

File 20110913.1130: Notes from Systems Engineering staff meeting, 1100 today: transition task order proposal submitted to Navy; the developer got an offer back from the Navy; it took a whole bunch of arguments to get the Navy to accept it. The proposal was for \$1.2 million. Dan Griffin pulled up \$300K; LM submitted a reduced estimate of \$800K; NMSO and the Navy issued a new offer of \$600K but with no fee. At end of day yesterday, LM upper management were deciding whether to accept the offer. ‘Fee’ means profit. However, the situation is better than zero. The developer is reluctant to accept money without fee because it looks like an implicit admission that they overran a task. The developer says they never overran anything. But any time you accept money without fee, it looks bad, and in future, someone not knowing the history behind the Navy’s offer of money without fee might reasonably conclude that the developer indeed overran.

The Navy de-scoped RMUG from three days to two and probably other conferences next year also; the UCDMO conference will probably be attended by fewer people. Dan loves RMUG; Kevin thinks Dan will come up with the money for it. Kevin says Dan always says there is no money, but when pressed to the wall, always comes up with it.

RM 5.1 first build in the second week of October. This is a major build. Container simplification is the largest change; removes task threads, addees, and other confusing historical leftovers, leaving only rules now. The developer is getting rid of the COTS LDAP library; Oracle charges more for that piece than for Solaris. New GUI; the web browser is gone now. The web browser was the source of the majority of CT&E findings. The new GUI is written in Java.

NSA sponsored SNMP MIB is in 5.1, about 200 entries for guards defined by NSA. Java Messaging Services (JMS) channel: a highly demanded capability funded by L-245; work begins on JMS channel Monday. SSL sockets, a capability that has been done for more than a year, but this is the first time it’s going in.

This is an exciting build; it moves RM further down the roadmap. The next build will be 6.0, removing the X11 server and making RM completely headless. All control and administration will be done from another box. Every CT&E in the past has beat the developer up on console physical access (even with cleared users in a secure environment); future CT&E will be forced to attack the box only remotely.

Kevin’s next task is cost estimate on the Linux–Solaris trade study. The technical trade study showed Linux a clear winner on technical merits. Because of money reasons, the developer might be forced to make the wrong technical decision. Going to Linux now will cost more money now, but in a few years when Oracle loses interest in Linux, the developer would be forced to move to Linux anyway, and that would waste millions. [When asked by Kevin, I gave my opinion that I agree with the trade study that Linux is a clear win on technical merits, but regardless of cost, I see Solaris as a higher risk option because Oracle is interested in databases only; they have no stake in the OS they inherited from Sun. The risk of Solaris OS software life cycle getting out of sync with its hardware life cycle—like has happened four or five times already—is high. Linux has that problem not.]

Power outage this weekend, affecting green network only; power outage darkening the whole building 1st October. Even the badge readers will not work. Nobody come in the weekend of 1st October.

References