FIRST 50 HOURS OF MY ODU CYBER CLINIC INTERNSHIP

Over the first 50 hours of my internship as a Cybersecurity Risk Manager with Old Dominion University and Coastal Virginia Cyber Initiative, I have learned quite a lot. The internship is mainly focused on assisting micro organizations with setting up or maintaining and bolstering their current cybersecurity infrastructure. This internship has taught me so much about the inner workings of businesses and the intersection of cybersecurity. I started the internship along with 7 other individuals and during our first assignment we had a meeting with a client to discuss their business and how cybersecurity could prove to be advantageous for them. During these first client meetings we assessed the client's knowledge of cybersecurity and what their overall goals were from our partnership. We further discussed how we would be able to serve the client efficiently with their personal goals in mind. Following our first client meeting, I along with the other interns had a great opportunity to learn from Dr. Karen Sanzo. Dr. Sanzo introduced us to the concept of Design thinking and how this would help us to formulate better questions and assessments of our clients going forward. The course of design thinking was quite impactful and interesting as it helped me with much better questions and different ways of thinking when it finally came time to talk to our next client. Additionally, we had the opportunity to display our understanding of design thinking and prototyping in our internship office by creating a learning space that was conducive and effective to our learning. With this activity we were able to imagine our space in a way that tackled many issues, expanded on already implemented solutions and also got the ability to know the other interns very well. After our time with Dr. Sanzo, we followed up with our second client meeting. In this meeting we got the opportunity to interview another client about their needs and goals associated with cybersecurity. This interview went quite smoothly due to the time we had with Dr. Sanzo. All the interns were able to create interesting and thought provoking questions that allowed us to gain as much knowledge about our client as possible. Following this second client meeting we were then able to choose our team for the duration of the internship. I volunteered to be part of the Policy team going forward, and with that I

was also able to pick a Technical team member to be my partner as well. These first 50 hours have truly been impactful for me as a student in Cybersecurity because I have gained hands-on experience in the field I want to work in after graduating, while also meeting and helping clients along the way. It has been educational and immensely satisfying. I cannot wait to see what we do next!

WHY AM I IN CYBERSECURITY?

My first real experience with computer-based systems and programming was actually during my junior year of high school. This experience introduced me to Java programming. This course, "Intro to Computer Science," was one that I dreaded. This was mainly due to the fact that coding seemed so complex and difficult to understand. I actually remember trying to learn a bit of coding before the class to try to understand concepts a bit easier, but it was quite challenging. With all my apprehension about this course, when I actually began the course, it was quite interesting to me, as well as a bit fun. Additionally, since this course was so different from anything else that I had done before, it made me feel even more confident in my skills because I was learning something completely new and I was actually understanding. This new interest sparked my curiosity about computers and how they work in general. As I learned more and more, I ultimately came across the topic of cybersecurity. My earlier experience with coding made it a lot easier for me to immerse myself in cybersecurity.

 I am in cybersecurity because I love helping and being of service to people. I think one of the most impactful things you can do in the world is to help others, especially with something as critical as protection. With cybersecurity, I can help bolster the security of those who might be vulnerable in today's digital world. By being in cybersecurity, I can help people with real issues, and make a difference while doing something I'm passionate about. A career in cybersecurity also provides job security since a sizable portion of our lives is online, and thus needs to be constantly secured from malicious agents. Cybersecurity careers are also very profitable, which must be considered especially in today's economy. Cybersecurity has always been quite interesting to me, especially because of how the field is constantly changing. With the development of new technologies, must also come to the protection of those technologies. In this way, the job of cybersecurity experts is never truly done or over. This reason is one of the main reasons why I am in cybersecurity. Since the field of cybersecurity is vast and constantly changing, it allows for many different sectors to work in. As someone who had a coding introduction to cybersecurity, I currently do not want to focus on a section of cybersecurity that is coding-heavy. I have realized that I would like to work in a sector that is mainly focused on writing and policy for cybersecurity. The opportunity to be able to make this decision further

solidifies my reason for wanting to pursue cybersecurity because I know that there are quite a lot of different offerings in the field.