**Interview Assessment #1**

**Name of Professional:** H. William Gordon

**Profession/Title:** CEO/Founder & General Secretary

**Business/Company name:** Creative Corporate Change & Cyber Future Foundation

**Date of Interview:** 9/18/17

My first informational interview was with William Gordon, the CEO and Founder of CCC as well as the General Secretary for the Cyber Future Foundation. As this was my first interview, my goals were to get feedback on what I could improve on for later interviews as well as to get a look at the differences between the business and technical aspects of working in Cybersecurity, so that I could begin the process of which side I would like to focus on more. Mr. Gordon, having started his own Cybersecurity firm, gave me a lot of insight regarding both sides, as well as a lot of information about the industry.

One of the most important things I learned from my interview with Mr. Gordon was the direction that the Cybersecurity industry is headed, and the major technology that is currently set to shape its future. Having successfully started his own Cybersecurity solutions company, he had a lot of experience looking into where the markets existed and how they could be utilized. More specifically, Mr. Gordon explained to me that since Cybersecurity is such a rapidly changing field, the traditional roles companies use for their security needs will likely no longer exist in the future. This led me to realize that since this field is so relatively new and undefined, I should not attempt to define my career path for the future right now, as the security needs of companies constantly change.

Since one day starting a security solutions firm much like Mr. Gordon has is a goal of mine, he also gave me some advice regarding starting a tech-related business. One thing I found intriguing from what he told me is that although he insisted on all of his staff becoming Security certified, he does not believe in the weight of certifications at all. He explained that compared to real world experience, they are meaningless. However, they promote credibility and marketability when trying to sell a product. I agree with Mr. Gordon’s stance on certifications completely, but will likely still acquire some down the road in order to make myself more marketable to job recruiters. I was also intrigued at the educational path that Mr. Gordon had taken, acquiring his Masters not in a computer related field but rather International Political Economics. This led me to the surprising conclusion that since Cybersecurity is such a relatively emerging field compared to other disciplines of study, virtually none of the professionals involved in systems security today have any education emphasizing or even related to Cybersecurity, but rather took a gradual path gaining experience in the technology world to end up where they are today. This is important because as Cybersecurity begins to grow and more academic education is available surrounding it, specializing in some form of Cybersecurity during my college education may give me an advantage in the future.

The most informative part of my interview with Mr. Gordon was discussing emerging technology within the Cybersecurity space. He gave me many topics I was interested to learn more about, such as blockchain, which was the subject one of my research assessments later on, as well as micro segmentation and others. When posed with the question of what the biggest challenge in Cybersecurity is, Mr. Gordon’s answer was unexpected. He said that SCADA, the technology supporting almost all industrial and infrastructure technology, was a major risk and very difficult to replace due to its widespread nature. SCADA and possible solutions for the risk it poses is definitely something I would like to research in the future. Finally, we discussed the emergence of IoT and Cloud Computing and the risk that they pose on data and network security. I completely agree with Mr. Gordon’s answer that IoT is a huge issue already being exploited, but Cloud is currently a fairly safe medium with companies like AWS using high-level security technology in order to keep their servers secure. The technologies that Mr. Gordon & I discussed as well as their implications peaked my interest and definitely be a guiding factor in my research going forwards. My interview with Mr. Gordon was very informative and effective in enabling me to gain a deeper understanding of how the Cybersecurity industry functions and the steps I should take in order to be successful in it.