

Dr. Bhavani's Diary (Working from Home during COVID-19) – Part 9

July 1, 2021

I am continuing with my now quarterly posts on working from home during COVID-19. My first post was on April 24, 2020 which was followed by six weekly posts and then went to quarterly on January 1, 2021 and also made a post on April 1, 2021. Since we are going back to in-person work late August 2021, this should really be my last post. However, due to the fact that we still have close to two months left working from home; my very last post will be on August 27, 2021. That's the day I get back to work as I teach on Fridays.

This past quarter has been very special. Now that I have gotten fully vaccinated, I made three trips to New York City in April, May and June 2021 to visit my son and his family. That was the best time for me the past almost 17 months. There is some light at the end of the tunnel. However, I am also very worried that the Delta variant that is ravaging India and more recently in the UK will affect the US. That's why we still have to be very cautious. I still wear my N95 masks (or double KN95 masks), goggles and gloves when I go out. Also, the weather is better and so I am taking more walks. But still it's not enough and so has to focus more on diet, meditation and exercise.

In the meantime, I have continued to give keynote addresses and also participated in a panel organized by Fortune Media. I also received an award for my work on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion end of June (article will be published in the near future). Here are some of the other links.

Why good cybersecurity is required amid the growing plague of ransomware

<https://fortune.com/2021/05/20/cybsersecurity-steps-ransomware-attacks/>

UT Dallas CS Professors make a strong impact at AAAI '21

<https://cs.utdallas.edu/utdcs-aaai-2021-impact/>

Keynote Address at ACM CODASPY 2021 on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, April 28, 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxkhcsJZCpU>

Keynote Address at IEEE Big Data Security Conference, May 2021 (Video taped on April 29, 2021)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agnaJPkeaU&t=10s>

What You Need to Know About Ransomware Insurance

https://www.informationweek.com/strategic-cio/security-and-risk-strategy/what-you-need-to-know-about-ransomware-insurance/a/d-id/1341465?pidl_msgorder=asc

My classes are going well – Completed the Data and Applications Security class Spring Semester and during the summer started teaching the Analyzing and Securing the Social Media class. I am completed our Experimental Research in Cyber Security course (INSuRE) for 13

semesters in a row. I am also pleased to mention that I successfully completed the certificate course on Public Policy at the London School of Economics in June. Also continuing to carry out research, doing some extra studying and also supervising students. I have done a lot of mentoring while working from home including undergraduate and high school students. This summer I am teaching a class in cyber security for nine high school intern students. They are all so motivated and I am very pleased. A highlight this past quarter is the investiture ceremony I participated in at the university. Very honored to be the Founders Chair Professor of Computer Science. Our Dean of the Engineering School as well as two of my colleagues in cyber security was also honored. Press releases will be published later in July. I am very busy putting together a large proposal with multiple universities that is due in early September. Also, looking forward to a podcast I will be involved in organized by high motivated three teenaged girls.

This summarizes the activities during the past quarter and looking forward to possibly my final post on Friday, August 27, 2021 as part of the “while working from home series.” during COVID-19. I am looking forward to an exciting future and I hope and pray that we never have to go through such a pandemic again.