Nicholas Wyrwas

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Mr. Wasim Alim

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8-2 Journal: Portfolio Reflection

It is an honor to have the opportunity to complete this security risk management course as a part of my software engineer curriculum. Reflecting upon my learning trajectory, I have found most impressive the module titled “Implementation and Recommendations of Security Policies”. It profoundly enhanced my perception of “secure by design” systems and products. At the end of this course, the realization of the knowledge that I was able to achieve is very satisfying, as it was solidified throughout multiple examples and the practical application of the tools. At the beginning of the course, the general perception of me about the defined area was less distinct, so the course expanded my understanding and help me evolve my general and specific thinking.

In this course, I learned a lot about “secure by design” systems and products, it introduced that it is indispensable to plan security policies early in software development, including secure coding standards. Also, I learned it is possible to integrate security into all steps of the software development lifecycle, not as an afterthought but as an essential component of the product. This practice would ensure that security measures are built into the software from the ground up, rather than being added on later. After this course, my perspective on the defined area changed significantly. I used to focus more on functionality and performance, but now I have a better understanding of the importance of security and risk management in software development. It is exciting to think that a lack of security by design may have been the reason why many of the prominent software engineering courses failed in their market. I see more depth in this aspect than ever before.

One of the main takeaways that I have from this course is that I should be always tracking new security updates and take immediate action for any system compromises. It would be a win-win result as it is the one of the best ways to protect systems from known threats. In my opinion, understanding threats and vulnerabilities is a continuous process, but this is one of the most necessary actions to keep up with the increased threats in modern IT environments. Another takeaway was the opportunity to fully implement and experience how to use threat intelligence solutions and what is their most appropriate use cases, for example, monitoring security advisories. I strongly believe that it is a very interesting field for further development and research. It is my experience as an external user and a taster of what is the right option in security matters for me. In my personal and business life, I will continue to do this research and trial to make sure I am using threat intelligence to its maximum and in the most appropriate use cases.

Finally, the last takeaway was how much risk information there is in business and how much various and different it is. There are indeed threats and information about them. To correctly evaluate the threat intelligence that we see, it is necessary to measure how likely the presented threat is to happen and what are the consequences, if any. Without this process and priority calculation, many business decisions and important developments could be completely random and even negatively affect business. In my personal and business life, I will continue to think about whether the presented threat is likely to happen and what the consequences will be, so I can make informed decisions and take appropriate actions.

In conclusion, the said course made a vital contribution to my educational process in the United States. It also made a significant addition to my previous professional experience that I have as a professional. The course affected me both personally and professionally since it showed me different but highly usable tactics that are essential for any business as they can be immediately used in life without any need for further preparation.