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weekly activity report 179 (loughry)

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Arrived in Oxford early this morning. The flight over was uneventful. Lack of sleep is becoming a problem, however.

I met with Dr Martin briefly this week to report on new information I received regarding inter-developer interactions in the CDS ecosystem and how it affects data owner perceptions of the accreditability of CDS alternatives when the data owners and DAAs specify their architectures. I received a very long letter this week from one of my correspondents containing a wealth of specific detail from the developer perspective. The letter is important, but I am not sure how it fits into the GT working hypothesis yet. There is also a problem with confidentiality. It is clear how to code the information, and how to insert it into my growing issue network, but the problem is I do not know how much it would be correct to allow the information to more or less redirect the emerging direction of the grounded theory. There is discussion relevant to the issue in two articles by Geer (1964) and Coleman (1961) both of which appear in the collection edited by Hammond (1964). I have three other people to talk to in light of this new information: JP/F, TF and GS who were all additionally direct participants in the event. If I get positive results from two of the three, I will let the sub-graph have a non-zero weighting factor. Including this new information accords well with the recommendations of the methodology; if the GT hypothesis does not change in light of the new data, then the theory is bolstered. I will talk with Dr Martin about it when we meet in his office.

I have time booked with Dr Martin after the weekend, during which I have to go to another site. I had hoped to meet with Dr Jirotko also next week to discuss low-level implementation of the GT, particularly the standard of presentation of evidence, but she is unavailable. Application for confirmation of status is due the first Tuesday after Easter; Dr Martin agreed with my intended plan to take all the time available for preparation of a good report. There was no reading group meeting last week, but I will be there for the security reading group meeting on Wednesday in person.

Monday's seminar with Rt. Hon. David Blunkett, MP reportedly went well. Dr Martin is going to send me the recording.

The R'' developer in Colorado is deciding how to deal with a request from the new programme manager in Arizona for a copy of the CDS source code. On the face of it, he is the new programme manager and if he wants the source code, all he has to do is ask for it. The software engineers, however, are reluctant to hand over their largest trade secret to their biggest competitor. Someone suggested to print out the source code on paper. Someone else suggested to fax it on the secure fax, which operates at 9600 baud.

I am thinking of suggesting the paper by Wei, et al. on 'Reliably Erasing Data From Flash-Based Solid State Drives' from the 9th USENIX Conference

on File and Storage Technologies (FAST'11) in San Jose a few weeks ago. It is an important topic and an emerging variation on a security concern that I encounter regularly. Secure destruction of all sorts of storage devices becomes the only feasible alternative as the limit of transfer speed divided into capacity begins to approach the MTBF of physical devices. I can talk about this in more detail at reading group if no one else suggests a paper for Wednesday.

Next meeting with Dr Martin is scheduled for Tuesday, 15th March 2011 at 10am. I will update the task list afterwards.

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End of WAR 0179.

References