File 20100708.0900: Notes from RM 5.0 certification status telecon in Deer Creek this morning:

In attendence were Kevin Miller, Larry Brown, myself, Larry Sampson (moderating), Jonathan Scott from the western region, UCDMO, Emily, Dan Griffin (PMO), Corinne (DNI CAT), and Paul Ozura (IV&V).

Mr Sampson sent out an agenda before the telecon along with a template for the RM 5.0 fact sheet to be distributed by the UCDMO baseline. Emily started off by reporting that they are still doing regression testing, nowhere near done. Results so far: they have found previous findings not fixed, and some new ones. The new problem is reproducible by two different means. Testing is not finished yet.

Corinne remarked that one of the problems, as it stands now, is a DoS. Kevin Miller, for the developer, replied with a detailed technical explanation that the problem found was limited to the testing lab configuration and would not result in a DoS under normal field conditions. The explanation was accepted and agreed with by Emily and Corinne.

[redacted: What crashed was the logging daemon. When [clever bit of XML] was processed, the message actually went through the guard, but when it tried to log the binary in the XML message, it crashed the logging daemon. This caused the application to exit. In production, auto-activate would always be turned on, and this would have restarted things automatically. During testing, auto-activate is usually turned off.]

Plan of Actions and Milestones (POA&M): the developer plans to fix the underlying technical problem with a post-5.0 patch. At this point, Mr Griffin asked for a review of all open CRs. There are three of them. The developer understands why the first two CR failures occur (they are in fact the same problem, the one that is to be addressed by a software patch after certification); for the third CR, there is a workaround that requires no code changes. That covers all the open CRs so far found by regression testing in this round.

Mr Griffin stated that the PMO's recommendation, based on funding levels and schedule, is to come out with a POA&M and not to burden Corinne with another round of regression testing. PMO recommends issuing a patch for these three CRs post-certification.

Corinne asked how I173 testing is going in Charleston. I173 reported that they have not received a status report from SPAWAR today, but Dennis Bowden called yesterday to relate that Rob Drake is in agreement that none of these items are show-stoppers, they can be handled in a POA&M.

Emily: the pen testers feel that they are finding old things that have not been fixed, and new things besides. She wants to talk it over with Phyllis, who is more experienced and will be back tomorrow. Recommends not making a decision yet.

I173 concurs with waiting (USN SPAWAR SSC Charleston).

Western region STRATCOM concurs with waiting.

Corinne: on the DoS issue, the availability parameter of this certification is moderate, so there should be no problem with handling it via POA&M. NSA I733 recommends waiting, and to get Rob Drake to chime in as well.

The concensus was to wait for people to get back from holiday, then revisit the question next Thursday. On 16th July, the next report from the pen testers is expected. Emily asked, 'how are we going to validate the fixes between now and STRATCOM?' She wants to consult with Phyllis tomorrow. This is a new situation, said Emily, one that has never happened before, to have a guard with unfixed findings.

Dan Griffin again emphasised the importance of keeping to schedule, for reasons of funding and funds allocation. Emily said that rather than waiting for the 16th, she will send out a quick report to the group immediately. I173 will do the same.

Returning to the agenda, Larry Sampson said that the schedule is going to have to be looked at, but Dennis Bowden is not on the line today. It is noted that Dan Griffin wants to stick to the schedule for funding reasons. Next topic: prioritising the findings in the POA&M. Of the 101 findings resulting from Beta 1 testing, some will be fixed, some will be put off. This is understood. Corinne wants an updated priority list. Kevin Miller responded that everything that needs to be fixed before the end of regression testing is in the spreadsheet. Some findings are addressed by documentation changes, some are impossible to fix.

Corinne: I173 still have some issues with the developer's response to the list of findings.

Kevin Miller: a few weeks ago when developer representatives were on site during setup of the labs for regression testing, the developer sat down with all the testers and went through every finding together, in front of the actual machine, to come to a common understanding.

Corinne: still, some of the developer's responses to findings as written in the POA&M are not acceptable.

Dan Griffin then asked the developer to update the POA&M with additional notes on the discussions that took place in Charleston and Ft Meade, to clarify.

Larry Sampson then polled for feedback on the ST&E procedures for STRATCOM Beta 2. Corinne noted that Rob Drake really needs to chime in on the ST&E plan. Paul Ozura then said the ST&E plan for Beta 2 will be finished tomorrow, with a copy sent to Rob Drake. It is derived from 800-53 security controls. The checklist is a complete description of what will be tested in ST&E Beta 2 at STRATCOM; the checklist is an appendix to the ST&E plan.

The last thing discussed was the template for a one-page fact sheet to be distributed by the UCDMO baseline. The PMO will have the template properly filled out by the time ST&E finishes. They want it accurately to reflect those capabilities that are actually in the baseline. The fact sheet is submitted aking with the final certification package.

Next telecon scheduled for Thursday, 15th July at 0800 MDT. The focus will be on findings from regression testing and the POA&M. Call ended 0849.

References