REFLECTION JOURNAL 3

These past two weeks I believe have been pivotal in my progress here at NSWC Corona. For the first month of my internship, I was doing far more reading and writing than I am now; however, I would say the majority of that was summarizing information from the framework documents I was reading to both gain a better understanding in them and to be conversational enough to provide reflection on them in my final paper. One issue I have overcome so far is the barrier from learning to doing- writing more in-depth on these topics whilst applying them to actual things that pertain to this organization, like SIEMs.

I would not deem my previous documents of notes useless, though. I would say I was a bit upset to find all the writing I did would not be of presence in my final document. As the weeks went on though the notes I took would prove to be far more useful than not as reading and writing about those topics in detail helped season me enough to connect them together and begin my final paper for real this time. It has definitely helped me understand that while not all writing or work you do will be in the final product but it will still contribute to the final product. To enjoy the journey to my destination, something I am trying to do in life.

I do see the scope of my research changing, right now at least. Since we are in the process of acquiring a new SIEM, Roman felt it was better to focus the paper on the SIEM overall and cyber threat hunting acting as a use case for it, or rather a goal we have for the SIEM. Roman is trying to get me access to Confluence, a tool we use to track projects and their associated 'tickets' to help fulfill objective 4 on our MOA: "Develop proper complex project management skills to include diverse team communication, risk management, resource management, scheduling, funding, scoping, and more." However, due to… difficulties with the other end, getting me access to confluence may not be possible and limit this objective. Nonetheless, I still sit in on conference calls about project kickoffs and check-ins that show Confluence and discussions of what needs to be done for the project to achieve compliance, etc. A lot of moving pieces in a blur of time, but I think now I am starting to grasp how things work here.

Also, one more issue that unfortunately is not fixable: All the NSWC Corona interns physically in Corona started last week and there is quite a lot of them. They get to go on tours, mixers, and get-togethers, and interact with one another as interns. It is sort of a bummer being the only intern in my location, especially on the east coast. Interacting with other interns in my first internship was something I was looking forward to, but looking at how things are, I am lucky to be here, as there was only one spot for a cyber-intern in NSWC Corona. While it may be lonely, the distractions are minimal and I am fortunate not only to have started a month early, but I get to intern longer than the rest and have an amazing mentor who knows her way around. So, I shall continue to make do with what I have.