

University of Advancing Technology: Community Statement

Ramon Lopez Jr

Department of General Education: University of Advancing Technology

SIP410: Boards Presentations

Professor Dapzury Valenzuela

March 23rd, 2025

University of Advancing Technology: Community Statement

A Community Statement reflects one's participation, contributions, and goals within a specific community. It serves as a personal declaration of how one engages with a field of interest and aspires to address its challenges. My chosen community is the Cyber Industry, with a specific focus on Digital Forensics. This field fascinates me because it delves into the intricate ways cybercrimes are committed and offers opportunities to counteract these threats. By joining this community, I aim to contribute my skills and understanding to make the digital world safer for everyone.

Passion for Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics:

The Cyber Industry has always intrigued me, especially its role in uncovering how cybercriminals operate. My expectations from this field are to gain a deep understanding of how crimes are committed and the tools criminals use to exploit vulnerabilities. One of my primary influences has been the FBI and its innovative sting operations, which often expose sophisticated cybercriminal networks. Watching documentaries and reading about the agency's methods has inspired me to pursue a similar path, blending technical expertise with problem-solving to address complex challenges. My decision to enter this field stems from witnessing a lack of awareness about digital security among the public. During my time working in retail, I often found myself educating customers about basic cybersecurity practices. Many were astonished by the information I shared, such as the importance of strong passwords or recognizing phishing attempts. Their surprise revealed how much work remains to be done in spreading awareness about online threats. These interactions reinforced my desire to bridge the gap between technical knowledge and public understanding of cybersecurity.

Academic Growth and Digital Citizenship:

UAT's General Education Objective 5, "Student as Community Member," has reinforced my understanding of how technology professionals can serve their communities. Through coursework and hands-on experience, I have developed the skills to engage meaningfully in my field, contributing to solutions that enhance security and awareness. Courses such as TCH310 have solidified my understanding of digital citizenship, emphasizing responsible technology use and ethical considerations within cybersecurity. My academic journey has helped me recognize that being part of a professional community is not just about acquiring technical expertise but also about addressing real-world concerns and making a tangible impact.

Personal Experiences Shaping My Commitment:

Individual experiences have also shaped my passion for digital forensics. Many years ago, my brother's computer was hit by a cyberattack that gave an unauthorized user access to his webcam. To eliminate the threat, the machine had to be wiped entirely. This incident deeply impacted on my family, instilling in us a lifelong commitment to privacy practices such as using webcam covers. It also ignited my curiosity about how such attacks occur and how they can be prevented. Similarly, an attempted fraudulent use of my bank account highlighted the vulnerabilities individuals face in the digital age. Although the breach did not originate with the bank itself, it involved a third-party service they used. This experience made me question how attackers exploit systems and inspired me to learn about the techniques they use to target personal information. These incidents have fueled my determination to understand cybercriminal tactics and contribute to solutions that protect others. Looking forward, I aspire to play an active role in the Cyber Industry by engaging with projects that address real-world challenges in digital forensics. Whether it involves investigating cyberattacks, educating others about online safety, or

creating tools to detect and prevent cyber threats, my goal is to make a meaningful impact.

Additionally, I am committed to promoting responsible digital citizenship, ensuring that my actions in this field uphold ethical standards and inspire others to prioritize security in their digital interactions.

Future Contributions to the Cybersecurity Community:

Looking forward, I aspire to play an active role in the Cyber Industry by engaging with projects that address real-world challenges in digital forensics. Whether it involves investigating cyberattacks, educating others about online safety, or creating tools to detect and prevent cyber threats, my goal is to make a meaningful impact. Additionally, I am committed to promoting responsible digital citizenship, ensuring that my actions in this field uphold ethical standards and inspire others to prioritize security in their digital interactions. Beyond my professional career, I hope to mentor aspiring cybersecurity professionals and contribute to cybersecurity awareness programs that educate businesses and individuals on best practices for digital safety.

The Cyber Industry offers an opportunity for me to combine my technical skills, personal experiences, and passion for problem-solving to make a difference. By addressing cybercrime and fostering awareness, I aim to contribute to a safer, more informed digital community. This journey represents not only a professional aspiration but also a personal mission to help others navigate the complexities of the online world with greater confidence and security.