

File 20110426.1200: Notes from Systems Engineering mtg, conducted by Kevin Miller. CDTF last week: another guard vendor gave a presentation and their product was dirt cheap—not much functionality, but enough for their niche. The RM developer expects to see a lot more of that in the near future.

The government programme manager has obtained 5.1 development money. The RM developer will use the money to move more functionality to Java, but removing the X server and container simplification will wait until 6.0. The government programme manager is looking at funding for 6.0 as well.

At CDTF last week, run by the NSA I8 group, Boyd Fletcher is in that group. They funded the development of DFCF and COTS XML. They are recommending and in some cases mandating on new guards. Approximately a hundred people were in attendance at CDTF. All the CDS vendors were there. Boyd Fletcher mentioned ‘RM’ more than any other CDS.

5.01 formal regression testing is done, and the paperwork will be transmitted Thursday. Dave Aushman of NSA I173 witnessed the formal regression testing in Denver. The developer is hopeful that the certifier will accept it without wanting to run a lot of extra tests themselves.

Mike Pahl and Greg Shettlesworth are both gone. The RM programme is extremely top-heavy, with 12 Level 5s out of 40 engineers. In comparison, TMAN has one Level 5; their programme is all junior engineers. Level 5s who perform the rôle of installers must also be an SME or a leader, else they could never get above Basic rating on their annual performance review. For example, Larry Brown is an SME in addition to being an installer. Ian McGlothlin is an SME.

Exciting new business: JTRS is asking for RM in a backpack and RM in a vehicle. The developer is looking for a battery-powered system with extensive tamper resistance to host the software on. They do not know what the anti-tamper requirements are yet. The developer is also looking into using TPM for attestation and secure boot. Some of the other guards (STOP, for instance) use a simple technique they call ‘canaries’ in their software. I encouraged the RM developer to employ the full force of TPM and do it right, and standards-compliant. Finally, there is a new contract to put RM on all the Navy ships smaller than aircraft carriers. RM is primarily installed on big decks now. Rumour has it that the Navy assigned the RM government programme manager the task of deciding which CDS vendor to use for this project. RM was chosen.

Kevin Miller has a low opinion of Geoff McGarrigle. (Did he say ‘drunk’? The conference call audio today was poor.)

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## References