File 20100617.0833: Notes from classified RM 5.0 certification telecon this morning, 0800 MDT:

Present on the call were Kevin Miller, Ian Mcglothlin, Joe Loughry, Larry Sampson, at least one person from UCDMO, Orville Brown, Dennis Bowden, Corinne (reprsenting DNI CAT), Olav, Lisa Ackerman, Jonathan Scott, Jim Gucken, Emily Martinez, Dave Aushman (representing I173), Phil ?, Thomas Seiz (sp?), Dan Griffin (PMO), several people representing STRATCOM, and DoDIIS.

The test team began by commenting on the draft POA&M. The scope of the mitigation will be reduced by removing findings related to certain test files that were left on the lab machines by accident. The TOE does not mention these file types, and functionality for processing them is not officially supported yet. To bring the conformance claims into exact alignment with the functionality that was fully tested and found to be correct, the developer asks that findings related to these unsupported file types be removed. I173 concurs. DNI CAT also concurred, but requests that the limitation be documented. The developer agreed. File types that are supported, and claimed in the conformance specification, are fully supported, and types that are not supported will be correctly blocked and never traverse the guard. The developer will bring these additional file formats back to this committee at a later date. It is just that they were not ready at the time when testing needed to begin, so that functionality and conformance were never claimed.

Emily Martinez then said thereby that [a requirement] will be relaxed if there are no [some particular file types] in the system.

Dennis Bowden (representing PMO) then stated that this (5.0ZC) is the version of the software that is intended to be installed at STRATCOM, and asked for concurrence from NSA that there are no show-stoppers. Dave and Emily (representing I173) agreed, with Dave further commenting that it is not a particularly high risk. Dennis Bowden said, 'obviously, if you find something in the next four weeks, then all bets are off.' [Editorial note: generally, all participants on the call today were mellow and agreed that all findings are being mitigated satisfactorily. Phyllis was not on the call today, however, as she has not been the last few times. Emily seems to be trusted more and more by Phyllis as her deputy. I was impressed that Mr Bowden got I173 to agree verbally that the mitigations are sufficient and no show-stoppers are expected. DNI CAT did not contradict that statement.]

Next, there was some discussion of anti-virus capability. Orville Brown stated that PMO made a conscious decision years ago that once an RM system is locked down, no data should go in or out of the TOE afterwards, with the exception of archived audit. That has been RM security policy from the beginning, but maybe it is time to revisit it. Deferred for possible 5.1 new capability. The PMO will study it. This was followed by a discussion of other new features for the next version.

Following that was a discussion of other findings and the developer's technical mitigation [classified]. Some classified meetings will take place next week on site at STRATCOM between the developer's installers and NSA and DNI CAT. Any remaining questions of the certifiers regarding implementation details of the developer's proposed risk mitigations will be addressed by means of a combination of live demonstration, inspection of the implementation, or explanation by the authors.

Overview of the schedule followed next. Some of the dates have been updated. Beginning on 28th June, there will be some integration work done at STRATCOM. This will be followed by equipment installation beginning 19th July. Two weeks of government regression testing will be followed by one week of DNI CAT pen testing. Western region will send someone. The new equipment will go alongside the existing RM in that space, not replace it. The two systems will run in parallel for a while.

Status update: regression testing at the plant is now complete. Results appear in the POA&M. All regression testing was witnessed by IV&V. Yesterday, the developer had a telecon with STRATCOM for orientation and visit requests. Next week, with all the activity going on, there will be no hotwash telecon; the next telecon will occur in two weeks.

Call ended 0833.

References