

File 20100217.2300: Notes written on the plane for my talk on Friday:

‘Not you, of course. You’re doing it right. You’re busy developing software, and software engineering methods, that are more reliable than before. My inverted commas up there on the title refer to the certifiers and accreditors of the US Department of Defence systems that handle and process classified information. That is the narrow sub-area I am interested in. There’s a problem there, one that I have seen over and over again in a decade of building and accrediting these systems and working with these people. I’m trying to fix it from within. Here’s what I want to show you today.

[Start] Thanks to my supervisor, Dr Martin and to the regulars at the Security Reading Group who all get up very early every Wednesday morning to discuss papers with me.

This is cool. I stood up here about a year ago and told you the story of one particular project I had worked on that didn’t go so well. Here I am back to tell you that the situation is even worse than I had originally feared. It’s pervasive throughout the defence accreditation system.

[Serious Demeanour] I mean it, there is a serious problem in the security certification and accreditation organisations of the DOD, and I mean to solve it. What I need from you is a critical appraisal of my method.

References