

File 20111207.1045: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin:

I met with Dr Martin in the afternoon of 7th December to report in more detail on what was discussed in the meeting with Dr Fléchais and specific progress since. As I am going through the records of CS1 again, this time with the new perspective from one of my informants about informal vs formal policies and how the informal ones are more powerful, I read an interesting counterexample. In an old email from jwz (1998), he told of a successful discovery motion by Microsoft's lawyers for a personally maintained email list on jwz's personally owned disk during a lawsuit involving Netscape. The counterexample is important because it is founded on personal experience rather than speculation. I described progress on the coding of CS1 and we talked about the size of the data and how that interacts with grounded theory. We talked about validating the model by taking it back to informants and walking them through it; that is something I was successful with before, with the physics-based model prior to the current round. Documentation of those validation sessions is critical, said Dr Fléchais.

Afterwards I described a meeting with my manager at Lockheed at which I was asked to research NIST SP 800-117 Security Controls Automation Protocol (SCAP), a new requirement on all cross domain systems in 2012 to report compliance with security controls across the CVE in a standard format. I can leverage that request from Lockheed into a new gig in the second half of 2012—when I will be needing one—as an expert on SCAP just when all the CDS programme offices figure out they have a problem. Dr Martin suggested I should publish an article about it, derived from my thesis.

Next meeting Thursday, 15th December at 3pm Oxford time, 0800 my time.

[not for WAR]

Dr Martin suggested that I not get distracted, but if there were a way to publish an article, probably for a popular journal, in mid 2012 about SCAP, pointing to me as the local expert in CDS SCAP, it would be excellent for drumming up consulting business. I said I would take Lockheed's offer of paying me to research SCAP for the next few weeks and leverage that into material for my dissertation and possibly a consulting gig in mid 2012 when I will need one. Dr Martin seemed to think that a good idea.

We talked about short-term optimisations and triage; I hate taking the short-term optimisation right now but I think it's the best plan of available options. Kevin tried to talk me out of leaving yesterday (Dr Martin asked whether they offered me a leave of absence; I said yes they did, but it was no-pay, no health care, and a guarantee that 'maybe' I could come right back to the same crummy job situation I have right now—and Congress might just cut a lot of money from the defence budget right after the 2012 elections, putting defence contractors in a very bad way.), but after I declined the LOA, Kevin made a good suggestion about being a SCAP consultant. I value that advice and will follow it.

Dr Martin said he went to a lawyer's conference once where they talked about discovery, and the lawyers said it's a two-edged sword because sometimes they end up with truckloads of data that they then have to spend time examining. I related the old story of IBM's trainload of boxcars full of discovery material in their antitrust lawsuit back in the 1970s.

Dr Martin said probabilistic redaction should have been my thesis. I would have been done by now. [Great.]

Meeting duration: 23:34.

References