**Interview Assessment #2**

**Name of Professional:** Moez Janmohammad

**Profession/Title:** Security Engineer

**Business/Company name:** GDT

**Date of Interview:** 9/29/17

My second informational interview was with Moez Janmohammad, a Security Engineer at GDT as well as a Liberty ISM alumnus. Since Moe began his career path at Liberty ISM and has now progressed to a profession in Cybersecurity, I felt that I would have a lot to learn regarding his journey to get to where he is as well as any advice that he might have for me.

One of the most interesting things I found out from this interview was the journey Moe took to finding his passion in Cybersecurity. Majoring in Physics and Math, Mr. Janmohammad took on an initial internship with GDT. During his first week working there, the GDT systems were attacked with a Distributed Denial of Service, and Moe quickly wrote a Python script to stop it. Though this event, he found a passion in Cybersecurity, and because of his ability to stop the attack, was offered his current position as a Security Engineer. Having taken such a unique path to end up in this field, I reaffirmed a conjecture I had made in my previous interview as well; most security professionals today did not major in something Cybersecurity related. Therefore, I could be at an advantage compared to others in the job market if I am able to focus my education towards information and systems security in college. Another thing Moe mentioned that I found very unique was the way he keeps up with current trends such as new attacks or vulnerabilities in the field of Cybersecurity. Rather than conferences and private email groups, the answer I expected, he explained that the main way the “new generation” of Cybersecurity professionals keep up with emerging trends is through the use of podcasts and social media such as Twitter. I was intrigued by this because previously, I had been under the belief that many of the emerging trends in a field like Cybersecurity were not easily accessible to the public. However, with the new interconnectedness and convenience social media is able to provide, many professionals in the field are taking to mediums such as Twitter to communicate changes and noteworthy progressions in Cybersecurity and the technology world. I made special note of this as I should be able to stay informed on industry trends just like a professional through simply following credible social media accounts related to Cybersecurity, something that I plan on doing.

Working in a much more ‘traditional’ security profession, Moe was also able to provide me with much insight into the responsibilities of a very common role within the Cybersecurity field, a Security Engineer at an IT Solutions corporation. As I had expected, a large portion of Moe’s time is spent at the NOC (Network Operations Center) at GDT, a large room filled with screens used to monitor and analyze large amounts of customer data, essentially looking to manage vulnerabilities and inspect threat feeds. Even though I was already familiar with the concept of a NOC and NOC shifts, I was interested to learn about some aspects of working Cybersecurity at an IT Solutions company that I had not considered, such as interacting with other people and working in teams. I found that teamwork and communication, alongside technical capability, would be two very important skills to have working in a technology environment due to the level of collaboration required between people working in different focus areas. Learning about Moe’s path to Cybersecurity as well as his advice for looking to pursue a career in this field was extremely helpful, as it provided me with a unique viewpoint of someone who began in a situation almost identical to mine and was able to find success.