

File 20100527.0719: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin this morning:

I presented the idea of a risk optimisation market (description here) as in my earlier notes. Dr Martin is not sure he believes yet that it will work. When I talked about allowing accreditors to exchange information whilst keeping their secrets, he said ‘You’re trying to build a covert channel machine.’ That is an interesting way of looking at it, and I might be able to use some of the established techniques of covert channel analysis to characterise the bandwidth of the channels, what information is allowed or disallowed to cross them, and to limit the bandwidth of the channels. There is an *ad hoc* process already, of course, by which accreditors balance their residual risk tolerance ‘around’ the CDS; what I would like to do is optimise the process in terms of time, effort, and lowering the threshold of the generally agreed-upon level of residual risk amongst all accreditors of a CDS. The artificial market approach seems like it fits best with the *ad hoc* way that things work out today, which is serial. Each accreditor works with the CDS installer for a couple of weeks, establishing their own level of acceptable residual risk, followed by the CDS installer going off and working with another accreditor the next week, which might change the results to the first one.

Note: is that true? Or do accreditors work in parallel on an installation, and even talk to one another? Do they know each other? I can determine that from surveys? Good question to include in the surveys. Excellent. I knew there was a reason I delayed them until this far along. Now I know what questions to ask (specific of accreditors).

We talked about the surveys. They are very late. I need to get that done because I need those preliminary results for the assessors. But knowing now what questions I want to ask of accreditors (do you know other accreditors? Do you work with them on CDS installations?) will make it possible to move forward on the surveys now.

We talked about Confirmation of Status. I want to define the contribution that I intend to argue I am making, so that I can circumscribe it clearly for the assessors. Dr Martin said it’s definitely focussing, continuing to narrow down on a solid topic, but I shouldn’t concentrate too much on confirmation yet because that could distract me from focussing on the work.

I reported that the VALID 2010 paper camera-ready copy was submitted on time. I am working on the ACM workshop paper right now (the market idea, asymmetric knowledge). Crosstalk article is waiting for time to spend on it.

I am going to go make a list of questions to ask accreditors now.

Call ended 0716.

References