

INTERN SUCCESS STORY



FRANKY VARGAS

I wanted to do my part in making a difference in this world.

My journey began when I was in high school and developed an interest in cybersecurity after the WannaCry Ransomware made its way around the country, grinding hospitals to a halt as their computers locked up and data held for ransom. I saw how important information security is, so I went to the University of Texas at San Antonio and earned a bachelor's in cybersecurity.

I stumbled upon a Cybersecurity Analyst Internship at the Comptroller's office. I applied because I liked the idea of working for the government. At the time, however, I did not expect this internship to be as fulfilling as it ended up being. It all started with the welcoming atmosphere I walked into for my interview. The politeness radiating from my interviewers, who would end up being my team, left me excited to take the offer when I received that call.

I succeeded with encouragement from my team and support from leadership.

From day one I was treated as a member of the team, included in meetings where I saw how the agency operates day-to-day, introduced to other Information Security and IT professionals across multiple divisions, and given a project that helped to improve the security of the agency. My project was to use programming skills to develop an automated tool that creates a list of all devices connected to CPA's network. This is a crucial first step to ensuring the security of an organization because "you can only protect what you know." Although I was only an intermediate-level programmer, my Team Lead did a great job ensuring

I had the resources to research and complete my project. To my surprise, my project ended up better than I knew I was capable of, and I managed to impress the other analysts. I couldn't have done it without my team and leadership investing their time to teach me and help me grow professionally.



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My dream of becoming an Information Security professional came to fruition.

I reached the end of my internship, but to my surprise, I was offered a full-time role with the Information Security division. I now get to come to work every day with a team of Information Security professionals who have believed in me and continue to help me grow professionally. I now look forward to the future when I have a place at the agency and appreciate the family-oriented culture that will allow me to start a family of my own.