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Course: Cybersecurity Internship

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Instructor Name: Professor Duvall

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Company/Organization Name: Leidos

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Reflection #6

During this stage of my internship, I reached several important milestones that made me realize how much I have grown throughout the summer. This week included finishing one of my major automation projects, preparing for a presentation to senior leadership at Leidos, officially confirming that I will be returning to work part time during the school year, and continuing to learn new cybersecurity tools within the work environment.

One of the biggest accomplishments this week was finally completing my automation playbook.

I had been working on this project for a while, so finishing it was extremely rewarding.

Throughout the process, I learned much more about how automation can be designed, tested, improved, and used in a real workplace environment. Working with Ansible Automation

Platform helped me understand how repetitive technical tasks can be automated to save time and reduce the chance of human error. Completing the playbook also gave me more confidence in my ability to take a project from the learning stage all the way to a finished solution.

Another major focus for me has been preparing for my presentation this Friday to a Vice President at Leidos and other members of leadership. I will be presenting the work I completed throughout the summer, including the automation projects and other technical responsibilities I was involved with. Preparing for this presentation has given me a chance to look back at everything I have learned during the internship. At the beginning of the summer, many of the tools and processes were completely new to me, but now I am able to explain what I worked on, why it was important, and how it can help the organization.

I am also excited because it is now official that I will be returning to Leidos to work part time while I am in school. This is one of the biggest opportunities I have received from the internship. I am grateful that the company saw enough potential in my work to invite me back. Being able to continue working while completing my degree will allow me to keep building real-world cybersecurity experience and continue developing the technical skills that I learned over the summer. I think this experience will also help me connect what I learn in my university classes with actual responsibilities in the workplace.

This week I also participated in a final meeting with some of the other interns who will not be returning after the summer. It was interesting to reflect together on our different experiences, what we learned, and the projects we worked on throughout the internship. Working alongside other interns showed me that everyone can have a different experience even while working within the same organization. These meetings also helped me appreciate the professional relationships and connections I was able to build during the internship.

In addition to my automation work, I continued learning about other cybersecurity tools used within the organization, including tools related to Symantec. I was able to gain more exposure to

how endpoint security and security management tools are used in an enterprise environment. Learning these tools has helped me understand that cybersecurity involves many different systems working together rather than relying on one single platform. Each tool serves a different purpose, and understanding how they interact is an important part of working in a large organization.

Overall, this week was an important point in my internship because several of the things I had been working toward finally came together. Completing my automation playbook gave me a sense of accomplishment, preparing for my presentation to Leidos leadership has challenged me to improve my communication skills, and officially being invited back part time has made me excited about what comes next. This internship has given me much more than technical experience. It has helped me become more confident, more comfortable in a professional environment, and more certain that cybersecurity and automation are areas I want to continue developing in.