

File 20100423.0603: Weekly activity report 0133:

weekly activity report 133 (loughry)

Joe Loughry

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Attachments:

Weekly activity report no. 20100422.2149 (GMT-7) sequence no. 0133, noughth week TT

I met with Dr Martin on Wednesday 21st April to look over my progress.

I reported on the status of my experimental animal: Radiant Mercury

5.0 certification testing. Beta 1 continues to proceed normally; IV&V

will wrap up this week on Friday and submit their final report on 30th

April; no change there. Rumour has it that there are no major findings,

which is good news. The developer is only working on 6--8 CRs (software

Change Requests) at the present time, none of them large; things look

good for version 5.0zc to become the build candidate that goes into Beta

2 regression testing---due to complete 18th June (factory acceptance test)

and 8th July (government regression test).

As I predicted, the developer finally decided to slip the date for Beta 2

by six weeks and test at STRATCOM instead of JFCOM. The project manager

noted in yesterday's meeting that the artificial sense of urgency that

prevailed whilst the developer were still trying to make the JFCOM

deadline is probably the only reason why they'll actually receive the

IV&V report by 30th April; without that pressure, the IV&V contractors

probably wouldn't have worked as hard. The slippage of 6--8 weeks off

the original date is actually not bad, although funding is very tight

and the developer is 'at risk' through 30th April. They will get it

worked out with NMSO, not to worry. But funding is very tight and

the project manager specifically asked all personnel to look out for

any unnecessary effort in the plan that can and should be eliminated.

There could be nuclear missiles incoming to Washington, D.C., she said,

and NMSO would never move any faster. The government sponsor (through

NMSO) have been incrementally funding this project to death.

In other words, the certification is proceeding normally. It is extremely

interesting to watch the process unfold, observing how it really works

as opposed to how it is supposed to work. All the meetings and all the

artefacts I collect are useful data for my dissertation.

Next I reported on the UCDMO conference paper abstract I submitted last

Friday. I almost missed the deadline, having found out about it only

two days before submissions were due, but I did not miss the deadline.

I am excited about this new paper on information asymmetry. The topic

did not really gel until I began writing it, but this is exactly the

formalism I was searching for and is the key to making the accreditor

information tool in phase II work. I am working on the full paper

and will have more to say about it soon. I now have two solid ideas

that are completely different but both relating to the same thesis.

Feeling good about progress right now.

I described a failed experiment that I was trying to do in R, relating

to the information asymmetry idea. I tried to model the aggregate

risks for each data owner's accreditor by a normal distribution with

a random mean and standard deviation, shifting them left or right a

random amount so they didn't line up, then trying to get the residual

risk by a moving average of all the curves. It totally did not work.

It seemed like a great idea but it didn't work. I can express the

concept clearly in set theory but I am still having trouble coming up with a way of visualising it. I will have more to say about this later.

Survey progress was delayed because of emergency work on the UCDDMO conference paper. Working on the questions for tomorrow.

I gave another talk at Lockheed on Tuesday to an audience of about sixty engineers on new technical capabilities in Radiant Mercury 5.0 and the UCDDMO process. Following Dr Martin's advice, I made sure the talk was on a different subject from before and also that it related directly to a section or chapter in my dissertation. The subject of this talk will become two sections in Chapter two or three. I received good feedback, participants in one east coast multicast site suggesting at least one completely new use for the system that has never been considered before. If it works, it could lead to enormous cost savings throughout the government. I passed on the idea to the programme manager.

Miscellaneous: Lockheed introduced a new automated process for reviewing papers and presentations for public release. It should speed up the required security reviews that I am subject to. Dr Martin suggested an interesting new thing that Probabilistic Redaction could be used for. I am going to use that idea in next week's meeting with the project sponsor. I helped Shamal proofread a new paper for NSPW 2010 this week. I provided John Lyle with a list of historical references about certification and accreditation.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, 6th May 2010 at 1400 Oxford time. Dr Martin is at the Info Security Europe conference next week.

Current list of tasks in priority order, most urgent priority first:

1. List of email addresses for practitioner survey, participant survey, and user survey; develop questions, enter in SurveyMonkey and test. Goal is 23rd April.
2. Extend the outline of the methodology chapter.
3. Journal article (based on methodology chapter, VALID 2010 paper and recent talks). I want to submit by 30th April.
4. Write the rest of the UCDDMO conference paper.
5. Update dissertation Table of Contents.
6. For Chapter 3 or 4, interpretation of first case study results.
7. Begin writing progress report for confirmation of status.
8. Fill out paperwork for UK student visa extension in April for June deadline.
9. Update the schedule.
10. Apply for confirmation of status---I want to submit the forms with written work in June for August or September.
11. Development of accreditor information coordination tool.

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End of WAR 0133.

References