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CS 405 / SNHU

**Module 8 Journal: Portfolio Reflection**

A software developer's journey is marked by ongoing learning and adjustment. In this journey, secure coding standards are crucial for safeguarding end-user data and privacy, as well as the integrity of the code. Thinking back on my experiences, I can see how far I've come and how many ways I've used secure coding concepts in my work. In this journal entry, I'll discuss my opinions on these techniques, their advantages, and how they've influenced my approach to coding.

**Critical Reflection:** The temptation to treat security as a last resort hampered the start of my profession. But I quickly discovered that this strategy is like to sailing without a compass. My perspective has changed due to the early adoption of a safe coding standard, which guarantees that security is ingrained in the code rather than being an afterthought. Through identifying and remedying vulnerabilities that arise during the design phase, I have strengthened my work's defenses against the myriad cyber threats that lurk in the digital ether. This approach promotes an environment where proactive risk assessment and mitigation are the norm, in addition to streamlining the development process.

**Secure Coding Best Practices:** My grasp of the fine line separating risk and the cost-benefit of mitigation has helped refine my approach to secure coding. Integrating protections like input validation, authentication methods, and encryption is imperative since every line of code can be a portal for intrusion. These procedures have many advantages, including improving security posture and reducing costs by preventing breaches that can cause harm to one's reputation and finances. It's the painstaking process of integrating a zero trust framework into systems' design, establishing an architecture in which access requests are rigorously validated and trust is earned.

As I write my reflections, I remember how important it is to communicate clearly in this journal's content, code comments, and documentation. By transparency, security measures are understood, and others can build upon the established secure foundations. As we collaborate to protect against constantly changing cyber threats, it's a duty that goes beyond the individual coder to the whole development community.

I see how secure coding techniques are ingrained in my professional development. This security integration has sparked quality and creativity rather than impeded them. I reaffirm my commitment to these values with each project, realizing that security is an ongoing undertaking that requires and develops resilience and adaptability in each of us.