File 20120113.0222: Weekly activity report 0223:

weekly activity report 223 (loughry)
Joe Loughry
Sent: 13 January 2012 02:22
To: Joe Loughry

Weekly activity report no. 20120112.1909 (GMT-7) sequence no. 0223, noughth week HT

I am having problems with the expiration date on my University card and
OUCS accounts. A trouble ticket is open.

I met with Dr Martin this week. I am contractually obligated to finish
a white paper for Lockheed on SCAP compliance for the automated guard,
but after next week I will be 100 percent on the coding task for Chapters
3 and 4. I wrote the patent application for digital signatures in Radiant
Mercury this week; it will be filed before my last day with the company.
I met with the VP of Engineering and with HR last week and secured enough
funding to last through April; the only remaining detail is whether
I will have any health insurance. Security debriefing is scheduled
for next week. I am making good progress on describing my solution in
Chapter 6 and will be done with that part in a week.

Reading Group met to discuss the paper 'Looking Back at the Bell--LaPadula
Model' by David E. Bell, from 2005. It explains the reasons for several
apparently mystifying decisions in the TCSEC and Trusted Solaris 2.5.1,
such as the 'compatibility' of ordered security levels in the file system,
something I always thought was backwards. I gave the group an overview
of multi-level file systems and the software developer's perspective
on privileged processes. The mystery of why Information Labels (IL)
disappeared between Trusted Solaris 2.5.1 and TSOL 8 was finally
cleared up by this paper. It contains still-trenchant observations
on the practical difficulty of certification and accreditation and the
opportunity to place high-assurance gateways in the narrow lines between
almost-isolated networks. In 2012, there is no meaningful distinction
between the intelligence community, Twitter, and Facebook; one decade's
optimisation is the next's performance bottleneck.

I discussed CybOX and IF-MAP protocols for security situational awareness
with Dr Martin this week; one of these protocols might be an extension
that I could report through the SCAP interface later on. We talked about
covert channels in high assurance and multi-level operating systems.
Dr Flchais is concerned about my lack of progress on coding; I need
to talk to him soon as soon as I finish my current obligation.

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End of WAR 0223.

References