Evelyn Castro

3/26/25

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

My career plans have changed because I am now looking more into cybersecurity than software engineering. This shift happened after I participated in a hackathon, which I enjoyed. It was something new that I didn’t expect to do, yet I learned so much from it. The experience exposed me to real-world cybersecurity challenges, which I found exciting and engaging. I also met a lot of great people during the hackathon. Even though it was online, it was very informative and helped me realize that cybersecurity aligns well with my interests.

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

My thinking about my career has evolved as I have explored different fields and gained hands-on experience. Initially, I was more focused on software engineering, but after learning about ethical hacking, network security, and threat analysis, I became more interested in cybersecurity. I like the problem-solving aspect of cybersecurity and the constant need to adapt to new threats. I now see my career path as one that blends technical knowledge with security expertise, possibly working in ethical hacking, penetration testing, or network defense.

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

Yes, I have done some research into cybersecurity certifications, and I am currently studying for my CompTIA Network+ certification. This has helped me better understand networking concepts crucial for cybersecurity. In the future, I want to earn my Security+ certification as well, as it will further strengthen my knowledge of security fundamentals. I have also looked into other certifications like CEH and CISSP, which I might pursue later in my career. As for an advanced degree, I am considering the possibility of a master’s in cybersecurity or information security, depending on how my career progresses.

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

So far, I have gained a solid foundation in networking, security principles, and ethical hacking through my coursework and personal studies. I have also developed technical skills in scripting and security analysis. However, I still need to work on more advanced cybersecurity topics like incident response, penetration testing, and risk management. I also plan to strengthen my hands-on experience through labs, simulations, and potentially more hackathons or cybersecurity competitions. Have you changed your career plans? If so, what prompted this change? If not, why have you remained with your original plan?

My career plans have changed in that I am looking into more cybersecurity rather than software engineering since I did a hackathon, and I very much enjoyed it. It was something new that I didn’t expect to do, and I learned so much from it. I also met a lot of nice people. It was online, but it was very informative.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Checkpoint** | **Software Design and Engineering** | **Algorithms and Data Structures** | **Databases** |
| **Name of Artifact Used** | Android Authentication App | User Authentication System | SQLite User Management |
| **Status of Initial Enhancement** | The initial version of the app was successfully developed, with user login and basic inventory management features implemented. | The initial version included a basic user authentication system using SQLite to store and verify user credentials. | Enhanced CRUD operations and visualization features. |
| **Submission Status** | Submitted for initial review. | Submitted for initial review. | Not submitted |
| **Status of Final Enhancement** | Final enhancements included refining the user interface, improving error handling, and adding session management features for a smoother user experience. | The final enhancements involved hashing passwords using SHA-256 for increased security and refining the login logic for better performance. | Final improvements included optimizing database queries for performance and implementing data validation to ensure correct data input. |
| **Uploaded to ePortfolio** | In progress | In progress | Not Yet |
| **Status of Finalized ePortfolio** | Awaiting final edits before submission. | Awaiting final edits before submission. | Pending |