university, the job can serve as a motivator for future career development and something to strive towards. As with all forms of employment, having a motivating factor that drive you to work harder and to continue sharpening your skills. Not only can it drive you to improve as an employee, but it can also serve to prevent things such as slacking off and job burnout, which can put a seemingly

promising professional career in jeopardy when they rear their ugly head. So, after completing an analysis of this position within my chosen field of cybersecurity, I feel all the more motivated and secure in the future job prospects that I can entertain and more certain regarding the skillset that I should target in order to attain self-improvement as a budding professional.

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