

## WORK

During my internship, I got the chance to apply my theoretical knowledge in computer networks and combine it with practical experience. It was also a great opportunity to learn new skills and discover new technologies.

Initially my internship was supposed to be held at the ICT Directorate of Kibabii University. However, since that had a cooperative agreement with the county assembly of Bungoma, they offered me to do my internship there.

In the first couple of days, it was all about getting to know the ICT Team in the county assembly as well as the other teams and departments so that everyone was aware of my presence within the organization and would not be surprised or suspicious when they see me around.

After that, the ICT team gave an overview of their current IT systems and their network architecture. They also presented their future goals and the things they wanted me to achieve during my internship. Based on that, we prepared a list of tasks and a timeline of subtasks for each week.

The first task I had to do was to replace the home router that was being used as an internet gateway with a proper corporate router (Cisco 1941). The latter was more sophisticated and provided better connectivity to the 6-floor building. After the new router was in place, my focus was shifted to segmenting the network using VLANs. My employer opted for physical segmentation by floors, so that each floor has its own VLAN. I then suggested that adding another VLAN for guests is beneficial to restrict what they can access on the network. The last task I worked on was the server which my employer uses for ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning). The first step was to upgrade the Ubuntu version from 15.04 to 20.04 to allow for support and security updates. I then backed up the server, enabled some tools for remote access (ssh and vnc) and configured automatic daily backups.

## Experience

My accommodation was in a house for international students within the Kibabii University's campus. The house was big and had multiple rooms, a kitchen, a living room and a dining area. and I had two flat mates, Simon from South Sudan and Celestin from Burundi. We usually meet only in the evening since I had to go to work and they both were finalizing their master's theses. We usually cook and eat dinner together and discuss what we did during the day. Sometimes, their Kenyan friends come over and we all sit together, have tea and chat about our cultures, similarities and differences. Over weekends, when I had more free time, I would play football with some friends and from time to time I was able to visit some cities in the western part of Kenya like Eldoret and Kitale. Since I was the first ever IAESTE intern in Kibabii, the local committee was not very active and did not organize much social activities or events.

## Discover

Kenya as a country has a lot to offer from its variant and magnificent landscapes that include mountains, savannas and white-sand beaches to its rich tribal culture and tasty dishes. During my stay I enjoyed trying different foods such as Ugali, which is the staple food of Kenya usually served with meat and some greens like Sukuma, Githeri, Chapati, Pilau and Mandazi. After finishing my internship, I also went on a trip across the country to discover the beautiful nature and witness some animals in their natural habitat. My adventure began with a safari in the famous Masai Mara where I had the privilege of seeing many animals including lions, elephants, leopards, giraffes, buffalos and zebras. I then headed to Lake Nakuru and had a great time watching a variety of birds and a couple of white rhinos. Finally, I took the train from Nairobi to Mombasa to explore the costal side of the

country, which has a nice mix of Swahili, Arab and Indian cultures. Mombasa is a very vibrant city, and it has a very rich street food culture that I really liked. Moreover, I enjoyed the sun and took advantage of the nice weather to do some water activities like swimming and snorkeling in Nyalali and Diani.

