File 20090407.1000: I met Christopher Smith (UK) and David Kleidermacher (US) from Green Hills Software, Inc. and Integrity Systems. We discussed EAL6+ CC evaluation; I again encouraged them to write a book about it. I suggested they make a student version of INTEGRITY-178b available. Mr Kleidermacher said that their [the company's] greatest expense in doing that is support—people need support and the company can't very well staff the necessary support lines without impacting their resources for supporting paying customers like Lockheed Martin. Ideally, what works best for them is when an organic support guru develops within an organisation and becomes the go-to guy for questions in the future. Learns the tools, reads the manual, evangelises use of the RTOS throughout the organisation and acts as first-level technical support. The company have been successful with that at one California college, maybe it was Harvey Mudd.

Green Hills would love to come in and do a one-day conference to engineers and managers in an organisation to introduce their product. They are happy to leave the development system behind and working, but only if the local tech support is willing to grow around it. More than engineers, who does the company need to see at these presentations? Four or five hand-picked managers with authority to select the product to actually be used (and purchased). If it's only engineers without any managers, that's less attractive to GHS to come in.

I think they need to write that book about the EAL6+ evaluation. Not just the certification, but the tools, the people (SAIC and Rockwell–Collins, NSA, Cynthia Irvine...), and the experiences. Tell it like an adventure story. It would be a best-seller.

David Kleidermacher told me a story about a Chinese disk drive. It had Seagate's name on it. Whenever it was used, it would 'phone home' all the data.

- Hmm...tell it like an adventure story. Compare to the failed project (RTG 1.0) as well. There are a lot of bodies left along the trail that you guys got to the end of. 'The timid never left and the weaklings died along the way.'

- The beginning of the story would make an excellent paper in *Crosstalk*.

- Do I have time? Talk to Dr Martin about this on Thursday.

- I'm thinking Oxford University Press.

- EAL1 was driven by NSTISSSP № 11. EAL4 is worthless according to everyone in the IC. Mr Kleidermacher proposed to eliminate everything below EAL5 anyway as worthless.

References