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Two weeks ago during the first week of June, 2022 the Virgina Cyber Navagator Internship Program (VA-CNIP) kicked off with a two day bootcamp at the University of Virginia. This is a new initiative by the Virginia State Government, in partnership with Virginia's Universities, to help bolster the cybersecurity posture of local election offices around the state. Many different localities opted into the program to be supported by interns from one of six universities, including Old Dominion University.

For my part I was assigned (along with two fellow ODU students) two localities in Virginia to support, referred to herein as Office A and Office B. With so many offices around the state, at different levels of cybersecurity knowledge, with different levels of IT support and access to resources, the needs of each locality differ. However, most need policies written to help train their employees on cybersecurity best practices.

Now that I am through the second week of work the pieces are starting to fall into place and I am understanding better what the two offices need, and how we can make that happen. The majority of my time has been spent writing policies for Office A. This, in my opinion, is not the most exciting work. That being said, it is a good skill to acquire. Understanding and improving my policy writing is one of the Learning Objectives I hope to achieve from this internship.

Office B on the other hand is asking us to help build up their network. As it stands the people working in the office have no way to work remotely. With a small crew and no way to work outside the office they risk the office being temporarily shut down because of illness. Office B has asked that we help deploy a firewall and VPN. This project is more inline with my interests and will hopefully achieve a second Learning Objective which is to gain real world experience deploying building networks. In this case a firewall/VPN solution. We have chosen pfsense for our firewall and VPN installation. Pfsense is open source, providing the office a powerful firewall solution without expensive software licensing. Thus far the work I have been doing for each office has been a great learning experience and will only continue to get more in depth.