

File 20090619.1832: Email I sent to Dr Martin in response to denial of permission from CESC to meet with Ian Levy:

Dear Dr Martin,

I just heard. I suppose CESC's lawyers didn't like the letter of introduction from Lockheed Martin's legal department. Or perhaps they vetoed it for other reasons. The last interaction I had with Dr Levy in person; he asked for such a letter, saying that he couldn't talk to me about the subject without it. I went to my legal department and requested a letter, spelling out what I wanted it to say. The legal department tried to pass the buck to HR, but HR balked at it and Legal eventually wrote something. The letter ended up very nonspecific though and was not the strong statement of 'we are cooperating with Mr Loughry on this important software engineering research project' that I wanted. In the spirit of full disclosure [1] and because the letter was wishy-washy, I showed him both the letter that Legal eventually wrote and the email trail that led to it. It wasn't a very strong letter.

I wonder if I ought to go back to Legal, after I have one good high-quality publication under my belt (i.e. in a few more months), and request more assertively a better letter. I will do that.

I speculate (this is only speculation) that CESC is loath to jeopardise their position as a trusted third party amongst CLEFs, consumers, vendors, and the government & military. I can understand that. The very fact of their refusal to meet with me is an interesting data point that I might be able to interpret some meaning from. So it's a disappointment (I like Ian Levy and was looking forward to talking with him again) but I have a long list of other people to interview. I've not given up on perhaps being successful getting access to him in future.

I was going to tell you my sad story in our meeting on Tuesday. I wanted to think about it.

-Joe

[1] Besides, I knew he'd look at the metadata :-) I sent him the Word .doc file on purpose.

In message <bb74566d0906190857sba2e33816ad5546c42dffd1@mail.gmail.com> Andrew Martin <Andrew.Martin@comlab.ox.ac.uk> writes:

> Joe - I have just caught up with Ian today. I think there must have been
> > some wire's crossed somewhere. Ian say's he had told you that he legally
> > can't do it.
>
>
>
> Is that right, or are things getting confused?
>
> Cheers
>
> Andrew

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Joe Loughry
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References