

File 20110722.0841: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin:

Skype is not very good about updating our respective statuses. Dr Martin had been on-line but I couldn't see him and he IM'd me but I never saw it.

I started off by saying I want us to send a proposal to the Trustworthy Digital Systems call for proposals. Dr Martin said Dr Fléchais was looking at it already. I need to get a copy of the green paper with the specifications for proposals in it. Dr Martin thought it might be available only by logging into their portal. The deadline for proposals is noon, 13th September.

I reported good progress on Chapter 3 after I stopped obsessing about Chapter 2. I figured out the problem with the accreditor communication security policy: by putting in a controlled interface, essentially a cross domain system in the middle of the security model, I can handle the problem of non-hierarchical relationships, e.g., accreditors from France and Germany who lack a hierarchical security classification relationship to mediate their communication. It's a bit recursive, but I think I can now make a matrix showing allowed and disallowed flows and show that it is water tight.

Getting ready for the UCDMO conference, I showed Dr Martin the data sheet for the CLOAK probabilistic redaction system. I am being asked now to give a talk on how it works, something I had not planned on. I am making arrangements for people I want to talk to at the conference; everybody in the defence C&A community will be there, and I am very excited about it. Next Friday I will be frantically getting ready to go. I will try to minimise the amount of time I am on the AFRL booth demonstrating; I don't want to be their booth bunny.

I have three weeks to finish writing these chapters in time to submit written work when I said I would. I described my plan to break out the coding and analytical memos from my notes file into a form for the assessors to read. Dr Martin was particularly positive about including that same material as an appendix to the dissertation. It is the only way someone reading the dissertation could gain access to that information, he said. It is a good idea to format it cleanly like that for the assessors.

NOTE: mark proprietary information in the coding material as a separate code.

We discussed using Skype for the viva, and I hesitated, as its reliability is not good and I thought it shows respect if I come there in person. As a bonus, I can react more effectively to changes in direction if I am there. I said the only reason I would use Skype is if another Icelandic volcano erupts.

Dr Martin will be on holiday in the antipodes for three weeks. If that volcano erupts, he might get stuck there for an extended time. He may have email the first week, and possibly the third week, but the second week of August he will be in the rain forest (?) having a good time. I promised to send him regular updates, but with the understanding that he is not supposed to read them and mark them up whilst he is on holiday.

I reported that I had emailed both assessors but not heard anything back from them. Dr Martin suggested I ping them again today. Dr Fléchais is in the department today but going on holiday for two weeks. The college may not actually know when Dr Jirotko is on holiday; Dr Martin never tells his college that. (I did email the assessors.)

Next meeting slated for Friday, 29th July at 0800 MDT, 1500 BST.

References