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weekly activity report 196 (loughry)

Joe Loughry

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I met with Dr Martin today. We hashed the three sub-parts of my thesis statement back and forth a few times, and talked about framing academic arguments. I reported that the tenure of project managers in combined software development and certification & accreditation projects seems to be more important than first thought. Corroborating my own evidence from the second and third case studies, a National Audit Office report published in the UK this week identified project manager turnover as an important contributing factor in the failure of the FiReControl project. This is supported by a recent IEEE paper by Weissman and Levin (2011) and a 2010 memorandum written by Maj. Gen. Flynn (USA) regarding DCGS-A. The aforementioned conclusion is an observational finding; the second part of the thesis is interpretive (claim: that the problem is inherent to cross domain system accreditation and manifests in repetitive re-testing) and finally the third part is prescriptive or exploratory (claim: it can be solved by means of controlled channels without violating the global security policy). It is a well-balanced thesis.

I have twenty-seven weeks left before the submission deadline. That is enough time, but the immediate hurdle is confirmation of status.

I received an email from the MPLS graduate office this week saying that they have processed my application and I can submit written work for the assessors any time. Dr Martin and I agreed today that I will send the written work at the end of July. To get there, the first thing to do is to give him the complete Chapter 2 by midnight Wednesday evening, followed by Chapter 3. Next meeting set for 1500 BST (0800 MDT) Friday, 15th July.

The R'' developer's systems engineering manager reported this week that CDTAB findings on version 5.0.1 will be provided to the DSAWG next week for what is expected to be routine SABI approval. This may be followed by some minor paperwork at the UCDMO, but it is expected that an updated baseline will be announced at the UCDMO conference next month. Interestingly, switch-out of the COTS LDAP server in favour of open source software is expected to greatly reduce the memory footprint in addition to being a significant cost savings per installation site.

I owe the Air Force a quarterly progress report, which I will write tomorrow. We are finishing the alternative network representation for demonstration of the redaction system at the UCDMO conference in a few weeks.

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End of WAR 0196.

References