**EMCS2420: Management of IT Systems and Cybersecurity Risks**

Post-Work: Assignment - Risk Management Reflection

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*Building on the pre-work this week and the in-class discussion about risk management, reflect on the following in a short reflection paper:*

*Has your view changed?*

*What new ideas/thoughts you learned as a result of classroom interaction/discussion?*

*In your write up, identify key components of a cyber risk assessment.*

The biggest “eye-opener” for me has been the cross functional nature of risk management. On paper, to someone who is green in regards to the concepts of risk management, it seems simple enough to just “write up a plan.” However I have learned that cultivating trust across departments, getting the buy in of management and coordinating competing agendas can be extremely tricky.

**The first tricky part is identifying sensitive information.** Seems simple enough on the surface but it becomes tricky because the data often doesn’t “belong” to you ( as a security professional or in my position as a Product Manager ). Asking people in different departments to assess the amount of sensitive information they are sitting on may expose prior negligence, trigger people to retreat into their silos or be met with complete ignorance. All of that said, simply approaching people without the proper mandate from senior management might not work. Most work culture in the US is structured to only respect hierarchy.

**The second tricky part is keeping production data in production ( and nowhere else! ).**  Engineers don’t see the value of this, and generally speaking this request is ignored by engineering because mimicking production data is not easy.

**Thirdly, small team often find that planning for some imaginary event, that they think will never happen is a waste of time.**  “We are not a big company” is a common refrain when asking about topics in the realm of risk management. Frankly this is the biggest obstacle, the thought that an organization is too small to suffer a loss. I am hoping that with deliberate and strategic communication I can overcome this. Unfortunately I am at a disadvantage working in a white male controlled industry, that has intrinsic biases against black males.