

File 20100409.1939: Weekly activity report 0131:

weekly activity report 131 (loughry)

Joe Loughry

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Attachments:

Weekly activity report no. 20100408.2013 (GMT-7) sequence no. 0131, week -2 TT

I did not meet with Dr Martin this week because of Easter. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 14th April at 2pm Oxford time.

I gave a talk this morning to engineers at Lockheed on the subject of certification and accreditation of cross-domain systems. The talk was multicast to other LM sites; 148 people connected to the multicast in addition to the audience. The multicast was recorded so I can watch my performance later and use it to improve public speaking skills. I had 21 slides and talked for 50 minutes exactly, followed by questions that lasted another twenty minutes. Part 2 of this talk will happen in about a week, followed by another talk in a couple of weeks in which I can describe my research methodology and preliminary results. I seem to have volunteered also to lecture on emissions security (RF, optical, and acoustic) on 5th May to a different audience of engineers at Lockheed. I have got feedback this morning from the organiser of the multicast series about how I did and what can be improved in speaking (along with an invitation to do more talks!).

On another topic, I got an email from Baasit Saijid of the PEOC4I office in SPAWARSYSCEN-PACIFIC (US Navy) wanting to work with me on a reimplementation using formal methods of high-assurance portions of Radiant Mercury. It is still early days but this might be my next project. It ties in with my research as a follow-on, and could lead to work for the next five years.

Progress this week:

I have been digging email addresses out of historical project records for the practitioner survey. It is up to three surveys now: first, participants in the failed Common Criteria evaluation; second, a survey of practitioners---being the government certifiers and accreditors themselves; and thirdly I decided to add another survey of people who need certification and accreditation services---and hence are forced to work with government accreditors to obtain the required Approval to Operate (ATO). One of the reasons I agreed to do this lecture today was because the audience (engineers who have been told by their Programme Office that they need to design-in an approved Cross Domain Transfer solution) might be willing to fill out my survey. I will give the survey to the audience when I do Part 2 of the C&A talk on 20th April. I have registered for an account with a web-based survey software provider; now I am working on writing the survey questions.

Distractions this week:

I had to finish my US federal and Colorado state taxes. That took up two days. I also had to write a quarterly progress report for the Probabilistic Redaction project for the Air Force sponsor, and select hardware for a server to run the development environment and proof-of-concept prototype on. I modelled the size of the working set in virtual memory that will result from inverting the entire Web 1T

5-gram corpus (plus decorations at the leaves) and it almost exactly fits in an even 32 GB of physical memory. That seems like a good omen. We are supposed to demonstrate a working prototype this summer (text only) processing an archive of newspaper articles. Right now the software is just a bunch of Perl scripts but we are working on getting a MapReduce implementation working using Hadoop.

Upcoming deadlines:

The notification date for VALID 2010 has been delayed to 30th April. I am trying to get information from the UCDDMO Conference organisers (Unified Cross Domain Management Office) in Ft Meade about when they need paper submissions for their conference in July.

Current list of tasks in order of priority, highest priority first:

1. Email addresses for practitioner survey, participant survey, and user survey; enter in SurveyMonkey and test.
2. Methodology chapter.
3. Finish preparing Part 2 of C&A talk.
4. Survey questions, list of participants extracted from methodology chapter: to be ready now for 20th April.
5. Journal article (based on methodology chapter, VALID 2010 paper and recent talks) now to be submitted before 30th April.
6. Write and submit UCDDMO paper for July conference.
7. Update dissertation Table of Contents.
8. Begin writing progress report for confirmation of status.
9. Fill out paperwork for UK student visa extension in April for June deadline.
10. Update the schedule.
11. Apply for confirmation of status---I want to submit the forms with written work in June for August or September.
12. Development of accreditor information coordination tool.

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End of WAR 0131.

References