Marcella Hastings (Computer Science, Math, Studio Art minor, 2015)
Summer Research Student
Full-time, 40 hours per week
Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I’m doing a research project in the Cyber System Assessments group known as Single Device Authentication. We’re trying to improve methods of authenticating users to reduce instances of common vulnerabilities (forgetting/reusing/writing down passwords, easily-compromised CACs and biometrics, etc).

How did you find your internship?
I heard about the company through a friend, then talked to my group leader at the Grace Hopper career fair.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
My team has been a lot of fun to hang out with. I have an interesting project, but I’d burn out if there weren’t chill people to relax with at lunch.

What do you find challenging?
Doing a research project is a new type of challenge in that we have fewer deadlines and restrictions. An open problem leaves a lot of room for exploring, but it can be hard to figure out which path is the right one.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
There are a lot of smart people at the Lab, and they regularly hold talks about different areas of interest. Go to as many of them as possible. Also be cool to HR, they rock.

About the Organization
MIT Lincoln Laboratory
Lexington, MA

MIT Lincoln Laboratory is a federally funded research and development center that applies advanced technology to problems of national security. Research and development activities focus on long-term technology development as well as rapid system prototyping and demonstration. These efforts are aligned within key mission areas. The Laboratory works with industry to transition new concepts and technology for system development and deployment.