

GSAW99 COTS Panel Outbriefing

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The Panel

- Ron Kohl (AverStar) chair
- Walter Green (Aerospace) co-chair
- Jeff Voas (Reliable Software Technology)
- Jim Corrigan (L-3 Storm)
- Hans Jespersen (TIBCO)
- Scott Sage (Altair)
- Dean Oswald (Software Technology)

Intended Goals

- Panelists to make short ‘position’ presentation
- Panelists/audience to collaborate on list of COTS issues/problems
- Panelists/audience to collaborate on candidate ‘solution approaches’

What Happened?

- Panelists offered a set of ‘positions’
- Q&A of panelist by audience
- Vibrant and vigorous discussions
- Created a list of ‘COTS issues’
- Prioritized the list
- Suggestion that we see if any of these issues are resolved/addressed by GSAW2000
- Suggestion that issues may generate papers

COTS Issues

- Integration of multiple COTS products (18)
- Standards: good, bad, ugly? (18)
- Cross Platform portability (17)
- Refresh vs Refine (14)
- Rqmts/needs vs COTS capabilities (11)
- API breakage (“unplug and replay”)(11)

More COTS Issues

- COTS outsourcing/tailoring (2)
- Ops critical changes (2)
- Indemnification/legal (3)
- Reduced User Acceptance Tests (2)
- COTS Evaluation Center (6)
- COTS C&C Center Users Group (3)
- Vendor responsiveness (3)

Still More COTS Issues

- Acquisition/Support Strategies (5)
- Marketplace ‘maturity’ (0)
- Risk Mitigation (0)
- Definition of COTS (‘for sale’ = COTS?)(0)
- Cost/value of multiple, current versions (2)
- COTS Tailoring (Tools vs surgery) (6)
- Dormant code (1)

And a few more COTS issues

- International Export (0)
- Rate of change (1)
 - average of 6.3 months between ‘upgrades’, based on panelist’s best guess of an ill-defined question!!

What next?

- Plan to have another COTS panel at GSAW2000
- 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
- Keep in touch, cuz it ain't over!!!

Summary

- COTS is good
- But,
 - many issues not yet unearthed
 - many costs not yet discovered
 - many benefits not yet realized