

File 20110902.0037: Weekly activity report 0204:

weekly activity report 204 (loughry)

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Sent: 02 September 2011 00:37

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Weekly activity report no. 20110901.1633 (GMT-7) sequence no. 0204, week 8+10 TT

I met with Dr Martin last Friday to discuss arrangements for the conf. of status viva next week. The purpose is to convince Dr Jirotko and Dr Flchais that I have followed their guidance, that I am on track to finish the research and writing in the specified amount of time, and that they should confirm my status and keep moving forward. It gets me off their plate, moves in the direction of another successful finish, doesn't waste anybody's time, and allows them to extract a solemn promise from me that I'll finish in time. To that end, I am polishing my most effective argument: written chapters. I gave those to Dr Martin on the 29th, as agreed. Dr Martin kindly offered to print the chapters for me, saving the expense of Fedex, which I deeply appreciate. He asked for some changes which I am doing now. I will send updated PDFs to the assessors as soon as I can manage it---tonight, with luck.

When I talk to the assessors I will ask them to set a new final submission date two terms hence. The 13th January 2012 date is unreasonably soon, I assert, because that date never moved despite the confirmation of status being delayed. I will ask for the conventional amount of time to elapse between confirmation of status and submission. I do not expect to need all that time, but I shall ask for it. I received automatically generated emails this week about my University Card and email accounts all expiring at the end of next term; I cannot risk that happening in the middle of writing up. The assessors should recommend a new finishing date, and then my library card will keep working.

More data continues to arrive on two of the three case studies.

In several conversations this week with developer engineering managers, it developed that the government programme office has underfunded the developer by a large amount, over a million dollars this fiscal year. The developer must transition eighty or ninety task orders from the old BOE to the new one, causing a severe overhead gap lasting 2--3 months with the full transition taking a year. Together with a product on the GSA schedule now, the developer has more than one incentive to write direct contracts in future. When the developer does that, the Navy can't tax the funding. This has significant effects on engineering decisions in a way that Grounded Theory is actually pretty well suited to explain.

I also unexpectedly obtained new data on the third case study, shedding more light on the relationship between the developer and the systems integrator from 2004--6. Details omitted because I haven't had time to anonymise it.

Miscellaneous: work continues on the OXFORD-CS-2011 student conference committee. At Lockheed, five evaluations came in from technical reviewers on the MG-03529 disclosure; I need to write a response for the IPRB in advance of their ordering a search for prior art, which costs lots of money. I owe a first draft of the poster to the funding sponsor for probabilistic redaction next week; also travel to New York is confirmed

for 26th September to give a final report to the funding sponsor.
My highest priority at the moment is to send the revised chapters with
change bars to the assessors in PDF.

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End of WAR 0204.

References