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IDS 493

Reflection Assessment Assignment

Introduction

My journey in cybersecurity has been very interesting along the way. I have always loved computers and technology. I was a bit nervous coming into cyber from the medical field after developing a muscle condition. I gained a special interest in the field because I see how technology creates a need for people to be on the network. This in turn creates a space for cybercriminals to do their dirty work and I have a soft spot for the elderly and children who are getting exploited due to vulnerability and that's mostly what pulled me closer to the field. It has been full of a lot of learning and many challenges as well. I have learned so much about the field from school and different work projects with the opportunity to experience apprenticeship and internship programs in cybersecurity. Some of the courses like IDS 300, 493 and 200T that I took here at ODU taught me how different disciplines intertwined within cyberspace and how to use them for the best successful outcome. The journey so far has been very rewarding and on the other hand an eye-opener to what I will be faced with within today's society.

Future Outcomes

Through everything that I have learned and experienced thus far I know there can be great outcomes and there are many obstacles that arise in cybersecurity and can have a determining factor on my future. Cybersecurity is a rapidly growing field which is leading to more support needed to help fill roles for the job market. Research shows that there are not enough experienced and trained people within the field to help train people in the field. The more people that become experienced within the cyber sector can help others and it creates ways for easier advancement into other roles; in turn this would help support with job shortages. I have also

come to learn through a bit of experience gained that there are a few obstacles faced as well early in the career. The cybersecurity field is very competitive, and a lot of companies seek the most seasoned and experienced person first. Another obstacle is that learning never stops, it only gets more complex with the sophistication of threats and attacks, making the jobs require more training. Other barriers like needs for certifications and clearances can create difficulties getting certain jobs in the field, especially beginners. I have learned to keep studying and gaining experience in multiple areas in the field to increase my chances of success. I would like to add that taking other interdisciplinary courses taught me that other disciplines like psychology, communications and writing can also factor into cyber and create a job for example, I did a temporary position as a technical writer in cybersecurity, and I never knew how those courses could impact me in the field. (15 students join cyber pre-apprenticeship program, 2023)

Short and Long-term Goals

My short-terms goals within the next year are to finish school and continue to study and gain certifications within cybersecurity and technology areas. I am hoping to gain an entry-level position to start. I am planning on doing an internship within Amazon working with AWS as I already work for the company. I am hopeful this experience could turn into a more long-term career goal to gain experience and move along the chain within the data sector. Longterm goals for me within the next few years are to relocate and travel a little and make a difference fighting cybercrime and protecting the network. I am hoping to continue to spread diversity and make great connections with professionals to come together to have a positive outcome with technology especially cyberspace.

Artifacts. Hard and Soft Skills

A hard skill that I felt was most beneficial that I learned throughout my time at ODU. A vital skill needed to become successful in cybersecurity is the Networking skillset. The apprenticeship was a five-month cyber program. The program was supported by CCI and was through the College of William and Mary and Peregrine Solutions directed by Dr. Armstead. The apprenticeship allowed us to get firsthand experience in cybersecurity applications and contract development for DoD.

We were able to build databases for contracts and portfolios and learn about other security applications and networking for systems. (15 students join cyber pre-apprenticeship program, 2023) My favorite section was technical writing because I was able to learn better communication skills and how to professionally write proposals for contracts. The program was a great steppingstone into the cyber field and learning other aspects to cybersecurity. Another networking artifact was an article describing a particular sector in cybersecurity that was of interest. I did an analysis on the innovation of ways to manipulate DNA and technology. It goes more in depth how hackers were experimenting with digitalization and DNA. The interest is mainly medical research and possible cures for people with the help of technology. (R, 2018)

A soft skill that I found very helpful to me along my cybersecurity journey is communication skillset. Courses like Public Speaking 102 help me with preparation, delivery, and analysis of types of speeches with emphasis on extemporaneous speaking. It was a discipline that was vital to connecting the understanding with communications needed in the cybersecurity industry. (Harris, 07/07/2023). This artifact shows an interpersonal skills assessment write-up that I did when I took IDS 300 course. It shows that I have great interpersonal qualities. This is a plus when working with people like clients or such for a company. The assessment was based on responses obtained from a series of questions about interpersonal feelings to scenarios asked. It

pointed out that I am kind and considered to be others and normally putting myself last. This course was very helpful for understanding self and being able to help and understand others. Psychological skillset is a great skillset that I have sharpened over the years. I did not realize how vital this discipline would be to the cyber field. Psychology is a strong skill that I have learned to enhance here at ODU. I didn't realize how important psychology was to cybersecurity. I learned how to incorporate psychology into cyber. It is important to know how cybercriminals think and how they feel internally. Taking Psychology 201 course allowed me to see how hackers come up with different hacking techniques. It also provided a way to better secure systems by understanding the psychological aspects of cybercriminals. up with different hacking techniques. It also provided a way to better secure systems by understanding the psychological aspects of cybercriminals. (R, 2018)

Leadership Skills with Others

Over the course of school projects and work experiences I have developed some important leadership skills along the way. At almost any career job you will need some form of leadership skills. When I took public speaking, I had to show those skills when giving speeches to an audience. This made a difference when I did a cyber apprenticeship with the College of William and Mary. We had to show that we could gain attention from others and keep their attention and guide them through different processes in cybersecurity defenses.

Recognition Along the Way

I would like to give recognition to all of ODU staff. The professors here at ODU are awesome. They really show that they care about students' success and going above and beyond to give information about opportunities, seminars and fairs. For the staff it has really been about more than just me getting through a course. It has shown that if you are eager, they are willing to teach and show you more. To me this has been a winning experience. I also would like to recognize Mrs. Stephaine Blackmon, a director over at College of William and Mary. She was awesome with putting together the cybersecurity apprenticeship program for students who wanted to gain some beginning experience within the field and help assist military with small projects. She was very attentive and checked in with us every step of the way. She also made the environment very inviting and fun. I learned a lot about cybersecurity contracts and implementing other disciplines when dealing with protecting and securing networks. (15 students join cyber pre-apprenticeship program, 2023)

Most Proud Moments

My most proud moments throughout my cybersecurity journey I would say is finishing at TCC and transferring to ODU and finally about to cross this finish line. Considering that I was nervous coming here because I am a little bit older than most students, I didn't think my experience was going to be the best. I can honestly say it has been amazing, and I have faced and overcame so many obstacles. There have been good and bad days, but everyone has been so supportive of helping and showing that there are still caring people in society. Being a female in the cyber field has been interesting thus far but I am excited to see where it all leads too in the future.

Important Skills Needed

Finally, it is important that I maintain my learning after school ends. I know that in order for me to be successful I must always keep a can-do attitude. I must remain willing and continue to provide feedback and active listening to others. There are so many different areas of expertise in the cybersecurity field so I must grab a few areas of interest and really dive deep and continue to grow to excel the best. I have learned along the way that failure is okay but it's how you recover and come back that makes the difference in this field. The best skills are maintaining any certifications that are popular and always improve your knowledge because technology never gets old. Keeping an open line of communication and don't be afraid to ask questions will take you far. Overall, I have had fun and a great experience with learning so much and look forward to the future of cyber. (Harris, 07/07/2023)

Works Cited

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