

File 20080107.1130: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin today:
TODO:

- (done) Print NSPW 2009 CFP and post
- (done) Write a letter to Dan O'Dowd, Green Hills Software, Inc.
- Submit to NSPW 2009
- In 2009, please report progress against my Gantt chart.
- Plan to schedule a regular bi-weekly meeting with Dr Martin starting later in Hilary term.
- Comlab DPhil students really ought to make a repository of transfer reports.

I have Dr Martin's copy of PRG-126 [1]. After reading it, I should ask Jim Woodcock whether the Z in that report has ever been mechanically checked.

Confirmation of Status is usually done on about three chapters of the dissertation—the expectation is that the student will be done writing no more than one year later. I should be able to finish writing in one term after Confirmation of Status.

The purpose of the viva should be to debug the weak spots in your work so far, drive a spike into them to see if the structure holds. That said, however, do not go into the viva with an attitude of 'it's nothing but weak spots'; rather, have a confident attitude and be willing to fight for your idea as needed.

Don't go in radiating unsured-ness that the whole thing is unworkable, either.

A thought: even testing the methodology and finding it's totally inadequate to the task is an interesting result, and useful if the realisation eventually leads to a good solution.

Discussion of the philosophy of maintenance of academic standards of practise from one generation to the next.

Marta K's changes to the DPhil process lie in the direction of moving the Confirmation of Status a bit earlier, to before the student has begun writing the dissertation.

What happens next? Confirmation of Status, BEFORE END OF TERM 8.

References

- [1] Susan Stepney, David Cooper, and Jim Woodcock. An electronic purse: Specification, refinement, and proof. Technical Monograph PRG-126, Oxford University Computing Laboratory, Programming Research Group, July 2000.