LEVELLING UP IN THE DIGITAL SPHERE

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ROLE: Engineer, Enterprise IT Programme Centre
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MY JOB

My current work involves designing innovative solutions to strengthen our defence IT systems through vulnerability assessments. My experience as a systems developer equips me with a deeper understanding of how these systems operate, and that helps me to quickly pinpoint potential vulnerabilities. In addition, my team devises risk assessment methods based on design thinking techniques. These help users identify areas of concern and address issues at the planning stage, hence optimising manpower and time.

HOW I GOT MY JOB

I had first-hand insights into the systems developed by DSTA when I was serving my National Service, which left a lasting impression and got me into learning more about the organisation. The hands-on culture and the opportunities to explore a wide spectrum of engineering disciplines appealed to me.

THE HIGHS AND LOWS

With a wide spectrum of engineering opportunities available in DSTA, I was able to combine my interests in developing IT systems and cybersecurity. My passion drives me to perform better, especially in a field where complex threats are always emerging. I benefitted greatly from the strong culture of knowledge sharing, which helped me to overcome challenges, and spurred me to develop my competencies. In addition, being able to flex my creative muscles in devising new methods to thwart threats or strengthen systems keeps my work interesting and exciting.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT

I was involved in a large-scale project called the MINDEF Bug Bounty Programme, where ethical hackers were invited to uncover vulnerabilities in our network systems. The learning curve was steep as I had to quickly adapt to the inner workings of the team, and familiarise myself with the systems architecture and security measures for over 36 systems. It was helpful that I had a multidisciplinary team of colleagues working on this together. The project shone light on how the cyberspace is constantly inundated with new threats, and the crucial role of engineers to combat them. It was a valuable learning experience, and motivated me to strive harder in my job.

SOME ADVICE

Widen your horizons by taking that leap of faith into something new. Be it pursuing your dream career or exploring your passion, remember that you only fail when you stop trying!