GSAW2005: Collaboration and Common Solutions Plenary Sessions Summary

Judy Kerner
Mary Rich
The Aerospace Corporation

Mark Walker
PanAmSat Corporation



Outline

- Collaboration is Happening
- Enablers/Inhibitors of Collaboration
- Collaboration Hurdles
- Common Solutions
- Updated and Repeated GSAW Themes
- Heard at GSAW2005
- And finally, ...



Collaboration is Happening

- Organizations, consortia, communities, nations, etc.
- Collaboration between spacecraft engineers and ground system engineers
- Continuous customer/developer/user participation
- Government and industry support of architecture-level integration
 - Using an architecture to tie together different architectures so you don't have to throw anything away



Enablers/Inhibitors of Collaboration

- Common lexicons
 - Standardization/"harmonisation" of common terms is a very slow process
- Use of standards CCSDS, SLE, ECSS, XML, ...
 - Creating standards and trying to embrace standards
- Establishing trusted relationships
- Defining the business case



Collaboration Hurdles

- Scale (also a motivator)
- Increased initial cost of collaboration
 - ❖ And also of architecture, design, test, ...
- Competition, intellectual property issues, security concerns
- Necessary legal paperwork
 - ❖ MOUs, NDAs, ITAR compliance, ...
- When there are bugs in the interfaces: "It's not us, it's you"
- NTWWADI



Common Solutions

- Common solutions are not identical solutions
- Common ground architectures within and across mission families
- Catalogs of components
 - Even middleware can be switched!
- Consensus reference models/reference architectures



Updated and Repeated GSAW Themes

- Middleware
 - ❖ In use, with more understanding of its realities
- Open standards and protocols
- Open source software
- Approaches that are working
 - Accommodating change anticipating creeping requirements
 - Harmonizing architectures
 - Adapting protocols
- Plan for updates and COTS refresh during the development phase



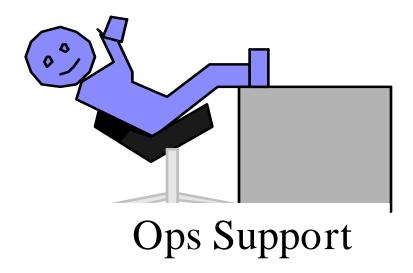
Heard at GSAW2005

- It's a lot easier to communicate with Mars if you have orbiting infrastructure
- Server in space
- The "Delta" approach
- "Sensor to shooter"
- "Bring the sensors to the scientists and the planets to the public"
- "Plug and play"
- "Configure and go"
- Better, cheaper, faster you CAN get all three
- Better, cheaper, but not necessarily faster
- In Europe, you never see a mix of military and industry people like at GSAW
- "Transforming" if you want to get money, make sure that word's in all your budget documents



Seen at GSAW2005

Automation



[Thanks to John Hughes for this figure.]



GSAW: A Key to Collaboration

- GSAW is the international forum for exploring software and system architecture issues for spacecraft ground systems
- Since its inception in 1997, GSAW has transitioned from identifying the hard issues to addressing the hard issues
- Come back and join us for GSAW2006!
 March 27-30, 2006

