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Danville Public Schools

Reflection #1

CYSE 368 Internship Reflection #1

Overall, it has been a great experience thus far to be an intern at Danville Public Schools while assisting in the Cyber Camp. I've immersed myself in technical mentoring during my time at the academy and found that this internship is a chance to witness the application of those technical skills and concepts in a real-world educational environment, which has proven to be valuable for not only my learning, but for my ability to teach what I'm learning. I have gained a new insight into cybersecurity awareness and education through interaction with students and made it more than just bits and bytes to me.

Communication is an important aspect I learned a lot about, one of the biggest things. It is crucial for one to be able to communicate effectively with non-technical individuals, which is often a common arena cyber security professionals are required to operate in. I think I have met a few students who are for the first time learning about Cyber Security throughout the camp. I've been required to make online safety, password security and phishing topics interesting and comprehensible. I think it makes me much more confident at talking to audiences and relaying technical information.

Another area that I have expanded in is in leadership and mentorship. As one of the Cyber Camp Assistants, I also frequently assist students to play cyber games and conduct hands-on activities that make Cybersecurity fun and interactive. During certain activities I ask questions to guide them along, make suggestions to proceed where they are struggling and encourage

him/her all the way. Having now gained experience with people of different abilities and ages, I now find it important to have patience and be flexible with them. It has also brought to my mind that as a leader, you're not always the one showing others how to do things, sometimes you're the one learning from others and becoming successful.

As part of this internship, I've seen opportunities to use my knowledge of cybersecurity in education as well. An activity I have loved to do is the interactive exercises and discussions looking for phishing attempts. In these activities, students will learn to identify suspicious messages, links, and emails that may give away information they don't want to be shared. I have also helped to develop cyber games about cyber security awareness, critical thinking, and online safety. It is encouraging to see the students put their knowledge into practice by solving challenges and seeing the difference that Cybersecurity education makes.

I have gained communication, leadership skills as well as professional and organizational skills. A part of camp will involve readiness, communication with other staff members/supervisor, and helping to facilitate smoothly operations of the activities. I know that being professional, responsible, and working as a team are important to maintain a professional work environment. A collection of skills that will be useful to me in the future in my internship and career path in the Cybersecurity world.

Conclusion

I have gained useful practical experience from my internship while under the wing of Danville Public Schools that has been a real-world learning experience for me in conjunction with cybersecurity courses I have taken with my university. Along with mentoring students, supporting them with cyber games and giving them cybersecurity training like awareness on

phishing and online safety, my technical and professional skills have been enhanced. From this experience I gained knowledge on how to be an effective communicator and leader which I hope to be able to apply throughout the internship.