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Culmination Reflection

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EIS hadn't started out as my initial culmination project, however I'm glad that it turned into it. The amount of networking, audio, and management skills I took away from this experience was more than words can express. My initial culmination was a networking-based project, where I was doing research to spec out a new networking system for the school, however because of the madness of tech production this semester, a lot more of my time was going towards Tech Production. At that point my advisor, Professor Huntington, had suggested I use EIS as my culmination project, and incorporate the research I had already done for a "upgrade proposal" for just EIS. Which I was happy to add because of the time I had already spent on that project.

After reflecting on the entire project and its process, I would say I am very proud of how everything turned out. I think this was a learning curve for me a pushed me to develop skills I didn't know I was capable of. My roles in the show were the crew chief, front of house mixer, and documenter of the system. I'm going to break down each role and reflect on that. The aspect I was most comfortable with in this entire process was as the documenter of the system. Because this audio system was a complicated network system, documentation was a crucial part of it so that of anything went wrong we can use the system diagram to pinpoint issues. The purpose of this documentation was also so that in the future someone can just be handed the paperwork and set it up based off that because this show happens every year and the idea is the same every year. I love to make system diagrams so for me it was fun to have to make so many different parts of

the show documentation. This was also my first time working with a networked audio system using Dante, and I think having to document it helped me understand it more.

Being the crew chief was something different for me because I've never led a crew before, especially in a school setting where everyone is still learning. Doing this taught me so much, especially in my management skills and leadership skills. It made me want to be more prepared and organized so that things could run as smooth as possible. For me, it was strange having people come up to me with questions, so it pushed me to always be in the know and understand what was going on. I think a personal win for me was seeing the crew grow and learn because many of them had little audio experience from when we started in the semester. I was proud and constantly impressed of how we always got everything done in a timely matter.

Lastly, my biggest learning curve, being the board op and mixing. I am not a mixer and honestly would rather not have to mix if I didn't have to, so mixing for EIS really helped pushed me to get over that a little bit. It was a simple mix, so I didn't feel too overwhelmed at the board, so it was a great first step into it. What I'm really happy about is how much more comfortable I feel with patching on the board and using the CL5, and the concepts of digital boards because how many we used on the show. Even though the OV1 and the LS-9 are older boards all the concepts are universal, such as digital ins, omni, etc. I still wouldn't say that mixing is something I would willingly volunteer for now, however if asked I would be ok with doing it and not stress it too much.

In general, I would say we didn't have too many issues in this project. Before the show the biggest issue we had was if we would have enough people to run the show, and some scheduling conflicts. This was something up in the air for a bit and something, as the crew chief, that I constantly had to be aware of when planning what had to be completed for the day. In the

end we were able to have everyone work on the show, so it all worked out. One other issue we had was with the monitors we would be using. Typically, EIS had a monitor world set up, but due to the crew availability being up in the air at the time, and the time we had in between the previous show and this show, we decided to cut monitor world and mix monitors on the iPad. We initially started off with using the Meyer UPA-2P, but were running into some issues with them, so we switched to the JBL-EON 610. During tech rehearsal, there were some issues with one of the acts interface where they had a feedback loop (this later was fixed before the show). One other issue during the show was when I put a gate on instead of the compressor and cut out audio in the left channel for a few seconds but was able to bring it back quickly. I think the fact that show was improvisation helped me in this case because nobody really seemed to notice.

Overall, I would say I learned so much from this experience and am so grateful to have done it. I really am thankful to Professor Huntington for spending so much time with me on it and teaching me so many valuable skills. I'm also thankful for the audio crew this semester who worked so hard and did such a great job!