Journal Specs for courses with Dr. Veltsos

Document Format

Use the following standards for your (individual) journal:

- At least two entries a week
- Name: your name in top left corner, followed by the course number "(CIS450)"
- Margins: somewhere between 0.7inch or 1in margins all around (this doc uses 0.8)
- Spacing: 1.08 line spacing or something similar (this doc uses 1.08)
- Pages: page numbers on each page after the first page (optional on first page)
- File format: .DOCX or .PDF

Required Content

Each entry in your journal should contain all of these elements. Yes grammar, language, and attention to details matters for each entry (but you won't be penalized if the errors were made in the original source document).

- **Date of entry**: the date that you are writing your summary/reflections about this article.
- **Article source info**: name of article, link (URL) to article, publication date (of the article). Optionally you can share author & publication (e.g. Famous-Author on ZDNet).
- **Article summary**: 1-2 paragraph(s) summary of the main points of the article. Elements that are particularly quote-worthy should be put in quotes or block-quotes for longer fragments.
- **Article reaction/reflection**: 1-3 paragraph(s) summary of your reaction to the article. This section should demonstrate depth of thought and connect with the topic of the course (e.g. connect with the phases of an attack for CIS450, connect with network or data transmission security for CIS662, etc). Guiding questions (not all will apply every time):
  - What was new/different/shocking/confirming about this article?
  - How does this article help me improve my understanding of the course topic(s)?
  - How does this article impact me, my thinking, my behavior?
  - How does this info integrate into my chosen career path?
  - What additional questions does this article raise?

Optional Content/Approach

- **Batching**: students can choose to batch multiple interrelated articles into a larger, more comprehensive journal entry that summarizes the main points across all of those articles, and provides a more elaborate reflection section. However, if using this approach, students should also connect the individual articles into the larger piece (e.g. source 1 provided more information about the malware while source 2 provided the text of the response from the organization being attacked).

See examples on the next page.

Example 1 : CISOs and The Board

9/7/2020, CISO and the board | EY | European Audit Committee Leadership Network (2017), link, EY.

Quick summary: the CISO's role is continuing to evolve and so is the CISO-board relationship. The article quoted some stats from another article about which business executives the CISOs reported to: "studies suggest that currently 40% to 50% of CISOs still report to the CIO, while only 15% to 22% report to the CEO." [Note to self: I may want to look up the author of those stats]

Reflection: I was surprised to learn that so many CISOs don't have a clear and regular communication path to the top leadership of their organization. CISOs should partner across the entire organization, which means they must be comfortable beyond just the technical realm. Additional reactions:
- How does this article help me improve my understanding of the course topic(s)? It really makes me appreciate courses (from the CIS dept and beyond) that blend technical skills with professional skills. Those writing and speech courses should really come in handy.
- How does this article impact me, my thinking, my behavior? Might have to look at non-technical focus for my next degree and/or my next professional development journey.
- How does this info integrate into my chosen career path? I wonder if team leaders of programming teams, database admins, etc also have similar realizations about the value of good communication and being able to influence beyond one's formal sphere of influence.
- What additional questions does this article raise? Right now I'm leaning towards a technical focus for my career, but at the right organization and the right job, I could see myself being like one of those CISOs, helping translate technical issues into their impact on the business.

Example 2: The Organizational Importance of the Chief Information Security Officer

9/8/2020, The Organizational Importance of the CISO (03/22/2019), link, National CIO Review.

Quick summary: Article talks about the business role of the CISO position and the importance of the CISO's actual position in the org chart. Key quotes:
- CISOs "have an important task, one that influences nearly all aspects of company success, even though this doesn't guarantee the full cooperation of executive leadership."
- "investing in security through the CISO role is one of the best ways to prepare. Whether this means changing an organizational chart, the reporting process or even striving to rework internal attitudes, there are many ways that executives can make sure that their CISO is positioned for success."

Reflection: this article makes the case that how organizations structure their HR reporting lines has a significant impact on the ability of key officers (like CISOs) to do their job and protect/enable the organization. This article gives me an appreciation for spending time understanding things that are beyond my "bubble of work" since my work is very likely to be impacted by how the organization values and recognizes expertise, and how they might support (or not) my own professional development beyond my fairly narrow field of focus (i.e. beyond just the technology side).
One of my classmates mentioned really enjoying their Human Resource class and now I'm wondering how taking such a class might impact my future. I also remember seeing something about a "soft skills" training program at my current employer. At the time I had paid little attention to it, and now I'm wondering if it might not be worth my time to participate. I wonder if my employer might pay for the training.