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Reflection #2

Through my continued internship as a Cyber Camp Assistant for Danville Public Schools, I feel more confident in my technical skills and skills with communicating with others. At first, I thought the job would be heavily centered around just teaching cybersecurity principles, but I can say it is a lot more than that. It has time, collaboration, flexibility and a flair for making technical subjects interesting or exciting for younger students.

Part of my role is to educate the students on different concepts which are vital to cybersecurity such as password security, online safety, phishing, and overall protection of personal information. We did not just use presentations as our primary teaching method but interactive games, demonstrations and hands on activities that put students in a position to apply what they learnt. The moment students begin to see that they can identify phishing attempts or develop stronger passwords, I saw how effective cyber security education can be when students are not merely sitting in a classroom listening to a lecture.

I have got really comfortable in imparting technical ideas throughout the internship. I have been tasked with explaining cyber security to younger students which has required me to find ways to explain more complex topics in a "plain English" way. I at times felt like I would have a hard time explaining some concepts, but eventually, I got more comfortable with

modifying my explanations as I felt the students comprehended. A lesson that's become very prominent in the art of cybersecurity is the ability to communicate technical information to non-technical people.

I have seen leadership development rise as another one of my areas of growth. I have assisted in arranging activities and have responded to student inquiries and offered support when someone required additional help throughout the internship. Sometimes, students lost interest or became frustrated in an activity and I learned to be patient and encourage the students to stay with the activity. These experiences have enabled me to become more confident in my group work and in my ability to adapt in various situations as they arise.

Teamwork is also reflected in the teamwork formed with other camp staff. Communication and co-ordination was required each day to ensure that lessons and activities ran smoothly. We helped each other prepare the materials before the students came and as we were preparing them, and then we helped each other as we carried out the activities as a positive learning environment was created. At the time of this experience, I learned that cybersecurity isn't really something meant to be completed individually. Effective communication and teamwork among team members can play a very important role in succeeding. This is also similar to what happens in general professional settings.

Another valuable lesson to be learned from this experience is the realization that what the students are learning in the classroom is relevant in the real world. Now that I can share what I have learned from cybersecurity courses on topics like phishing, password management, and social engineering with others, they take on a whole new level of significance. I've also been a

bit better able to explain these things, which has helped me to get a better understanding of them myself, because I don't just want to memorize this; I want to understand it, and I want to bring that understanding to my students.

The overall internship has helped me enhance my technical and professional abilities. I have also accumulated experience in cyber security awareness, as well as communication, leadership, teamwork and problem solving skills. These are skills I'm going to be using all throughout my schooling and career in cybersecurity.

I have learned so much already, but there's still more to learn from this experience. Over the course of my internship I will aim to take on more roles, continue to educate others about cybersecurity, and advance further my professional skills to help prepare me for my career in cybersecurity.