

File 20110216.1030: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin.

I met with Dr Martin on Wednesday to report progress. I described the detailed outline for Chapters 2, 3 and 4 that I am working on. In Chapter 4, the case study overview begins with transfer CDS solutions on the UCDMO baseline and a necessary amount of context. Stakeholders (I have been using the word ‘participants’ until now, but stakeholders is the word used in grounded theory; I have to make sure I understand the definition and that it does not imply unintended meanings) include the government programme office, COTR, IV&V representatives and liasons, as well as the certification testers, certification authority—in both advisory and evaluative capacity, the developer and the field sites waiting on a certified CDS. Issues uncovered most obviously include cost, expressed in time, resources and budget, but especially time to completion of certification testing and the role of the GPO in pushing the certification testers to minimise their test coverage. The COTR expressed clear evidence of the difficulty of balancing this multi-way stress network during CT&E, but could not or dared not bring more to bear on the certifiers or evaluators for fear of slippage. One thing in particular that kept coming up was the expense of maintaining trained engineers on site during IV&V, regression and penetration testing; an evaluation of whether had this been done it would have resulted in a cost-effective reduction in calendar time needs to be done. Another aspect that remains to be analysed is the role of sites and the associated project managers with regard to important accreditations unable to proceed without an approved CDS and precluded by other approvals from substituting a different controlled interface to make deadlines. I will have detailed outlines of all three chapters for Dr Martin next week.

Next meeting set for Tuesday, 22nd February at 5pm UK time; Dr Martin will be on travel but we will do it over the network.

References