

Reflection #2

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CYSE 386: Cybersecurity Clinic Internship

The second portion of the Cyber Clinic focused mostly on understanding how to perform risk assessments for an organization's cybersecurity. This included learning about NIST and CPGs and the differences between these frameworks, studying Valor Cybersecurity's risk analysis questions, practicing analysis by actually communicating these questions to real organizations and determining how to interpret their answers, and creating our own risk analysis questions and ways to gather information from our organization. We also met with our organizations for the first time and discussed general cybersecurity questions and expectations for our risk assessment, such as what our organization's biggest concerns were and how we would be able to help them the most.

Being able to practice analyzing existing cybersecurity frameworks and using them to come up with risk analysis questions, as in the CPG Crosswalk activity, was extremely helpful, since this is a necessary skill for what we are eventually going to do with our businesses, but not something many students have experience with, since most classes are more about learning the basics than actually applying them.

I also really ended up enjoying being able to go out and communicate with small businesses. Although I was extremely nervous and doubted that I would be to actually interview any businesses, the experience ended up going much better than I expected. Not only did it allow me and my teammates to practice organizing a plan and working together, it also allowed me to

practice interacting with business owners, explaining cybersecurity terms, and interpreting cybersecurity policies in relation to risk and the specific needs of a business. This helped me prepare for meeting with my organization, Earth Viability Center, since I was able to better explain how our team would be assessing Earth Viability Center's risk and creating cybersecurity policies to improve their overall security.