

File 20091001.0730: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin this morning:

- The meeting started on time. I am operating on too little sleep. Dr Martin had a day trip yesterday to southern France out of Gatwick. So he is sleep-deprived also.
- We talked about the Air Force RFI. I am excited about it because it's a second case study that is not Common Criteria, so more along the lines of my original proposal to study C&A programmes in general, not merely CC. DIACAP is an entire C&A programme, not just a set of criteria like the CC. It is more of a life cycle. The RFI asks for 86 requirements, including all sorts of reporting and query features for the accreditors, such as upcoming events, progress, status, and completion metrics. These are requirements asked for by practising accreditors who need to be able to track 200 simultaneous accreditations and want to keep track of previous ones. It validates my thesis and is going to be extremely useful.
- I am going through the requirements and categorising them.
- Write the RFI response as closely as possibly meeting the requirements of the *Crosstalk* article. Don't want to spend another week or two rewriting it for the journal.
- I brought up the risk of IP issues if my bosses balk at publishing the RFI information as a journal article. However, I believe the RFI responses to be a public process, so I hope that proprietary information won't be much of a problem.
- The bosses are all tied up with an ISO audit this week, which is why they haven't got back to me on that yet. They have told me to go ahead and write the RFI response, however.
- Participants are eager to talk with me about the first case study, but I am putting that off until at least 10th October because the RFI response deadline is more urgent.
- Dr Martin says there is plenty of cross-fertilisation here with Common Criteria and it will add to my thesis. He asked, though, if this increases the scope too much, makes my thesis problem too large. I said no, I don't think so. I think it goes back neatly to my original proposal for scoping this to C&A programmes in general, not just CC. DIACAP is new, the AFI 33-210 is extremely new, and DoD is still getting used to DIACAP. People in the field need this tool very much.
- Dr Martin seemed to have no problem with the DoD-centredness of this new case study. As long as it's not commercially focussed, the DoD internal process aspect seems not to be a problem.
- *Show the Air Force that I have a head start on other people.*
- Dr Martin mentioned a wild idea of his—if Lockheed wants to take advantage of the sponsored student idea, they could sponsor more than one student to actually work on building it, not just me. Dr Martin wanted to know if the RFI/RFP/eventual proposal would specify just me working on it. I described the way that Prob. Redaction worked, with the first phase being just me doing research, followed by second and third phases devoted to proving the concept with a prototype, then building a system. Dr Martin then brought up the idea of a sponsored student for several students from the University. I said I'd check; the bosses are all tied up with ISO auditors this week.
- We talked about GTD and other time management systems; I wonder how those people deal with real-world interruptions like telephone calls, bosses who suddenly panic when the CDRL database coughs up a spurious alert, and times when the U.S. Air Force drops a bomb in your back yard.
- I ordered the GTD book from Amazon.
- Seriously, I am going to try reading the GTD book and try buying a set of folders to organise every piece of paper related to each project. I have enough unrelated papers on my desk, and enough commitments (Comlab Student Conference submission reviews, the subset paper, RFI response, prob. redaction, PMA objectives, thesis interviews, and so on) to make it worth while spending the time to investigate it.
- I owe Prob. Redaction a quarterly status report ASAP.

- I feel I am making good progress towards my dissertation this week.

Call ended 0730. Next meeting is after Reading Group on 8th October at 0630.

References