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weekly activity report 198 (loughry)

Joe Loughry

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I met with Dr Martin last Friday. We began talking about data retention and laws on personally identifiable information and the Trustworthy Systems call for research proposals from the ministry of defence. The deadline for proposals is 13th September; Dr Martin has an idea for one and I would like to work on it. The Centre for Defence Enterprise people are keen for security accreditation of COTS systems, he says; this is a potential application area for my research.

Currently planning to submit written work to the assessors 15th August for a viva a few weeks later. I emailed Dr Jirotko and Dr Flchais regarding a viva the first full week in September. I have not heard back from either. Three weeks or so are left to finish writing those chapters, and the UCDDMO conference will eat some of the time.

I made real progress on the results portion of Chapter 3 this week. Chapter 2 on methodology is still stuck; Dr Martin advised not to spin my wheels, just write the material out of order. I have to break out my grounded theory coding and analytic memos for the assessors to view; presently all of that is embedded in a huge notes file, ordered chronologically and in context therein, it is true, but also cluttered with status reports. I'll reformat the material by itself into an appendix; one coding manual recommends that for dissertations even though it would be left out of a published article. I finalised the security model for accreditors I am using; it is the same as the one in Trusted Solaris 2.5.1 before they weakened it in TSOL 8, a generalisation of Bell--LaP with the strong star-property and an explicit controlled interface channel for non-hierarchical flows.

Preparing for the UCDDMO conference in about a week; I wrote a data sheet for the system to be demonstrated at the conference and got it approved by the funding sponsor and the government programme office. I am preparing to talk at the conference, if required, on how we developed it and how it works; it is still a very researchy product.

The R'' developer is once again---in 2011 yet!---suffering the same problem of hardware end-of-life dates mismatched with OS recertification cycles as they experienced in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2004. The systems engineering manager is trying to predict availability of hardware that will run Oracle Solaris 10, the only certified version of the operating system, until a trade study can be done and the decision made (by the government programme office) whether to host version 6.0 of the application on SE Linux or Solaris 11. I may be tasked to help with the trade study on SE Linux.

NIST released a draft for public comment of Special Publication 800-53 Appendix J, their Privacy Controls Catalogue. It is part of Revision 4, expected around December. Revision 4 will address privacy, insider threat, mobile and application security, as well as gaps in

access control, certification & accreditation, and security policies.
It is relevant to the developer because Rev. 4 will be the certification
criteria for version 6.0, since porting to a new operating system triggers
a recertification.

Next supervisor meeting tomorrow at 15.00 Oxford time. There are 25
weeks to submission; date not set for confirmation of status viva.
Possible travel to UK during the first full week of September.

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End of WAR 0198.

References