IDS 493 REFLECTION

My experience with Old Dominion University's Cybersecurity program has been one of the most enriching journeys I've had that ability to embark on. I have learned, absorbed and have been able to demonstrate my gained knowledge in ways I wasn't able to before. This journey has not only readied me for my future career, it has also taught me the significance of being a life-long learner and student. This program has allowed me to embrace and move beyond my potential with determination and grit that I often overlooked. Some of the invaluable skills that I attained throughout my journey with ODU Cybersecurity were Python coding, Virtual Machines, and Risk Management Assessments. I was able to gain my Python coding experience and skills from Basic programming and Networking (CYSE 250), my Virtual Machines experience in Cybersecurity Techniques and Operations (CYSE 301) and my Risk Management skills in Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy along with my Cybersecurity Internship.

I've had various valuable learning experiences in my time at Old Dominion University which have shaped me into the fully realized student that I am today. A distinct experience that has contributed to my growth at ODU is self-studying and accountability throughout the duration of my asynchronous courses. My experience with taking asynchronous courses is quite memorable because it's impact on me. I learned to become an adept researcher whenever I struggled in class. I also had to learn time management like never before because all my assignments were online and I had to complete by specific deadlines. On the topic of asynchronous courses, I believe this was also one of the most challenging obstacles I faced while in the Cybersecurity program. As a student who thrives in traditional classroom settings, having this drastic change to self studying and online learning was quite difficult. In the early stages of my first asynchronous courses, I would forget about deadlines and sometimes even have trouble understanding the material. Throughout the semesters, I did learn to face this challenge head-on and even turn it into a strength. I became much more detail-oriented and even began utilizing a planner daily so as to not forget my assignments. I also became well-versed in teaching myself concepts and understanding their components deeply. Previous experiences that assisted me in completing this program would definitely be the asynchronous courses I took in high school during the pandemic. This past experience really helped by providing me with prior knowledge of how asynchronous courses operated. It allowed me to

take the asynchronous courses in the program with much less apprehension and equipped me with a bit more confidence in my ability to succeed in my courses.

The IDS 143 course is a course that guides students as they complete a professional electronic portfolio or website that pertains to their program at Old Dominion University. This portfolio includes their academic achievements, courses, resumes and experiences. The most valuable concept I learned in IDS 143 was how to present myself in an appealing and professional manner. This course taught me how to curate a page that will spark the interest of those who visit my page and also how to make a page that is as professional as it is inviting. Something I did exceptionally well in my portfolio was the layout and design. I believe that the design I chose effectively displays important aspects of who I am as a student and also what I program I am studying at Old Dominion University. I am most proud of my resume because it is very possible and displays a lot of the skills and knowledge I possess. One aspect that was challenging was uploading course material that was over the 2MB limit. This was quite frustrating because I essentially had to scrap some material I wanted to show in my portfolio because they were over the limit. I addressed this issue by choosing other course deliverables instead. One aspect that I could improve upon if I had more time would be how I organized my coursework. This is because I have coursework I was not able to upload due to the file size restriction and I don't have enough time to reorganize the deliverables to an adequate size for the portfolio.

Being an interdisciplinary thinker in cybersecurity is critical due to the complexity and ever-evolving nature of cyber threats. Cybersecurity professionals must navigate technical challenges, legal and ethical considerations, and strategic risk management, necessitating a broad knowledge base and the ability to synthesize information from various sources. This is especially displayed in my portfolio with the coursework I made available. The course work all touches on different aspects of Cybersecurity, and thus shows how important it is to be well-versed in different disciplines in cybersecurity. My next steps after ODU is to become a Cybersecurity Risk Assessor for organizations and to assist in keeping their systems and data secure.