

File 20091104.0728: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin:

- I described watching the IV&V team on Alpha testing of RM 5.0 this week. Dr Martin asked what evidence I am collecting that I can cite later. I explained what I learnt yesterday about the difference between literature (something you can cite) and data (something you stick in an appendix—as long as you know the provenance, it’s still usable, you just have to call it data rather than literature). Source: [1].
- I described the IV&V test director’s emphasis on *ad hoc* testing as being the most important kind of testing. Formal test procedures, all participants agree, only verify that requirements are met and everyone already knows that all those will succeed. They don’t tell us nearly as much about the quality of the software as *ad hoc* testing does.
- Dr Martin said that an old boss of his once said that if a fault isn’t repeatable it’s not a fault.
- I am working on the paper but changing the outline because of what I am observing in the Alpha Test. It is starting to focus, which is good.
- Dr Martin: ‘The danger is in spending too much time trying to make it perfect.’
- ‘Work hard.’

Next meeting: can’t be on Wednesday, but please schedule a meeting for next week by email.  
Call ended 0718.

## References

- [1] ‘Fabian’. Comment on post ‘Ok, how the HELL do I reference this?’. The PhD Forums, Monday, October 5, 2009. URI: <http://www.phdcomics.com/proceedings/viewtopic.php?t=17621>.