Reflection Essay

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Introduction

Throughout my Cybersecurity program at Old Dominion University, I have learned various new skills that come from different disciplines such as technology, writing, ethics, policies, and real world critical thinking. Although my major is cybersecurity many of my courses have required me to think outside the box has Cybersecurity overlaps in many different fields. This IDS 493 course has brought all my coursework together to showcase my top skills and artifacts that demonstrate my growth and has allowed me to replace on how these adamic cases and workplace experiences have prepared me for my career. After reviewing all my content, I have chosen three that best represent my strengths. These skills I have chosen are Data Processing and Analysis, Technical Writing and Communication, and Project Management and Leadership. These skills created the foundation through a mix of my cybersecurity course, electives, and my full time work experience at Preferred Direct Marketing, a commercial printer and marketing firm. As my career paths growths into my anticipated path of GRC Analysis we can see how these experiences are shaped and ultimately tie together.

Skill 1 - Data Processing and Analysis

Data Processing and Analysis has become one of my strongest skills thanks in part to my full time job. My job requires me to examine and processing sensitive data, also known as PHI. During my internship course CYSE 368 I choose my job as it aligned with my field and allowed me to look at my work from a different lens. My first artifact is my final internship report as in this report I describe the tools I use at work such as BCC Mail Manger, and Postal One. These are processing and merged using HIPAA and HITRUST rules to ensure the CIA triad, Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability.

My second artifact is an example of data merge which is also a part of my job. This means once receiving the data from the client I must process and then merge data from our graphics depart and form the design and formats for our production team. Some of these fixes maybe be fixing addresses, adjusting the printing format for production, or even ordering the files in correct order. When it comes to commercial printing accuracy is one of the most important things you can do or else the whole order and resources have gone to waste. For this process clear communication between the different departments must be established. I learned how to verify the data, follow the procedures, and precent mistakes that could impact millions of mailing content.

For my third artifact I have chosen one of my papers from CYSE 425W. This paper corresponds with my current job and internship course as the content topic is HIPAA and the various implications it effects from social, policy, and technology growth. This artifact shows the ability to critically think and examine how policies effect and change business and organization operations. It's important that we understand why policies are implemented and what they can do in the short and long term.

Skill 2 – Technical Writing and Communication

Technical writing and communication became another important skill to my degree and internship. Cybersecurity requires clear writing because any mistakes and misunderstanding can create potential risks and cause delays in problem solving. For my first artifact in this skillset, I have chosen my paper from ENG 211C course as this paper talks about the growth and shape of identity. Although not fully relating to the topic of cybersecurity it's important to understand critical thinking from as many lens as possible. For me this has helped me become more prepared in scenarios that require out of the box thinking.

My second artifact is from my IDS 300W course. This was the final essay, and my topic was the on how the Patriot Act of 2001 still effects every aspect of society we see and live through today. This assignment required me to combine policy, ethics, technology, and society to analyze the growing issues of surveillance. Writing this helped me piece together understanding that cybersecurity is much more complex than what the general person may believe. This matters because during technical risks cases you maybe need to understand the background context that might not even have anything to do with cybersecurity. This may also come in handy when talking to others who are not specialized in the cybersecurity, but the problem corresponds the field.

My third artifact is different journal from my CYSE 368 course. While taking this course the journals required a different topic and how that relates to my job. I believe these journals overall how I can document my experiences and what my take aways are from the workday. I will admit I think working fulltime in my field you are studying may be quite beneficial because you can get to use the active knowledge you are learning in class and apply them into the workforce in real time.

Skill 3 – Project management and Leadership

I'd say project management and leadership has become a strong skillset for me through working with my team at work and group activities in classes. According to my MBTI test I am an ESTJ personality type. This type of person likes to lead and take charge. Now tying this into my first artifact we have a slide presentation I created with my group in CS300. Our topic was on AI and the effects of computers in the finance and internet worlds. Working on this project has forced me to learn how to organize tasks, coordinate group research, and structure how I want the slides

to be displayed for presentations. It's a natural habit for me to take control and lead projects in class or in the work force.

My second artifact is another one of my CYSE 368 internship course journals. This specific journal was me interviewing one of my coworkers named Kayla. Her being a team lead, she as guided me in understand how leadership works inside the workplace. I learned how people communicate and exchange ideas. This assignment also helped me understand the human aspects of leadership as I got to know her background, motivations, and goals. Humanization in the workforce can go a long way especially in a 9 to 5 job.

Lastly my third artifact is my Cybersecurity Case Study in my Philosophy 335 course. This case study required me to examine a scenario, identify the main issues, and then propose solutions or explain the case details. It requires time management, organization, and decision making. These types of case studies also require structured though and these are key traits when it comes to project management. This case study reflects how I can approach problems in the real world and then the methods I use to solve.

Conclusion

My Cybersecurity programs at old dominion university extending through various areas of study. My IDS courses were critical for giving me the time and access to learn how they all tie together. IDS 300W taught me how to connect the different disciplines, while IDS 493 build upon this reflecting and combining coursework to showcase my strengths. As I grow into my field to become a GRC analysis I will continue to look through the various lens such as policy, technology, society, ethics, and economical.