

File 20100415.2232: The deadline for abstracts for the 4th UCDMO Conference is tomorrow.

Title: Information Asymmetry in Cross Domain Accreditation

Abstract: The theoretical difficulty of cross domain systems emerges from the fact that by definition they span at least one boundary between security domains controlled by different data owners. Consequently, new installations of certified solutions regularly encounter security testing criteria that represent the duplicated responsibility for residual risk of multiple data owners. Each data owner perceives a different set of risks A that would be desirable to mitigate, a set of risks B it is possible to mitigate¹, and their relative complement $A - B$, being the set of residual risks acceptable not to mitigate. Time and cost inefficiency in multilateral cross domain system accreditation to this point arises necessarily from asymmetry of knowledge, but there is room for a solution: the developer or installer of a cross domain system may know about extant risk mitigations that not all data owners are cleared for. If it were possible securely to establish amongst data owners a concord about the true extent of residual risk resulting from overlapping risk mitigations and testing², the unnecessary cost of duplicated effort could be greatly reduced. In support of this goal, a new tool, called *nihil obstat*, is being developed to present accreditation data in a common format.

I sent the abstract to Olav and Dr Martin tonight. If I don't hear anything back by tomorrow morning, I will submit the abstract to the conference.

References

¹There is expected to be wide agreement on what B is.

²Some data owners may find serendipitously that a portion of their $A - B$ risks have been mitigated by security controls introduced by another data owner, but the first data owner might not be cleared to know what those controls are, or even that the risk has been mitigated.