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weekly activity report 186 (loughry)

Joe Loughry

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Good progress on writing this week although I am short of my estimate. I believed I would have Chapters 1--3 to Dr Martin for Easter a few days ago, but I missed it as a result of unforeseen events. I reported status to Dr Martin separately, then got back to work. I had a good writing day yesterday and made real progress late last night. I think you will be pleased with the new introduction.

I attended two relevant lectures out-of-hours this week: firstly, 'What the Security Profession can Learn from the Intelligence Profession' by Ira Winkler, and an IEEE Computer Society lecture titled 'Controlling the Conversation: Technology and Organisational Decision Making' by David Alan Grier, E.I.C. of the IEEE journal Annals of the History of Computing. Winkler described the Requirements, Collection, Analysis and Interpretation process used by intelligence agencies and contrasted it with the focussed but narrow attack forms that individuals have the capability to mount. Aptitude is necessary but it is insufficient or at least inefficient without support from allied resources who can exploit collection opportunities simultaneously with interpretation. He made some good points about threat, vulnerability and risk tolerance that I made note of. Dr Grier's talk was towards a philosophical theory of scientific and engineering communication with the general public.

The R'' developer was at the Cross Domain Technical Forum (CDTF) last week and reported back some interesting material about NSA I8 group, who are recommending and in some cases now mandating new guards or CDS. BF is definitely advocating within I8 for R''. Version 5.01 regression testing was formally witnessed by Dave Aushman (NSA I173) and the developer is hopeful that the certifier will accept the paperwork without wanting to run more tests. The government programme manager has obtained funding for 5.1 development and is looking at funding 6.0 as well. In a different meeting, I learnt something new about the Systems Engineering manager's opinion of one of the IV&V personnel. It all goes in the grounded theory file for coding and categorising.

My status this week is writing and I am pleased with progress.

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End of WAR 0186.

References