



1. If anything was possible, what would your dream job be, and why?

I would like to be a doctor or a scientist. Ever since I was a kid, I always had a pre-determined future of having a career in the medical field. I was part of our school's pioneer batch of the Special Science Class curriculum back in junior high school, and I used to represent our school during division meets and contests for the Science Investigatory Project (SIP). My classmates and I would often spend months in clinical laboratories, experimenting for our proposed life science studies to be defended on the day of the contest. Back in senior high school, I also took the Allied Medical Health Sciences curriculum. This has been the major determining factor leading me to decide that I want to pursue my medical studies. But life, indeed, has its own twists and turns. Who would have thought that the little me who once aspired to become a medical practitioner became someone who practices cybersecurity and graduated with an information technology degree? Financial constraints will always be the main reason for my biggest "what ifs" in life. As much as I want to pursue the career I have always wished to attain, wearing white lab gowns, savoring the lingering smell of laboratory chemicals, venturing on endless science experiments, and challenging scientific theories, life has thrown me in a different direction. Not the best, but I'm learning to ride with it.

2. Have you ever experienced a stressful situation in your past workplace (college if fresh graduate), what was it and how did you overcome it?

Yes. A lot of stressful situations happened in my past workplace since I am developing a system for them, and there's always a language barrier between me and my boss because he is Korean. My boss' goals could get unclear at times since English -to-Korean translations could get unreliable at times. Also, some of the company's goals don't align with my capabilities, but I need to learn all of them for compliance purposes. There was a time when I was developing a product for a company, and I still had no in-depth knowledge of the product that I was trying to develop. I went to rigorous and extensive research and self-study sessions since my boss requires me to work with minimal supervision. I experienced a lot of burn-out while I was working for the company since I had no one to ask for, especially about the specific goals that my boss wants for the project.



3. In your previous position, what task did you find most challenging and why? What task did you enjoy most and why?

The task I find the most challenging is recovering BitLocker recovery keys and ransomware private decryption keys. These keys are used to recover data from a compromised system. If no keys are recovered, the entire server and the subsystems can no longer operate leading to compromised company data, financial losses, and bankruptcy. This has been the most challenging part of my job since I am a cybersecurity personnel and there are no pre-defined methods on how to find these keys since the hackers or insiders will store them in a safe place inaccessible to the affected company. It will always be a lucky shot if you find one. These once in a blue moon instances only occur in events wherein the hacker has been reckless and forgot to delete the traces of the recovery keys. Our clients avail our services because they'd rather pay for data recovery services rather than providing the hackers with ransom money without the assurance that they can get their data back. The most enjoyable part of my work is when I have cases to write an investigation report on. I love investigating ransomware-related incidents and providing them with reports.

4. How would your past colleagues or managers describe your work ethic?

They would often describe my work ethic as commendable because I can work under pressure and I can work with minimal supervisions since I also know how to exhaust resources like doing extensive research and utilizing tools which can help me streamline my work. They would often point out that I can deliver good quality results and provide them with the information they need. They are also happy that I can impart new knowledge to them, especially with fresh ideas from a graduate of the same field as them. They would often point out that even when they're already veterans in the IT field, they are still pleased to hear my ideas and thoughts on certain matters because it provides them with insights that they can use in the future. They also describe my work ethic as something that is of big relevance to the company because I always make sure to provide them with the deliverables on time.

5. What personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of?



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I am most proud of graduating with Latin honors in college. I am also proud to have a lot of incident analysis reports for my clients to give them insights on how to strengthen the security measures of their servers and systems to avoid data breach and compromised data due to hacking attempts. As for my internship, I'm happy to be able to receive amazing feedback from my OJT supervisor because she's satisfied with my output. The thing I'm most proud of is the fact that I still continue to show up every day. Regardless of whether it is a good or a bad day, even when things are hitting rock bottom at times, I still find myself picking up the pace even at the face of life's most murky waters. Sometimes, it's always the trivial things that make us proud of ourselves because they may seem small, but they are building blocks towards holistic success.