

File 20100111.1400: Notes from meeting with Steve Steinberger at Starbucks this morning:

- ...a little *mea culpa*, but not too much.
- Have a plan for getting going.
- Not giving up is the most important thing now.
- Have a metric in your back pocket. Something they can use to measure your progress. But don't offer it right away. Keep it in reserve for if and when they ask for something more than your plan and your progress.
- The three things to have ready when you go in to talk with Prof. Kwiatkowska are:
 1. Real progress to show off
 2. A plan for getting to the end
 3. A metric (but keep it in reserve and do not offer unless she asks for it)
- Owego merged with Virginia. Something to do with sensors group. Look at the corporate news for a memo a few days ago; you can find the details there.
- What happened with Owego? Did this fiasco actually finish them?
- Look up LMCO memos for Owego news.
- I asked Mr Steinberger for advice on writing from his perspective of having supervised thesis students before. He gave me some:
 - State the good stuff up front so that skimmers get the gist quickly.
 - The rest is supporting info.
 - State clearly at the beginning: 'this is what I am trying to prove'.
- I mentioned that I volunteered to give a seminar on Friday.
- Another piece of advice he gave me is that Brits like to see you sticking to the path. Don't tell them that you're going to do one thing and then a year later change your mind. Show that you are *sticking to the path* and being consistent. (It is a good thing that my original graduate school research proposal dealt with streamlining C&A—didn't it?)
- Brits are very focussed on Risk Management.
- Also, show in your entire argument that what you are proposing is logistically supportable. Your prototype *must* be part of a life cycle. Show the examiners that it's really part of a long term research plan, with prototype, improvement and evolution, operation, metrics, further improvement, O&M and retirement/replacement all as part of the bargain. This is a ten or fifteen year long research programme, not just a DPhil dissertation. Make sure they get that. Show a roadmap and a life cycle.
- How did Owego get out of the hole they were in? They really got slammed by the British report.
- Ask Dave Williams about it. Ask him about Ian Levy as a person. He knows Dr Levy well and will talk with you if you contact him.

References