E-Portfolio Submisson and Reflective Essay

Security and Risk Management November 2023 (SRM\_PCOM7E)

**E-Portfolio Submissions:**

This is the documentation for the E-Portfolio submission for the Security and Risk Management module.

**Unit 6**

In unit 6 of the Security and Risk Management module, we were split into groups with our peers and had to work together to produce a Risk Identification Report for a scenario based around the fabricated pet company known as Pampered Pets who wanted to start the digitalization process. Our group had three members and the assignment had three main questions that needed to be answered. As a team, after our team contract was signed and agreed upon, we decided to split the work into each person researching and answering one of the main questions of the assignment, once this was done, we would reconvene and work together to merge our content together and develop an introduction and conclusion as well. This worked well as each of us had contributed in a meaningful way and could assist the other group members in accomplishing the goal of creating and submitting the final risk identification report.

Four team meetings were held for this assignment. The videos are available in the GitHub repository and transcriptions for the meetings were generated by the Fireflies AI platform.

Available on the GitHub Repository is:

* The individual contribution to research
* The final assignment with merged research
* Recorded Team Meetings
* The transcripts of the Team Meetings generated by Fireflies AI.

**Unit 11**

In unit 11, the scenario provided to us in Unit 6 was updated where the digitalization process had commenced. The scenario indicated that the business had now acquired an internation supply chain and international warehousing. It was also indicated that the business had received two high profile clients who were both concerned about the companies products degrading with the international supply chain. We were requested to create an executive summary to investigate, calculate and mitigate any potentials risks that could arise from this decision as well as come up with a disaster recovery plan that the business Pampered Pets could use if a disaster had to take place.

This was an individual assignment and required research and calculations to complete. The completed assessment can be found in the GitHub.

**Unit 12**

Unit 12 requested a reflective piece on the module from each individual student to share their experience and understanding on the module. The questions the students needed to ask included:

* What did I learn?
* What were my contributions to the projects?
* What was my experience working in a team?
* What impact did it have on my personal development?
* What impact did it have on my professional development?

Also, forming part of Unit 12’s submission, was a formal submission to the E-Portfolio on GitHub where each student submits their work as a showcase for lecturers, tutors, and any other interested user the work done for this module. This included an evaluation of the project that was done in Unit 6 and Unit 11.

Unit 12’s full submission can be found in the GitHub.

**Evaluation of the Pampered Pets project (Unit 6 and Unit 11)**

Both submissions found in Unit 6 and Unit 11 revolved around a company known as Pampered Pets. Based on the scenario, Pampered Pets approached the students firstly as a group and asked for a Risk Identification Report for them to assess the risks they could face while undergoing the digitalization process and afterwards providing an executive summary based on an update in the scenario provided in the later unit.   
  
Unit 6’s assessment was the Risk Identification Report. As a group, the workload for the report was split among everyone and each contributed their own individual work. Once everyone provided their own research the individual pieces were merged and made into one cohesive Risk Identification Report. This assessment taught us to understand potential risks and to try and analyze each part of the business closely to try and identify any risks, big or small, and with each risk identified, to find a solution to the risk.

Once the Risk Identification Report was complete, the scenario was updated in Unit 11 to indicate that Pampered Pets started the digitalization process and acquired an international supply chain and warehousing. It was also indicated that Pampered Pets acquired two high profile clients and that the clients requested a risk calculation on the acquisitions during the digitalization process and a disaster recovery plan to be implemented. This was requested in the format of an Executive Summary to be done as individuals. This part of the project proved to be much more challenging due to the workload that was substantially more than the Risk Identification Report in Unit 6. The assessment in Unit 11 should have also been done as a team to truly continue from Unit 6. It was also evident while completing the Unit 11 assessment that the data required to complete the risk calculations had to be purchased from companies that previously conducted such risk calculations. The data that was freely accessible in the end proved to be inferior for exact calculations as requested by the assessment in Unit 11.

Overall, the Pampered Pets project was a good scenario that allowed team work as well as individual work. However, it would have been better if the projects were either individual work or teamwork. Should the project require teamwork, it would have been better for the teamwork to happen after the individual work as this would have allowed the project to be easier on the students as well as encouraging cohesive teamwork among peers. It would have also benefited the students if the choice of data was more freely accessible so that students could perform the requested calculations more precisely.

**Conclusion:**

The above document references the E-Portfolio submission done for this module. All content can be found through GitHub.

**Reflective Essay:**

The Security and Risk Management module offered by the University of Essex Online was used to teach students the importance of understanding the risks that businesses face in the digital workspace and the importance of following security guidelines put in place as well as making sure that the proper procedures, such as disaster recovery solutions, are in place so that a business can operate during majority of situations that could be faced, big or small.

With the assistance of the assessments in this module based on the scenario with the fabricated business Pampered Pets who wanted to undergo the digitalization process and eventually acquired an international supply chain with international warehousing, and two very big clients, students would have been able to apply the various skills that they learnt throughout the module to complete documentation which included a risk identification reports, disaster recovery plans, calculating risks based on various statistics and mitigations for the calculated risks.

**What did I learn from this module?**

With the world of Information Technology being ever evolving, the importance of risk calculations became clearer as it can be applied to any business. Understanding the risks that each action has on a business is critical towards a business’s success and having mitigations for those risks is also critical to ensure that the business remains operational. The importance of a disaster recovery plan also came to light showing how critical it is that a business has a strategy in place to mitigate most types of disasters to remain operational during times of uncertainty.

Security and Risk Management is a very theoretical module as well with very little practical aspects. Most calculations are either done based on statistics that already exist or strategies are made based on the possibility of certain disasters happening and the likeliness of the disasters happening. The practical aspect would be the designing and implementation of the strategies and performing risk calculations, however, it is still a field that is very theoretical.

**Experience in a Development Team:**

The team that I was assigned to worked cohesively majority of the time. It was beneficial that I worked with one of the team members on another project as we knew how we each contributed and how we liked to work on previous assessments. Most team meetings went well, and most deadlines were met. There were times where a little encouragement was needed for team members to adhere to their deadlines and to stay on topic, majority of the time there was a cohesive atmosphere producing reliable work.

Unfortunately, there were some differences that needed to be settled initially and bad feelings carried throughout the course of the project. Once this was all settled, however, teamwork resumed, and an assignment was produced ready to be submitted.

**The impact the module had in Professional Development:**

This module shows how critical this area of cyber security is and the role that risk mitigations and disaster plans have in the professional workspace. Having a clear understanding of these areas when working in cyber security will aid anyone in critically thinking about the risks that come with decisions that must be taken to advance a business forward into the digital age.

**The impact the module had in Personal Development:**

Analyzing and understanding risks is something that can be applied to your personal life as well as professional life. From a personal development perspective, this module teaches an individual to analyze life decisions to make sure you understand the risks involved in that decision. If the risks come to pass, you can implement mitigations to avoid those risks as well. In all aspects of life there are risks that we take. We can either take them blindly or critically analyze them and have mitigation plans in place to avoid the risks.

**Conclusion**  
Overall, the security and risk management module taught individuals the importance of understanding risks, having mitigation plans for those risks and implementing procedures should any of the risks come to pass and cause a business to stagger in their development. This mentality can extend beyond business practice and be implemented in a person’s personal development as well.

**References:**

Collins, P. (2023) *Reflective essay writing guide with tips and examples*, *Reflective Essay Writing Guide with Tips and Examples*. Available at: https://essayservice.com/blog/how-to-write-a-reflective-essay (Accessed: 19 February 2024).

Kramer, L. (2023) *How to write a reflective essay*, *How to Write a Reflective Essay*. Available at: https://www.grammarly.com/blog/reflective-essay/ (Accessed: 19 February 2024).

**Notes:**

* E-portfolio template was acquired from html5up.net and the credits is embedded in the HTML files.