

File 20120103.1145: Notes from Systems Engineering meeting this morning, conducted by Kevin R. Miller:

News on programme: managers currently trying to get the Navy to allocate the money to pay for RM 5.1 and RM 6.0. Dan Griffin gave the money to the wrong people. Typical of him. You never know where Dan's money goes.

5.1 first build was a few weeks ago, containing lots of new functionality—John Forbes is now testing it. Testing of 5.1 is going slowly because there are no software people here; Russ gone all month, Ian out too. Trying to get all CRs into 5.1.

Question: does the programme office consider the programme to be understaffed? Answer: it is the budget that doesn't allow it. Dan doesn't have the money. For example, consider the test lab. With Scott gone, Kori Phillips has only a rotating test engineer in the lab. They go on installs, and then he has nobody. Test lab maintenance is now divided amongst Kevin, Eric, and Jackie. All the test engineers have been laid off. Dan needs to come up with four million dollars, and we don't know where it's going to come from. The programme is at bare bones minimum staffing right now, Kevin can't see any way it could get smaller.

Tresys are the true experts on SE Linux. Kevin thinks they wrote SE Linux for NSA. The developer is bringing in Tresys in the new year to write a good security policy for the port to Linux. It is kind of a conflict of interest, since NSA pays Tresys to evaluate SE Linux security policies at evaluation time; at a road show attended by Kevin a few weeks ago, it was kind of an open secret that if you want your security policy to pass evaluation, get Tresys to write it for you. They do the evaluations, and so they tend to look the other way when they see a security policy that they wrote. It was clearly intimated that this was the case.

RM 5.1 goes to the government testers by June or July. RM 6.0 must be to the government testers by Spring 2014. Of course, the developer knows they will probably miss that date by a few months; it probably won't be spring, it'll be fall or winter. In January 2015, RM 5.0 will drop off the UCDMO list. Last time it happened, they didn't quite make the deadline, but it wasn't a disaster; look at ISSE; they haven't been on the list for two years. The developer was off the UCDMO list last time for a couple of months, and it wasn't a big problem. 'ISSE is kind of a dead product. RM is the one to beat.'

Other things going on on-programme: new hardware purchases: new training laptops, new switches, maybe a new server if it gets approved. The new server will be the source code management server.

Somebody forgot to pay the Sun [Oracle] bill again. No hardware or patch support; can't download patches at all presently. Oops.

Discussion of QA reorg: one person took voluntary layoff, one other in Colorado Springs is moving to the DCMA organisation; interacts with DCMA. At end of January, Derek goes away; they are interviewing a new QA person now. All indirect-charging people in the building got the letter a few months ago, including all of HR.

GeoScout let go their entire finance team. Barely anyone left over there.

Discussion of Lockheed's acquisition of the Antarctic Polar Services contract from Raytheon. You have to have elective surgery done—at your own expense—before they will let you work down there. That means appendix, wisdom teeth, tonsils out before you go.

References