**MY GOAL IS:**

My goal is to become an information Security Analyst for an organization or company such as the Department of Defense or Microsoft. Some other goals I have is to go to a top grad school to get an MBA and my JD while managing my own housing business.

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW?**

* I’m currently a sophomore and I’m planning to get my Computer Information System degree in the Insecurity section within the next year.
* With my knowledge about Information security, such as protecting information from cyberattacks or detecting unauthorized actions and access while using different programming languages such as C# and Python.
* I want to be employed in a big company like Microsoft because I always dreamed of being employed in a big and well-known company.
* I am an extrovert in which I’m hoping as an intended information security analyst will need a person who is capable to communicate with those who are uncomfortable in the field.
* Information security is very delicate topic in which my precision in defending from malicious cyber threat will be useful and vital for many businesses and organizations.

**WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?**

* What programming languages are preferable in the cyber security work force?
* How could I work for big companies such as Apple and Microsoft?
* Would a master’s degree, or internships and experience will help increase my chances to work at well-branded companies?
* What is the best time and companies for internships while studying at college? What are expectations required at an internship?
* What are the best companies for information security majors that will be able to utilize their skills?

**HOW CAN YOU ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS?**

* Ask professors and fellow coders about the different languages its uses.
* LinkedIn is a good way to understand company and its workforces. Also meeting people that work or intern at companies will help inform me.
* Ask my guidance counselors and fellow colleagues about their experiences and listening to their advices.
* Going around the sites such as “Internships.com” to learn about internships and how to qualify.
* Interning at companies in cybersecurity and discussing about my prospects for jobs and companies in my field.

**What SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) steps can you take to answer your questions and when?**

Step 1: Schedule an appointment with Prof. Barker to talk during office hours in the next week (October).

* Why: Prof. Barker is my current information security dean professor and can explain differences between various programming languages in order for me to understand the necessary languages used in the workforce.
* Tools: Email and Conference Call

Step 2: Login to LinkedIn in next month (November) to explore Information security jobs at well-known companies and find fellow IT workers at these companies.

* Why: LinkedIn is an easier method to find fellow CIS workers as well as UofL CIS Alumni. My CIS professors will help write special recommendations on my LinkedIn in order to increase in my credentials. Also connecting to colleagues and professors on LinkedIn will help me find a job or internship.
* Tools: LinkedIn

Step 3: Schedule an appointment with a Career Coach from a career website or a UofL advisor. Within couple weeks after step 2, to talk about my career prospects (November-December).

* Why: A career coach or advisor can help inform me about information security and the various opportunities and drawbacks in my field as well as creating a plan. I prefer to do this after doing steps 1 and 2 because it will give me a chance to know more about what I want in my career before making any life altering choices.
* Tools: UofL College of Business Advising Staff and Counselors Web Page

Step 4: Prepare a tailored resume for an Information security internship (Beginning of December).

* Why: After step 3 I will have already decided on my career path and apply for an internship based on its optimal time. This is a great opportunity to sign up and research various internships this winter season especially when companies such as Microsoft tends to recruit heavily during the spring in which make the Security IT fields harder to apply for. I will make sure that I’ll create and improve my resume prior submission by analyzing the place I want to work or intern for.
* Tools: “resume.oi”, a resume template builder website

Step 5: Contact and interview with company agents or representatives to understand their organizations work environment for Information Security Analysts.

Why: The Recruitment for information security is a long and tedious process in which I’ll prepare myself by discussing with work professionals, agents, alumni, and representatives what it’s like as a security analyst for their company in upcoming January to February. This will increase my expertise in deciding the optimal company and job. Tools: LinkedIn, email, and phone