

File 20100311.0805: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin this morning:

I emailed the agenda out ahead of time; Dr Martin called me at 0715. Today, mostly I had many small items to ask about. I reported that I do not have the 2nd International Conference on Advances in System Testing and Validation Lifecycle conference paper written yet; I wanted to have that for today but I didn't get it done. I am working on it urgently. Dr Martin offered to look the paper over before I submit it, which of course I will do and take advantage of.

I told Dr Martin about Miranda's eyes today, explaining why I have been acting so strangely. Stargardt's disease is a juvenile form of macular degeneration, progressive, inherited. There is no cure. One thing that might help is putting this 3M metal film window treatment on all the windows in the house, so yesterday we had to move all the furniture away from the windows and then the workmen never showed up. All the ophthalmologists can tell us is to have her wear sunglasses all the time, which might help, or might not. In a year my daughter will probably be blind. It doesn't seem to bother *her* that much; she is dealing with it fine. There is a possibility of a cure in four or five years; two treatments are just going into clinical trials now, one of which is a chip implanted in the retina. So we have hope that they might be able to reverse it in five years. Sorry to tell Dr Martin about it, but I wanted to tell him what was going on so he knew why I have been behaving so strangely.

I think I handled that all right. It does not affect my research or progress, just news of what's happening. I need to assure Dr Martin that it is not going to affect my research or progress.

Next, I reported that the GSO.17 form would probably come to Dr Martin for signature. He said he'd already seen it and signed it. Julie is good. The GSS report was submitted on time.

I next reported about conversations I have been having with people at Lockheed on the certification progress of RM 5.0. Olav and Kevin are in D.C. negotiating the certification. Interestingly, I reported, there are two certifiers who are working at cross purposes; one lady has been blocking it on the SSL issue; another man is championing it. This interaction will definitely go into my write-up for my dissertation. I reported to Dr Martin that I have been listening in to voice telecons and doing informal interviews with people, watching the certification process without participating in it. Olav, Kevin, and Orville are my best sources so far, as well as watching emails go by and sitting in a few in-person meetings that have occurred in Colorado. Mostly, I learn from listening to conference calls. I have been taking good notes and learning from watching the process happen.

I talked about another related series of events that have been happening lately on programme: the 8570.1 certification requirement. I explained that 8570.1 is a DOD requirement that all persons (government, military, and contractors) who touch DOD computer systems with privileged access must have one of this short list of commercial security certifications, CISSP being the preferred one. Interestingly, Lockheed seems to be dragging their feet on this requirement; the U.S. government reports their own compliance rate to be somewhat behind schedule, and they recently delayed the final deadline from end of Fiscal Year 2010 to end of Calendar Year 2010 to achieve 100% compliance, but the company does not appear to be doing enough to achieve compliance with 8570.1 by the end of this year. I estimate 40–60 people on programme who need certifications, and the cost to certify that many people will be \$100,000.00. With the recent funding problems that the programme has been experiencing (the Navy hasn't paid its bills since October 2009), where are they going to get the money? Worse, what if as I predict, the contracting officer or COTR writes 8570.1 compliance into the contract at contract renegotiation time, and the programme suddenly finds itself in the situation of needing to get all 40–60 of those people certified before the end of CY 1010, *ie* in three months? Where is that money going to come from?

Funding issues affecting the progress of the RM 5.0 certification effort? They are already going to miss the COTR's own 15th April deadline. What could they be thinking?

(I was surprised to hear that the Navy hadn't paid its bills since the end of the last fiscal year. The programme manager must have been pulling his hair out, and yet workers on the programme did not realise what was going on. Impressive, on the programme manager's side. The newer, less experienced people on the programme are worried. The old hands have seen it happen time and again. They're still worried for their jobs, but have seen stop work orders happen before.) I need to ask Chip what might happen if the contract were to be modified (in time for end of the fiscal year in October 2010) to demand 8570.1 compliance by December 2010. It would cost \$100,000.00. Where would the money come from? Update: I have a call into a trusted source (Chip) asking about that.

Finally, I asked Dr Martin a few questions about the mechanics of submitting a paper to a journal or conference: is it normal to submit in double space? Dr Martin said he has never seen a submission double spaced, and if they don't specify it, don't do it. The page limit that the conference does specify

says six pages, and that probably means normal spacing. Dr Martin remarked that twice as much text fits on a page in IEEE format as compared with LNCS format. I need to look at the past proceedings of this conference and mimic the page format that they used before for my submission.

I reported that Lockheed has asked me to do four more talks. They must like my talks. Dr Martin seemed pleased and encouraged me to give those talks. They provide a beneficial imposition of structure and deadline and encourage progress, if the talks are all different (and they are). Dr Martin told me to try to make each talk correspond with a chapter or section, as a way of leveraging work.

I have been corresponding with Tracey Wells in the Careers Service about helping them out with an article about international students later on.

Meeting ended 07.38 (duration 24 minutes). Next meeting not scheduled yet.

References