File 20110127.1030: Notes from Engineering staff meeting:

The R" developer met with the TMAN developer to compare the two CDS software development organisations and technical capabilities. The ST&E, CT&E and IV&V processes of TMAN are different from R" to a surprising degree. DCGS, the primary customer of TMAN, has an accreditor in the same local geographic area as the TMAN developer; the relationship between developer and accreditor is close and cordial. The difference in ST&E practices appear to derive from a number of sources:

1. the almost exclusively single-accreditor installation environment (coming from the captive arrangement with DCGS)

2. an absence of IV&V (apparently not required by DCGS and out of scope because TMAN is not SABI approved)

3. installers perform a much smaller role in TMAN because the system is not field-configurable; installers configure the network only; parsing rules are compiled C++.

4. cryptography that uses PKE but not X.509 standard PKI.

The R" developer reports that the new programme manager has mostly been convinced by the software engineers that attempting to merge the two different CDS products would be a bad idea. While the CDS application domains overlap to an extent and the systems share some capabilities and customers, their implementation, configurability and mechanism of configuration (the latter arising directly from the design via the software engineering process, and ultimately from requirements) differ sufficently to make combining them expensive.

Related to the difference in installer skill set, the R" developer reports encountering DoD 8570.01-M requirements in the field for the first time. Air Force sites in particular have begun to demand infosec certification of all contractor personnel on site. The developer has six installers with IAT Level III and two with IAT Level II certifications; the R" developer is now pressing for all installers to pass the IAT Level II examination as soon as possible.

PMA objectives are due 18th February. Choose multi-raters right away. Keep a running file throughout the year of accomplishments and failures; give a copy of this file to your L-code at PMA time. Write PMA objectives this way:

> I will model corporate values by...

use this exact phrasing. Do not include STARS and compliance training; those are implicit and required anyway, but writing them down as objectives is stupid.

Include an explicit objective for 2010 improvements, and an optional 'stretch' objective. I got the impression, however, that a stretch objective can hurt you if you write it down but do not achieve it. I think that is a bad policy, but that is the impression I received from the PMA briefing by the engineering manager today.

References