Assessment 1 Reflection

Introduction

This piece reflects on my experiences and thoughts during assignment 1, a group project to produce a risk identification report for the regional pet food business Pampered Pets. The company is looking to expand and are considering digitalising their operations. The report is a qualitative risk assessment on the potential risks of going ahead.

At the beginning of the Security and Risk Assessment (SRM) module I had created a Personal Development Plan (PDP), based on my experiences in previous modules. There were two goals:

- Improve my time management - This was a weakness in other modules. I tend to be a perfectionist and spend to much time on details, ignoring the broader picture. To improve this, I planned to impose task deadlines, to give a stricter timeline.
- Impose my own voice onto projects and discussions – my lack of experience in the cybersecurity field has led to me taking on a workhorse role in past group projects and not imposing my ideas. I wanted to use my different background to the rest of the cohort in a positive way, by finding a unique perspective on tasks.

The group consisted of myself, Omar and Saheed. I was excited to work with them as they are both experienced in the cyber security field and have both conducted risk reports before. The group work ran extremely well, the meetings had a collaborative feel, and tasks were divided up efficiently, and the project had a clear perspective. The time management of the group, and myself was broadly excellent. Clear deadlines and expectations of each other were set, and the project was completed a week in advance of the deadline, giving plenty of time for revisions.

I did feel that I took on a junior role in the group, going against my PDP to a degree. However, with the other group members more experienced it did feel the best thing for the group, and for me, as it was a good opportunity to learn the structure and process of risk analysis. The other group members both had slightly different approaches, and this gave great insight into how different methods / frameworks can create strong pieces of work. I did add my own ideas and contributions to the strategy overall; however, I did feel that it wasn't distinct enough from the other members, more a less experienced version of the others.

The impact of this was felt in the tutor feedback on the project. Although it was broadly positive, it was noted that a deeper level of synthesis should have been found. Given the other team members have similar practical backgrounds, this is where I should have found a more unique voice, adding more theoretical depth to the analysis.

The project did improve my understanding of risk analysis, and it felt like an advancement in my professional development by showing how professional project collaboration should work, and made it clearer what value I can bring to similar projects in the future.