

My Experience with LexisNexis

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Thanks to the wonderful people at Back to Basics, such as Mr. Lindsey for reaching out to me, I was given the opportunity to have a week to intern at LexisNexis. LexisNexis is a company that deals with one of the largest legal databases in the world which they themselves have created, and sell access to that information to many different clients that need it such as lawyers, and others seeking legal information. The police and government pull information from their database to check people's legal records and things that they have done in the past as well. The experience was not only interesting, it was exciting and fun as well. I was treated with respect and learned many things about the career field of IT and computer networking. I got to see and experience the tools, programs, and see the physical data center that they house in their building. The data center at one point was the largest in the world, only second to the NSA. Their company uploaded more information to their database every day than the entirety of the internet. I had learned many things about the network and how to apply my skills in a real life corporate level network.

I had gotten to be with many of the different teams that worked on the network and the voice communications. I was with the voice communications people first, learning about how they set up the calls for meetings and maintain the connection for steady and smooth vocal communications.

The next day I was with one of the two logical network teams. The logical network teams had different jobs that all came together to maintain and create the network that the company uses, but not on a physical level. They did all of the things such as setting up rules for firewalls, designing network topology, and occasionally helping other teams solve issues that had popped up when those teams needed extra information on the problem.

The third and fourth day I was with the nice people down in the NOC (Network Operations Center). This was my personal favorite part of the internship. The NOC was a very secure area where all of the network maintenance and troubleshooting and problem solving. The network team I was with would receive tickets from clients or from other locations that they have around the globe, and then remotely configure and troubleshoot problems in routers, switches, and other network devices. Certain tickets had higher priorities than others, and right next to the NOC was the physical data center in the case of needing to look and see if there were any issues with the physical equipment, such as power loss or a bad cable.

Finally, I was with the physical cabling team who focused on making sure every room and computer that needed access to the internet was given proper cabling to connect every device necessary. They showed me the importance of using proper tools and cable management and how quickly it can get out of hand if not taken care of properly.

In the end, it was a wonderful experience that taught me many things about the field of work in which I am pursuing. It makes me even more excited to learn and do more with computers and the network. I would like to thank the wonderful folks at Back to Basics for providing me with such an opportunity that fortified my interests and gets me one step closer to achieving a job in a field of IT that I have been looking to gain for quite a while.