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Innovation Essay

The last 5 years of my life have been a journey of constant discovery and self-reflection. Joining the Bachelor of Innovation program at UCCS opened my eyes to a whole new world of possibilities and opportunities. Now, as an innovator I am able to solidify the image I want for my future and the impact I want to make on the world and those who live in it.

In the age of technology that we live in today there is always some new device or software that makes our lives easier or more convenient. However, something that is now becoming much more well-known is the darker side of these technological advancements. This dark side of technology is made up of cybersecurity vulnerabilities, malicious hackers, and the constant fear of our sensitive data being taken and held hostage. As a member of the generation that had technology rapidly become a huge part of our lives I have grown to fear the actions of those who would do anything to get access to my information simply to make a profit.

I have unfortunately been the victim of a cyber attack on various accounts that have had private and important information stored on them. These experiences have a huge impact on my everyday life especially with the integration of numerous different technologies into my home, schooling, and social life. As technology becomes a larger and larger part of our lives so will cyberattacks and the security of our data. This is the foundation of my desire for change and my vision for my own impact on the world.

The constant fear and anxiety that comes from suffering a cyberattack can be a substantial barrier to overcome when every part of your life involves technology. The realization that every account you make, every device you connect is a potential access point. This is the fear that I will erase from the world. Being an innovator lets me think not in terms of my own network at my house but rather on the scale of entire companies, states, even countries.

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Innovation in the world of cybersecurity means one thing, safety. Safety for those who are living easier and happier with the convenience of technology and those who rely on technology to survive and provide for their families. Being an innovator in cybersecurity means that I can ensure that those who rely on technology are able to do so without being constantly afraid. To many this will be an invisible shield preventing attacks they didn't know existed. But as more and more people are made aware of these malicious attacks I will ensure that they can learn of them without fear. I will ensure they can continue to go about their day without worrying about every little piece of technology they have attached to their network. That is the impact that I will have on the world as an innovator in cybersecurity.

However, this impact is not limited only to those who rely on technology for convenience or income. People's basic necessities such as running water, electricity, and heating are also vulnerable to these kinds of attacks. One of the scariest realizations I had during my time in school was that an attack on one vulnerability in the water supply of an entire city could lead to weeks, if not months of clean running water not being available to the public. In the future wars could be waged on entire countries simply by attacking basic industries like electricity and water. Ensuring their protection and security will be a massive task that will need constant advancement and innovation. I believe it is my responsibility to use everything that I have to make this world a safer and better place. With the skills and knowledge that I have the best way for me to do that is through the field of cybersecurity. Being an innovator has allowed me to broaden the scope of my dreams and aspirations to scales that I never would have thought possible. Now I truly believe I can make this world a better place, and that is exactly what I plan to do.