**2024-05-01**

Did some initial onboarding, mainly signing standard tax documents, company agreements and policy reviews. The secretary also gave me a tour of the office, introduced me to all the employees currently in the office and showed me where I would be working. I worked with Kieran a little bit observing some database work, tracking functionalities. Then my supervisor who was not in the office invited me to a meeting to expose me to the data historian software that tracks data trends and allows users to make custom dashboards for tracking specific data sets. Although I do not completely understand what is happening regarding the software it was cool to see how the software makes data easier to read and track.

**2024-05-02**

Today, Sean was in the office, but he was on a call with a site that had a server failure, so he spent a lot of time working with them to get their server back in working order. He had me read some material about the historian software I'd be using to add reports from a different software so that the company that employed us could stop using it. In a nutshell the software is just making SQL queries from a database and displaying them nicely in a similar way to Excel. Afterwards we figured out how much access I had on the remote server housing the data I would need to access. Once we got access, Sean had me compile a list of all the important reports from the old software into an Excel spreadsheet so that they could be cross referenced once I started generating the new ones for the new software. Tomorrow, I'll be tuning in to the training session Sean is hosting for the employees that will be using the software so I can get some. experience using the software myself.

**2024-05-03**

Today opened by entering a training meeting like the one on my first day. This one was a bit lengthier and ran for about four hours. The difference this time around was that I got to follow Sean along and interact with the software. The software as mentioned before is a glorified visualizer of SQL queries made on a database. It also allows for reports generation and manual data entry from users. Overall, it is a comprehensive piece of software that seems to do its job well. After the meeting we had a short meeting with a couple of others from the company employing us, discussing how the training session went overall and some things they could improve the software later down the line. I spent the rest of the day starting on a report transfer to the new system for the company. I chose to start with a big report so that I could get a lot of practice while still only focusing on one report. Didn't get a chance to test whether I built the report correctly or not, so I'll have to take it up again on Monday.

**2024-05-06**

Once again, I am chugging through reports. I made it through a couple larger ones today. Although I initially spent the morning trouble shooting three, I chose to work on since they weren't displaying values. After discussing with Sean, we decided I should just move on and keep going through the reports and anything that isn't working we can fix later. Eventually some of the reports I continued to make did work without me changing anything in my process, which leads me to believe that it is an issue with the data and not with how I'm compiling the report. The old reports which use a less efficient table for data retrieval allows for a footer where the previous report makers have been adding averages for values displayed in the table currently instead of just making a new section of the table. I don't / haven't figured out if there is a way to do this with the table from the template, I am using but I figured I would ask Sean next time I get the chance. There's still a lot to go through so it will likely be a couple more weeks before all the report transferring gets completed.

**2024-05-07**

Back to the report grind, it seems a lot of the employer’s previous reports were broken due to a variety of reasons like weird data entry. All in all, still chugging through. This afternoon I mostly worked on an excel sheet that Sean had made up as a template for quick data retrieval from the database. Basically, they just want a quick reference. It works almost identically to the reports I’ve been making just in excel instead. This took up pretty much my whole day. Sean is going to use the excel sheet I compiled in his training sessions tomorrow.

**2024-05-08**

Tuned in to another one of Sean's training sessions. This one was a bit of a slog, 4 hours long total. However, this session was with a new group of people and this group is much more engaged than the previous. They were asking questions following along well which made the 4 hours pass a bit quicker. I mostly continued with reports during this time, so the meeting served as background noise. Initially the company who employed us wanted this new data system to go live from the end of May to the beginning of June. However, the lead on this project at our employer said that the yearly shutdown they do in September may be moved to June instead. This would give us a little more time to flesh out the system and polish some aspects. We are still operating as if the timeline is the same but will take advantage of the extra time if the decision to change the shutdown ends up being made. Afterwards, I was also in another of Sean's training sessions, but this one was only an hour. It was mostly showing off the trend viewer client app, query tool and excel template that I made yesterday. This session went well too, and Sean got a lot of positive feedback which he appreciated.

**2024-05-09**

Came into the office earlier today. It was quiet today; it seems that not a lot of people were here at the office. Maybe they were working online at home? Anyway, my boss Sean was on site today doing a training session instead of the usual online teaching sessions. Either way I was still chewing through reports, and I got a good chunk done today. Towards the latter end of the day, Sean had me start fixing the engineering units used by the system. For some reason, there is a bunch of the same units just capitalized differently but meaning the same thing. So, I'm currently going through and adjusting all of those to reach an agreement on a standard with the operations team. I also learned that a ton and a tonne are not the same thing. One of them is technically a metric unit but not recognized by SI. Also, there is a short and a long ton which have about 100 kg difference in measurement for some reason. All in all, a success full day.

**2024-05-09**

This morning leads off with an advanced report training. This initial group was less interesting than yesterday’s. They did not interact as much as the last group. This session basically just covered charts in the report studio. The charts are like Excel charts but with a little more convoluted feature. This training went smoothly for the most part, sometimes the report studio has errors when you try and make object near the edge of the report page causes you to use some less than convenient work arounds. New to this training session, Sean let me teach the report template section. I was nervous at first but eventually just focused on doing a good job and forgot about being nervous. Post training meeting both the lead at the company employing us and Sean complimented how clearly and thorough I was explaining the report template features, which made me feel a lot more confident in my ability. Then for the rest of the day I worked on fleshing out the engineering unit standardization I was working on yesterday and finished up the document and gave it to Sean. Researching symbols and standards for units made me realize how inconsistent they can be sometimes despite having a standard. Regardless I finish out the last hour of the day by doing some more reports and heading home for the weekend.

**2024-05-13**

Today I did some more reports for half the day, a good old 4 hours. We were focusing on manual entry boxes which allow the user to update data via the web interface itself. This has a little more complexity than the simple objects we were working with before, they also have some styling issues when placed on tables. Most of the 4 hours were spent dealing with the styling issues, which aren't fully resolved yet. Progress is steady. Next, I tuned into Sean's OMI training session, which basically has a visual of the systems being used on site. The system used to make them is extremely like object-oriented programming. You start with a base object that has a very general outline of how you want all the objects to be, then the specific objects inherit the outline of the base object, which is effectively a polymorphism. Also, like objects, they have functions which are akin to methods and properties which give them unique attributes. Then Sean tasked me with going through all the float tags and setting the min and max to be shown in trends which I am using python to complete since the data set is quite large. I will carry on tomorrow.

**2024-05-14**

Today flew by, despite not working on much of a variety of things. I got to use some more python today to filter values in a spreadsheet. I'm liking using python for these large data sets (number of rows > 1000) because it allows me to abstract and containerize functions rather than having a huge formula bar in excel. It also allows us to fine tune the functionality of the filtering and manipulation as precisely as needed. It has also taught me how to do some spreadsheet manipulation using the openpyxl module. I also learned a bit more regular expression pattern matching with Excel does not natively support. I was mostly independent today since Sean was on site doing in person training sessions. Overall, a productively feeling day that just flew by.

**2024-05-15**

Today we took another big step forward to the go live for the new system for our employer. Since most of the reports are finished and compiled, we now must vet their functionality. This morning Sean asked me to make a sheet to track and test all the reports document individual issues with each of their tables or views. This is pretty much going through all the reports again, like I have been since starting. I'm quite proud of the sheet I made. It works decently well and modular which will allow for updates. It seems like a lot of the tags have broken values or the way they are being queried is incorrect. I say this because a lot of the tables have values displaying "N/A" or "Err" meaning no data or there are null values respectively. This is a problem likely with the tag itself, somewhere along the retrieval line, there could be a typo with the tag or something along those lines. For now, we're just taking note of them and then going to return and amend them later. Hopefully, when we go back to fix them, the fixes will be as simple as fixing a type (although it's \*\*never\*\* usually that easy). So, another long but relatively simple task that will likely close out the week for me.

**2024-05-16**

Mostly report verification today, going through the standard tests and verifying everything is in working order. Made it through a good junk report today. However, it is a little annoying because Sean is doing training sessions at the same time I'm using the web view for the reports. Since he is doing training, every so often he must reload the whole project containing all the reports to update changes he makes to his examples. This inadvertently caused me to be logged out of the online portal due to the web view being updated. This causes small interruptions when I'm trying to be efficient, having to log back in causing some productivity halting. But today, a bigger interruption was experienced. Towards the afternoon, the whole project housing the reports crashed and I was no longer able to get onto the report studio software. I got in contact with the IT department for our employer and he basically said he had to go physically to find out what was going on. Later, Sean messaged me saying that the whole server needed to be restarted before I could continue. So pretty much no work got done for the last two hours of today.

**2024-05-17**

Today was more report validation. Sean came into the office today, so it was nice to have some company. He did spend most of his day in meetings (which seems to be regular for him). Report validation went smoothly today except for when I would reach reports with upwards of 20 tables. At that point it got a little tedious expanding the excel spreadsheet that I made to accommodate these large group of rows. Still haven't really figured out why some tables on the new system display data when they didn't on the old system, and vice versa. Likely due to some sort of query or source data issue that we haven't solved yet but will need to solve in the future. In one of Sean's meetings, they talked about how since the shutdown we might upgrade all their systems in place. Either way I'm still going to Sherritt next week to get some hands-on experience. I'll report with what I learn next week.

**2024-05-21**

First day on site. This is exciting because coming into this job I didn't really expect to be able to go to the sites of the companies I'd be working for, so this feels cool. It was also nice to meet the faces of those I had spent training sessions over teams with and really get a feel for the people on the project. It was pretty refreshing to understand how frustrated they are with their old historian system and really want something new, robust and effective. They expressed how they've been banging their heads against the wall and dying for this new system but there were a lot of factors preventing them from reaching this goal. It is a bit odd though because they did have this system in place originally but the way it was configured by a different integrator caused data retrieval to be slow and optimized or nonfunctional. This led them to just use their old system, but the issue is that the previous supporting company behind this old system no longer does business with them, so if anything were to happen to that system, they would be in the hole. Apparently, the company I'm working for never got wind of wanting to revamp their system so never got a bid for the work. Then we arrive in the modern day where we are now fixing the long trail of mistakes and it seems like those on the project are finally happy with the new system despite it not even being fully ready for use. Tomorrow is day 2 of the training so I'll be back on site.

**2024-05-23**

Back at the office today. Sean didn't let me come to the site today because he said he rather me get through some more report verification. So, get through the verification I did. I have less than 10 reports to verify before I try and go through and fix them. Most of the issues with the reports seem to be simple so hopefully the fixes will also be simple as well. This was kind of mind numbing to do today but it was nice to be back in the office and socialize a little bit. On a brighter note, I will get a couple overtime hours since I was at the site for over 8 hours. Overall, it was cool to be on site, but less efficient in terms of work done. Despite the size of the company at the site a whole lot of nothing also happens there. It also brought to light the disconnect between those running a company and those leading the groups that ultimately allow the company to stay afloat. This made me appreciate working for this smaller company where management is very aware of what is going on at the company.

**2024-05-24**

Last day of another week. Once again, some more report validation. I rounded out verifying all the issues with the reports which means it was time to go through and start fixing them. I started with easy fixes like formatting or super simple functional changes. This didn't take a lot of time and really minimized the amount of time that I thought this process would take. Then as a break I fiddled around with the engineering units as Sean sent me another list to try and fill out the master list. Unfortunately, there are still a lot of missing ranges, as not all these lists are complete it seems as if even manually going through the lists to find the incomplete ranges, they do not appear in any of the files I was given. With that out of the way, I went back to verification. Earlier in the week, Sean had mentioned to me that there is a list he had of tags that are dead, meaning they are no longer providing data to the historian. The list is long so before I go and try and fix all the reports that have data retrieval issues. This would stop me from banging my head against the wall when I can't figure out why the reports aren't displaying data. Using some python wizardry with an Excel manipulation library, I was able to write a script that gets all the tags in all the transferred reports, then gets all the tags labeled "dead" or "old" then find the matches between the two. It was quite a time save and satisfying to get this working. It seems it's easier to do pattern matching with string in python than in Excel itself.

**2024-05-27**

Today I started by continuing what I had begun last week, finding dead tags. I was tasked with finding the dead tags in reports if they exist. As previously mentioned, I used python to find the dead tags that were in use, which saved a lot of time. However, I made a sheet that tracks which tags are dead, what table they are in and what report that table belongs to. This was painfully boring and tedious because due to how we set up the tracking for what tags go in what tables when the transfers were made. Even using python this would prove to be a task way too lengthy, ultimately, I ended up doing it manually, boring but more efficient than either of the two methods. Then after that I made a new column in the acceptance testing sheet which identifies the dead tags in each table for each report. Afterwards, I updated the notes of all the reports with dead tags to mention that they have one. Now, the remaining problematic tables that do not have dead tags need to be dealt with. Sean informed me this is likely due to a driver issue, mainly the integral driver to improper math, causing an error thus no values being displayed. He was busy this afternoon so he couldn't help me set up or change the drivers that need fixing, but we can get to that tomorrow. These drivers do math in the background when pulling data from the historian given specific parameters. This is how we dynamically display data and specific units for data. Basically, the data gets queried from SQL Server then the appropriate math operations get performed on all the data pulled from the query. Tomorrow, the remaining driver issues will be tackled.

**2024-05-28**

Just some more, report verification for today. Except Sean and I did a little bit of a deep dive into some of the tags that are causing us issues. Some of the tags were producing weird results and 0s where there shouldn't be. So, we managed to figure out why the initial one was due to a miscalculation involving engineering units. Basically, since the engineering units have been messed up from the start, this is a fundamental way that the AVEVA software calculates specific values, especially flows which are just calculated using integration. This gives wildly different values despite the values being logged to be used in the calculation are the same on both sides. A little annoying but not a big issue. Next, we came across the fact that the last integrator just copied things over without really checking or fixing anything. This means that an undetermined number of reports could just have wrong drivers causing the wrong type of data to be displayed in the first place. Again, annoying but not the worst. But by far the worst thing we came across today is that whoever chose the name for tags did a terrible job. Apparently, there are a bunch of manual entry tags that only point to the old system and not the new one which is fine cause some of them end in "ME" for "Manual Entry", clearly identifying them. Which would be great, if they were all like that. The vast majority of about 500 or so tags don't have any indication that they are manual entry tags. Once again, they show data on the old system leading you to believe that you messed something up or something is wrong with the tag if don't recognize that it is a manual entry tag. Every day I'm reminded as to how poor a job the last integrator has done. Its problems are built on the foundation of more problems. But everyday Sean and I attempt to solve more and more of them, which is nice.

**2024-05-29**

Today was problematic. First, report verification was going well. With the information Sean and I uncovered yesterday going through reports was much quicker and easier. There were still a couple problems that I could not resolve, such as data mismatch when all the parameters are correct on both reports. This is likely due to how the data is being queried before even reaching the report. These will likely be harder to trouble shoot down the line as the solution will be more completed than meets the eye. But that was just the start. Later into the afternoon Sean asked me to hop off the server so he could implement the new dev server for the project. They've been wanting to separate the servers so issues with multiple users developing the software don't arise like before. This great because it allows for versioning of the project as well, so if someone implements something wrong or some update causes the project to break and isn't recoverable from its current state, we can go back to a previous version and not lose all the data. This is a common form of version control like Git, which is the gold standard when it comes to version control for programming. This software's version control is exactly like Git in the sense of commits which are when you make changes to the project and want to "save" those changes to the project on the remote machine. This is what essentially is kept as a record for previous versions. We brainstormed and decided that we should probably not let everyone automatically commit to the project and have admins control whether a commit is acceptable or not before is pushed remotely. Also, one of the dialogs for viewing the version history has the "revert to previous version" button right next to the close button, which could be a dangerous source of miss clicks. We fiddled around with some of the settings and then I went to carry on my verification. However, to my surprise, all the reports on the online version were no longer there and I had a connection issue. This prevented me from doing report verification as I need to compare values from the new and old reports and this portal is what allows me to do so. So, I was stuck doing nothing for the latter half of the day.

**2024-05-30**

Today was more report verification. Sean came in today to deal with some calls and set up a PC for another client. The report verification was going well but it got to the point where I would be alt tabbing and control f’ing between multiple documents which got quite tedious. So, like I usually do, I made a script to handle all this. Basically, the script gets the old system tag name, looks its new system name then finds if the tag is in the list of dead tags, LIMS tags or manual entry tags. This sped me up quite a bit of clicking but made the process much faster. I think this is where my programming skills have really been shining at this job. I may not be doing much programming, but I get to make my workflow easier with what knowledge I have, which is fine for me for now. Otherwise, it was business as usual. Sean also told me that the company we are doing work for wants a round 2 of training for operators. This is a big undertaking as they’re about 80 operators that would need to be trained. This gives us a lot more work, probably more than when I was brought on to handle this project. That's fine with me if it doesn't start bleeding into my day-to-day life outside of work as it sounds like for some guys that work here it does.