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IDS 493

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Reflection

Introduction

The two years that I have been at Old Dominion University has been an enjoyable experience. I am a transfer student from Virginia Peninsula Community College where I obtained my Associate's degree in Health Science. Shortly after earning my degree, I realized that I wanted to shift my focus onto technology. This is when I started researching what exactly I wanted to do regarding technology. I learned that there were different avenues that I could take including computer science, IT, and cybersecurity. I knew that cybersecurity was a growing field and that there were different job opportunities available within that field. Once I realized I wanted to pursue a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity, that is when I started looking at colleges and I knew instantly that ODU was the right place for me. During my time at ODU, I have learned so much from various professors. Specifically, I have learned Linux (CYSE 270), basic cybersecurity concepts (CYSE 300), cryptography (CS 463), and the correlation between cybersecurity and the criminal justice system (CRJS 310). Also, we were given many writing assignments which allowed me to improve my writing skills. Lastly, I learned to stay motivated even when things didn't always go as planned or I did not get the grade I would have liked. It made me work twice as hard on the next assignment and to persevere through obstacles.

Program Reflection

The most valuable learning experiences I have had from my time at ODU have been learning how these concepts are used in the real world. The basic concepts we learn in cybersecurity help us to understand when a cyber threat has occurred and how we can solve or mitigate the threat. Also, learning about the different social engineering tactics that were out there was an eye opener as I had never thought about nor heard of these kinds of tactics prior to my time at ODU and the cybersecurity program. One obstacle that I did face was when I struggled with understanding some of the concepts, specifically with linux. However, I did reach out to my professor and they would guide me in the right direction or either explain what I did wrong. Every professor that I have had while at ODU has been very helpful and it is clear that they want you to succeed. Furthermore, I liked how the program flowed and how each course built upon the previous. This allowed for me to not only learn new concepts, but help not forget the ones I have already learned. Since cybersecurity is an ever evolving field, we are always learning and growing, so we are never going to know everything in it.

IDS 493 Reflection

IDS 493 is a course where students can reflect on their time at ODU and the courses they have taken. In this class, we were instructed to create an ePortfolio which showcases all of the courses we have taken at ODU. It is designed to show employers or anyone looking at your ePortfolio that you are knowledgeable in your field of study along with what you have done during your four years in college. The portfolio is a reflection of who you are and what you have accomplished. It gives employers an opportunity to see who you are beyond your resume since it is more detailed and personal. One of the most valuable concepts I have learned while taking this

course is how to give proper constructive feedback to peers. I am glad that the professor allowed us to view each other's portfolios and give feedback, so that we have different perspectives. Also, I learned what goes into making an ePortfolio eye catching to the public. I am the most proud of the layout of my portfolio. I believe that it attracts the eye without being too overwhelming. It is easy to navigate and the material I have included summarizes what I have learned during my time at ODU. If someone was only able to look at one thing on my ePortfolio, I would point them to any one of my courses I have taken because I have explained them all in great detail, so that the audience knows what I am talking about without having to have a background in cybersecurity or a related field. One aspect that was challenging in IDS 493 was figuring out how I wanted my ePortfolio to look in terms of color and design. I addressed this issue by figuring out a theme and sticking to it. I picked out a template that would be eye catching to the audience. If I had more time, I would have liked to include certifications that I plan on getting after graduation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I enjoyed this course and think that every college student will benefit from taking IDS 493. Taking this class during my last semester in college was a great experience. It allowed me to reflect on my previous classes and be able to explain them to an unfamiliar audience. Being able to look at cybersecurity from an interdisciplinary perspective is crucial to understanding concepts and being able to use critical thinking to identify and solve problems. Also, it helps cybersecurity professionals understand how cyber criminals think and what their motive is behind their attack. I believe that all the courses I have taken have helped in understanding cybersecurity as a whole. After graduating from ODU, I plan on finding an entry

level position within IT/Cybersecurity. I hope to advance my career after building my resume and further my knowledge through various certifications. The certifications I hope to attain after graduation are ISC2 CC, A+, Network +, and Security +. Lastly, I am looking into going back for my Master's degree.