OMG – International Standards for Assurance Cases
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Overview

- Existing notations for safety/assurance cases
- Standardisation at OMG
- SACM – Structured Assurance Case Metamodel
  - Status
  - Relationship to ISO 15026
Existing notations and standards

- Requirements for safety cases well established in UK
  - Most regulated sectors
    - A structured argument supported by a body of evidence to establish …
  - Role of case to communicate safety strategy
  - Focus for meaningful safety challenge
  - A living document over the lifecycle
- Generalise from Safety Case to Assurance Case
  - Can cover security or other assurance attributes
  - Often we may talk of case based approaches
Existing notations

- Notations are well established:
  - Claims-Arguments-Evidence (CAE)
  - Goal Structuring Notation (GSN)
- Both based on work by Stephen Toulmin
- Some minor differences in emphasis
- But basically the same key concepts
  - A structured argument comprises of a graph of claims
  - Important to show reasoning and contextual information
  - Ultimately supported by evidence
- Tools provide a de-facto interchange standard
  - Some based on open standards (e.g. ASCE XML format)
Object Management Group - OMG

- Community based standards body, open participation process
- Most well-known standards:
  - UML, SysML
- Technical interoperation specifications
  - i.e. data exchange between tools
  - Open standards seen to de-risk tool adoption
System Assurance Task Force

- Increasing interest in cyber security
  - Software assurance “ecosystem”
- System Assurance Task Force (SysA) goals
  - Facilitate the development of a specification for a Software Assurance Framework
  - Enable industry to improve visibility into the current status of software assurance during development of its software
  - Enable industry to develop automated tools that support the common framework
SysA standards

- Existing standards – KDM (knowledge discovery metamodel)
  - A vendor neutral way of exchanging static analysis models
- Developing standards for Assurance Cases
- Some UK Participation sponsored in part by MoD SSEI programme (Software Systems Engineering Initiative) - 2011
  - Benefits of promulgating UK safety policy perspective
  - Adelard LLP, University of York
SACM

- SACM – Structured Assurance Case Metamodel
  - Combines previous OMG specifications
    - ARM (Argument Metamodel)
    - SAEM (Software Assurance Evidence Metamodel)
  - ARM led by Adelard and University of York
    - Harmonises common elements from GSN and CAE
    - A structured argument comprises a graph of assertions (claims), ultimately supported by evidence
      - Links are asserted relationships between claims, context and evidence
        - “supported by”, “in context of”, “has evidence”
SAEM and ARM

- Looking at developing models for interchange of information for
  - Claims and arguments to go on top - ARM
  - Evidence repository metamodel - SAEM

- ARM – argument metamodel
- SAEM – the evidence repository
  - Expressing attributes about software artefacts and relations between them
    - Containment
    - Concretisation of models
    - Library dependencies
    - Versioning
    - ...
  - And be extensible in the future
Status of SACM

- Version 1.0 is a recommended OMG specification for adoption
- Tool support available
  - ASCE, NASA GSN tool, others coming
- Standard now in revision (RTF process)
  - Aim to simplify further to increase adoption
  - Reduce overlaps
- Version 1.1 due 2014
- Future – may offer to ISO for fast-track acceptance
Related international standardisation

- ISO 15026-2
  - Part 2: Assurance Case
    - Provides requirements and framework
  - Not a technical interop standard, conceptual approach not dissimilar to UK safety case concept
    - 00-56, CAP 670 SW01
  - Fits well with SACM – can think of SACM as a technical standard to exchange data when working within ISO 15026

- Open Group Assurance Case standard
  - Dependability through Assuredness ™ Standard
  - Again, more at the process level
Thanks for listening.