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weekly activity report 180 (loughry)

Joe Loughry

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Weekly activity report no. 20110318.1117 (GMT-6) sequence no. 0180, week 9 HT

Arrived back in Colorado late Thursday night. No problems encountered in transit.

I met with Dr Martin to present my new plan Tuesday at 10 AM in his office. We discussed the plan and made some adjustments. Application for confirmation of status is due before Easter; that gives me three weeks to write the chapters to be submitted with the application, leaving enough time for polishing the first draft before the application is due. Short-term objective (3--4 weeks) is COS application with written work before Easter. Medium term objective (5--6 months) is COS viva in the summer with provision of revised chapters bearing change bars two weeks before the confirmation viva for the assessors to re-review at that time. Long term objective (slightly less than 1 year) is submission of the thesis by 13th January 2012. Outline of the thesis has not changed, but Dr Martin advised strongly that I should give the assessors a document that feels like a thesis, not just a set of disconnected chapters.

After that meeting, I had a long discussion with Shamal Faily on experience with GT methodology. I brought back a stack of papers to read, plus more references out of a couple of books from the Bodleian stacks that I was unable to obtain from university libraries out here. I have enough material now to complete the literature review of the GT methodology. Additionally from Shamal I got his thoughts from recent experience writing up the results of GT analyses; they are notoriously difficult to review, he said, and there are ways of writing and presenting them that can make the findings more clear. I met with Dr Flchais briefly as one of the assessors for my COS; Dr Jirotko was not available this week.

Reading group this week met to discuss the paper by David S. Wall (Leeds), 'Cybercrime and the Culture of Fear' [J. Info., Comm., & Soc. 11(6), Sept. 2008, pp. 861--884], suggested by Shamal. It was one of the largest turnouts for reading group in quite a while, and turned out to be an interesting paper despite the heavy influence of literary criticism. Dr Flchais mentioned a new book, Fatal System Error, that I should look at. After reading group, we waited for John Lyle to escape from his viva, then took him to the Royal Oak. Details of the reading group discussion, Royal Oak discussion, and other meetings are in my notes.

I attended a lecture by Prof. Brian Greene on multiverse theory Monday evening and read his new book. I suggested the new paper by Wei, et al. (2011) on secure clearing of solid-state storage media for the next reading group. I will send out an announcement with a link today.

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End of WAR 0180.

References