

GSAW00 COTS Panel Outbriefing

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The Panel

- Ron Kohl (AverStar) chair
- Walter Green (Aerospace) co-chair
- Chris Absts - USC/CSE
- Pat Cappelaere, Interface & Control Systems
- Rex Pendley, Computer Sciences Corporation
- Fred Karres, GeoSpace, Inc.

Intended Goals

- Why? The use of COTS during the O&M phase is not well understood
- To identify COTS impacts and benefits to C&C Centers (and other GSs) during the O&M phase
- To identify future areas of pursuit by

Some 'seed' concerns of O&M

- Maintaining system capabilities based on current COTS products
- Evolving System capabilities, via COTS
- Retiring COTS products, transparently

What Happened?

- Panelists offered a set of ‘positions’
- Q&A of panelist + vibrant discussions
- Reviewed GSAW99 COTS list
- (re) Created a list of ‘COTS issues’, using GSAW99’s List of COTS issue (reuse!!)
- Prioritized the list
- Suggestion that we see if any of these issues are resolved/addressed by GSAW2001

COTS Issues - 2000

- Integration of multiple COTS products (17)
- Cost vs benefit of upgrading (15)
- Rqmts/needs vs COTS capabilities (13)
- Testing in Operational Context (11)
- Vendor relationships (7)
- Standards: good, bad, ugly? (6)
- Cross Platform portability (5)

COTS Issues (con't)

- API breakage (“unplug and replay”) (4)
- Acquisition/Support Strategies (4)
- Vendor responsiveness (3)
- Dormant functionality/features (2)
- Definition of COTS (‘for sale’ = COTS?) (2)
- Marketplace ‘maturity’ (1)
- COTS Evaluation Center (0)
- COTS C&C Center Users Group (0)
- Indemnification/legal (Product Liability) (0)
- average of 8.5 months between ‘upgrades’, 1999 value was 6.3 months

What next (reused from GSAW99)?

- Plan to have another COTS panel at GSAW2001
- Consider a theme/track on COTS (very prevalent in GSAW00)
- See if/what has changed at that time, using our 'issues' list as a baseline
- Consider doing research/work against some of the high priority issues

Summary (reused from GSAW99)

- COTS is good
- But,
 - many issues not yet unearthed
 - many costs not yet discovered
 - many benefits not yet realized
- Of 16 issues this year, 13 were identical to 1999 list!!

COTS events

- NATO's COTS Conference
 - <http://wwwsel.iit.nrc.ca/nato/cotssymposium/>
- IEEE ICSE's COTS Workshop
 - <http://wwwsel.iit.nrc.ca/projects/cots/icse2000wkshp/>
- COTSCON 2000
 - <http://www.milaero.com/COTSCONe2.htm>
- SEI's COTS-Based Systems Initiative
 - <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/cbs/>