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weekly activity report 194 (loughry)

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I am still trying to finish Chapter 2 and have started writing Chapter 3. For confirmation I need to have Chapters 1--3, part of 4, and Appendix A entirely completed by the end of July. I received a letter from the MPLS graduate office this week telling me to apply for confirmation of status---which I did before Easter---and reiterating that I should submit before Friday, 13th January 2012. I am confident I can finish writing up by then.

Working in a sense on Chapter 3 already, I searched for an explanation of the special outlook common to accreditors and certifiers. I think I found it in Whyte's characterisation of 'the organisation man'; the actions and words I observed from several participants in the first case study are a nearly perfect match for what Whyte described in 1956. This is why I am late delivering the second chapter; I needed the right way to illustrate the methodology I was struggling to describe. I will turn in a complete Chapter 2 to Dr Martin, I hope, by Monday.

I got Shamal's dissertation today. I can look at how he wrote up a grounded theory chapter. I hope that audio recordings of the ISPP seminars by Dr Price and Dr Wright will be available on the web site soon so I can listen to them.

GSS report was turned in on time last week.

There was a report recently of an interesting new information leakage problem. It was on Bruce Schneier's blog this morning [1]. Two lawyers were charged with insider trading after they allegedly deduced upcoming mergers and acquisitions from the titles of documents in the firm's document management system [2]. There was enough information in the titles of documents to leak useful amounts of confidential data with no need to read the documents themselves, which would have left an audit trail if the documents had been accessed by an unauthorised associate. The titles were not so protected, and users were storing information in the titles. It is like a combination of the aggregation problem in classified information and an error sometimes made by database designers: storing information in the key (it makes normalisation more difficult later).

References:

[1] T. Harbert. 'Catch Me If You Can'. Law Technology News, 1st June 2011. URI: <http://www.law.com/jsp/lawtechnologynews/PubArticleFriendlyLTN.jsp?id=1202494769505&slreturn=1&hbxlogin=1>

[2] United States District Court, District of New Jersey. 'Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws: Securities and Exchange Commission, Plaintiff v. Matthew H. Kluger and Garrett D. Bauer, Defendants'. Case No. 11-cv-01936-KSH, 2011.

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End of WAR 0194.

References