

File 20100802.1946: The ATAS system timed out and ate my personal statement after I spent an hour polishing it. Here is my best reconstruction:

Update: I recovered it. Here are the thesis and personal statement texts:

Thesis/Area of research as agreed with the University OR course modules if doing a taught masters

Certification and accreditation of cross domain systems for handling classified information in the US and UK governments.

Personal statement of purpose; use this space to clarify why you are interested in this area of research

I have been working in the area of cross domain system security accreditation and software development for more than twelve years. I have seen that the cost of high assurance software development and security certification and accreditation to the US and UK governments is high in terms of expense, time, and effort. In 2006 I observed the failure of a large project to achieve government security certification and proposed to study the failure as a means of developing an improved tool for avoiding such failures in future. To this end, I have developed a model of accreditor–accreditor interactions based on observation of the first project along with another software certification project related to it and from discussion with US and UK government security accreditors and certifiers. I am currently three years into a DPhil programme on this subject, on track to finish in mid-2011. Beyond my immediate research programme, which is necessarily limited in scope so as to fit in the time allowed for a DPhil, I have three-year, five-year, and ten-year plans to continue my research through at least one postdoc and continuing into a career that combines industry research, publication, and teaching.

## References