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CS-499-10450-M01

Professor Ramsey

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4-1 Journal Career Choice and Artifact Update

**Part One:**

1. **Have you changed your career plans? If so, what prompted this change? If not, why have you remained with your original plan?**

As I've progressed through the Computer Science curriculum, my job goals have changed significantly. My first goal was to work in the field of software engineering. My interest in cybersecurity and embedded systems, however, has grown more focused as a result of my exposure to a variety of coursework and real-world applications, especially in the fields of automation engineering and cybersecurity. My career path has been guided toward automation engineering positions and cybersecurity certifications by my prior military experience and firsthand knowledge of hardware and software integration. Therefore, even though I have stayed in the more general area of computer science, my academic experiences and real-world insights have helped me make a more focused and targeted job choice.

1. **How has your thinking about your career evolved?**

From concentrating only on becoming a software engineer, my perspective on my profession has changed to recognize the breadth and dynamic nature of the computer industry. My studies have introduced me to fields like cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity, which have created new opportunities. In order to succeed in this area, I've also come to understand that problem-solving abilities, flexibility, and ongoing education to stay up to date with new technologies are just as important as technical proficiency.

1. **Have you completed any research about your choice of career? How has this impacted your thinking? Have you thought about seeking an advanced degree or certification after earning your undergraduate degree?**

Yes, after doing a little research, I discovered that web development is a rapidly evolving area, which has led me to see the value of lifelong learning. While finishing my degree and developing a solid portfolio are my top priorities, I'm also thinking about getting certified in fields like full-stack programming or front-end frameworks to prove my abilities. Although I do not currently have any plans to pursue an advanced degree, I would keep it in mind should I find myself in leadership or specialized capacity in the future. I now have a much more mature view of my work; at first, I thought of computer science mainly as software development and coding. Currently, I see the depth and scope of the field's opportunities, especially the possibility for interdisciplinary collaboration between security, software, and hardware. Researching cybersecurity and automation engineering jobs, particularly the GIAC certifications and programs provided by SANS, has had a significant impact on my professional prospects. This study has confirmed the great demand, excellent pay, and worthwhile difficulties in these fields, which has strengthened my resolve to obtain additional cybersecurity certifications after graduation.

1. **Which outcomes have you achieved so far, and which ones remain?**

I have thus far met the course objectives for using software development concepts and efficiently updating my ePortfolio with project progress updates. I've improved my capstone project by identifying issues and putting remedies in place, all the while meticulously recording the modifications. Nonetheless, I still need to strengthen my teamwork abilities and broaden my knowledge of the moral and legal issues surrounding computing. In order to better meet professional standards and showcase my learning, I'm also focusing on improving my ePortfolio.

Part Two:

Provide an update to your instructor on your progress with each category of artifacts for the ePortfolio:

* Software design and engineering
* Algorithms and data structures
* Databases

Maintaining a record of our progress and providing instructors with updates on our work on the ePortfolio's development and enhancement implementations for each of the artifact's primary categories.

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