

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Back Early from my travels
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 11:39:19 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: r.krosley@andropogon.org
To: 'Roger Thompson', Shames, Peter M (US 312B)
Attachments: ASL-ADD Draft M 2Dec19 accept Marek.docx

Welcome back, Roger,

I'm glad that you and your family are well. Your return is a good adventure story.

Does this mean that you will be at the May virtual CCSDS meetings?

SOIS working groups will be meeting from 4:00am to 8:00am mountain daylight time. That provides some opportunity for avoiding overlap with SAWG meetings.

I have some comments on the ASL-ADD book from Marek Prochazka (attached), and I'm expecting more from Richard Melvin and from Jonathan Wilmot. I will forward the latter later. Here is a brief summary of what to expect:

Richard asked yesterday "how can that book be implemented?"; I responded that, being green, the book would be implemented by organizing CCSDS activities to produce blue and magenta books, but perhaps there is a better answer.

Marek's summary comments in an email are more specific. These are intended constructively to avoid rejection of the document by ESA.

"The discussion about the SOIS silvered

books and how to revive them in a useful way makes sense - but it makes sense to discuss, not to publish in a document proposing

"reference architecture". All this theoretical concept about MO services based architecture and services onboard, without even having

the services or their requirements, seems to me a bit odd - and this is the objective of the document.

Individual CCSDS standards address small particular problems and improve interoperability. I agree

with Peter Shames that it is

good to describe a big picture to show the whole context. However this document is not it, because it broadens this context in all

directions by a number of speculations, unproven technical recommendations and unjustified claims."

Here are some thoughts generated from Marek's general comments:

- Regarding the focus of SOIS material: I think that the idea of a skeletal architecture providing a basis for consistency among solutions to blue and magenta small particular problems and interoperability is what we were trying to achieve, but sometimes my writing got into the weeds. For example, the future directions were a smorgasbord collected from informal conversations, often without the full representation of working groups. I requested that we, the SOIS groups, spend some time identifying what are the items in the smorgasbord that merit work in SOIS. This exercise will likely diminish the mass of SOIS text. There could be objections to specific architectural issues yet to come.
- Regarding MOIMS on board: Marek represents the position at ESTEC that MOIMS is not likely to be implemented for ESA. I think this position leads to the thought that there should be requirements from space agencies directing our work in CCSDS. There is a management structure in CCSDS CMC and in IOAG to provide guidance, but I think that this guidance does not often rise to the level of requirements in SOIS. I don't know the corresponding background for MOIMS. As far as I know, the management guidance appears in the existence of working groups, and in approval of their products. I hesitate to ask for any more concrete guidance; that would suppress the grassroots sense of what is needed. As far as I know, this grassroots channel is the channel for requirements from space agencies. We seem to have a difference of opinions among the people expressing those grassroots senses, and the resolution of the difference won't occur in the near term. In the meantime, the ASL-ADD book

provides options that are intended to protect the technical requirements of the conflicting grassroots senses. Let me know if I'm misunderstanding.

At this point, I am not sure how this general input should change the ASL-ADD book, except for the SOIS exercise outlined above. The specific comments in the document give us more precise material with which to work.

Ramon

From: Roger Thompson <roger.rocketbrain@btinternet.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:49 AM

To: peter.m.shames@jpl.nasa.gov; Ramon Krosley <r.krosley@andropogon.org>

Subject: Back Early from my travels

Hi Peter and Ramon,

This is just to let you know that I am back a month early from my travels – just!

We had been in New Zealand for about 3 weeks when things started changing rapidly. First our South Pacific trip became untenable and was cancelled and we were re-booked on a flight home via Singapore at the end of our New Zealand trip on 28th March, a week later. Then a couple of days later, New Zealand announced it was going into lockdown and Singapore shut its borders. We had to rapidly sort out accommodation and a car in case we were stuck in New Zealand for potentially months – which was looking like a real possibility. Then our tour operator managed to book us onto a return flight via San Francisco on 26th March. It was a very strange and apprehensive journey that took us 40 hours. We had to drive to Auckland from our temporary accommodation, drop the car at an airport hotel as the Hire Company was closed for lockdown – still not knowing if our flight was really going to leave (we would have been totally stuffed if it hadn't, without a car to get back to the accommodation). Auckland airport was deserted. We seemed to sit on the tarmac for ages, when there were no other flights, so we wondered whether the plane really was going to take off. In the end the Air NZ flight to San Francisco was relatively normal and very full. We then had a 9 hour transit in San Francisco airport, which was essentially closed – couldn't even get a cup of coffee. We were so relieved when the British Airways plane arrived – an A380. The return flight to London was weird. The plane was only 40% full and they only had emergency rations on board: water, dry crackers and a wrap, plus tea and coffee. But we made it home – we were very lucky, there are more than 8,000 Brits still stuck in New Zealand. The problem is you have to transit through somewhere, as it is not possible to fly direct. Also NZ has suspended domestic flights, so if you were on the South Island, you can't get to Auckland to catch one of the few flights available. I note that Germany was organising repatriation flights for its citizens, but our government was totally useless – you couldn't even get through to the High Commission in Wellington.

We and our family are all fine. My son's girlfriend had it, but recovered, and they were both in quarantine for 14 days – he reckons he must be immune too now, but has had no symptoms. Our youngest is with us here – she came home from University in Brighton. The middle daughter is in lockdown with her boyfriend in London – they seem fine. My parents are isolated in their care home – my brother cannot visit – and it looks like we will not be able to celebrate my father's 100th birthday, which is very sad.

I hope you and your families are both well.

I'm not sure what the status is currently on the Green Book and whether or not there are any comments to respond to, but I am now available to support if there is anything to do.
Would be grateful for an update.

Cheers,

Roger