

Impacts of Third Party Consultants on Common Criteria Assurances

James Arnold
Technical Director
SAIC Common Criteria Test Laboratory

Introduction

Common Criteria Consultants

- Frequently utilized
 - Simple tasks to turn-key evaluations
- Usually beneficial
 - Reduce evaluation issues
 - Reduce issue turn around to improve schedule
- Enlisted primarily to expedite evaluations
 - Contend with evaluators on their terms

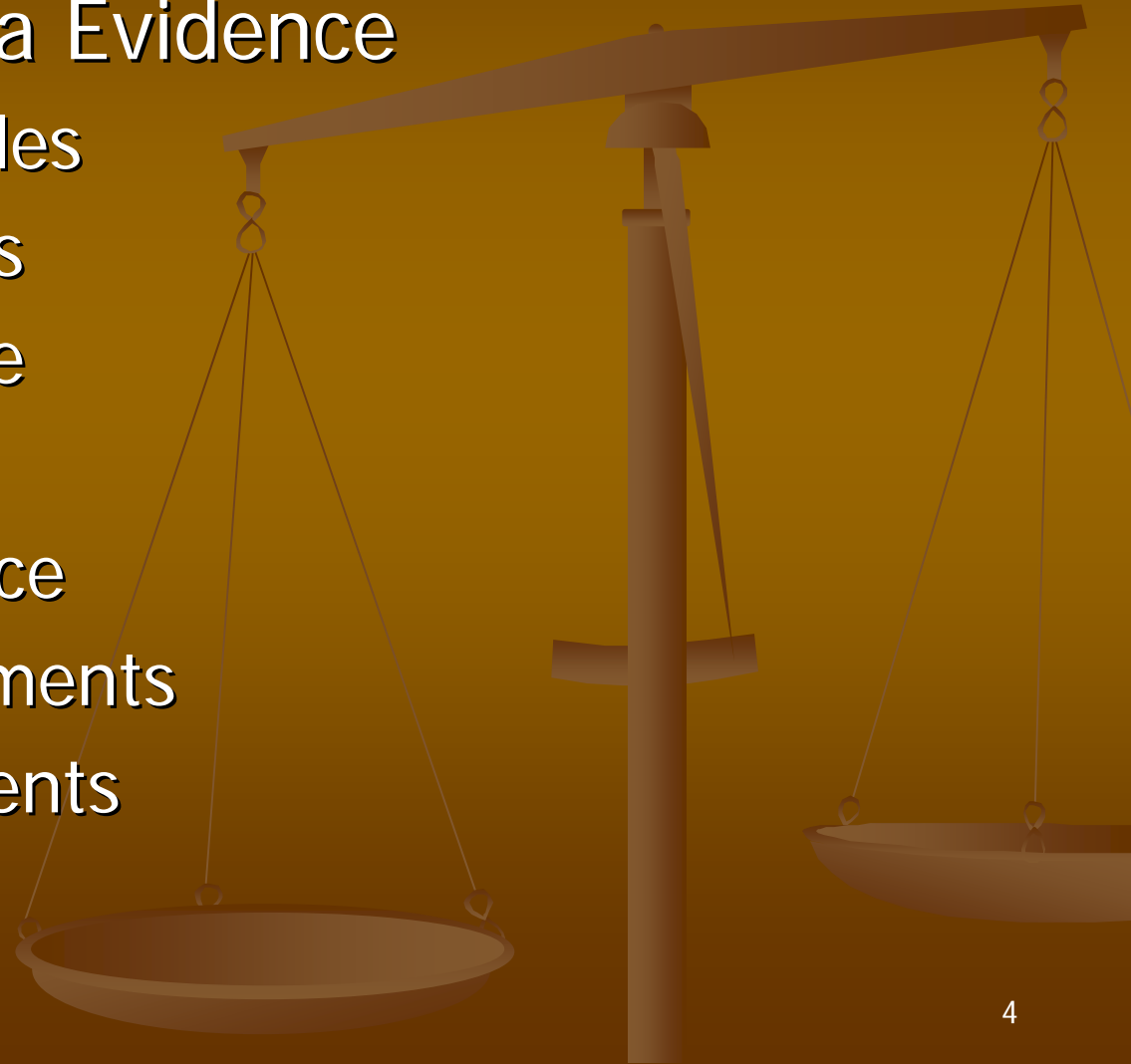
Topics

- Products and Services
- Approaches
- Considerations
- Potential Impacts
- Recommendations



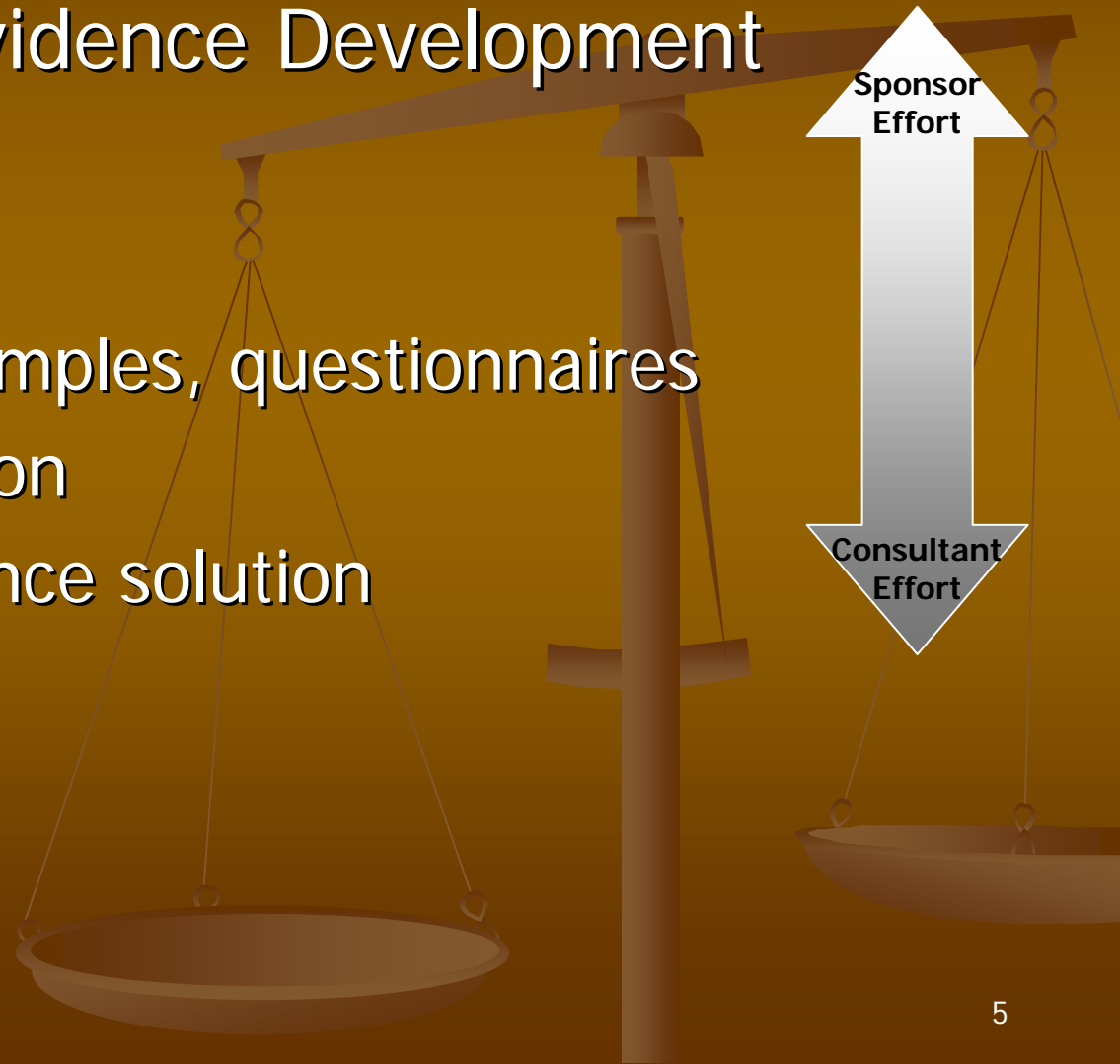
Products...

- Common Criteria Evidence
 - Protection Profiles
 - Security Targets
 - Design evidence
 - Test evidence
 - Analysis evidence
 - Guidance documents
 - Process documents



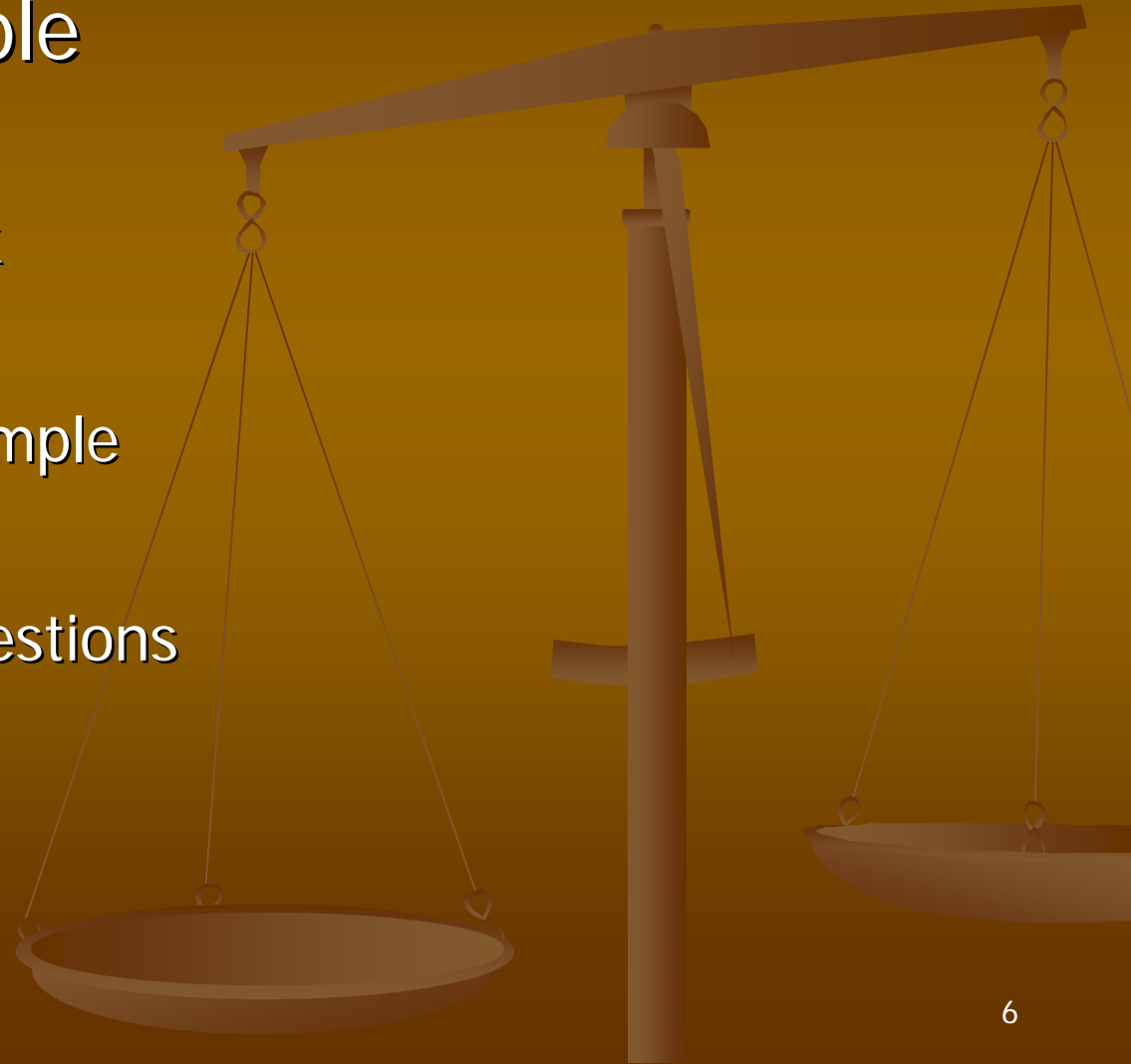
... and Services

- Assistance in Evidence Development
 - Advice
 - Review
 - Templates, examples, questionnaires
 - Evidence creation
 - Turn-key evidence solution

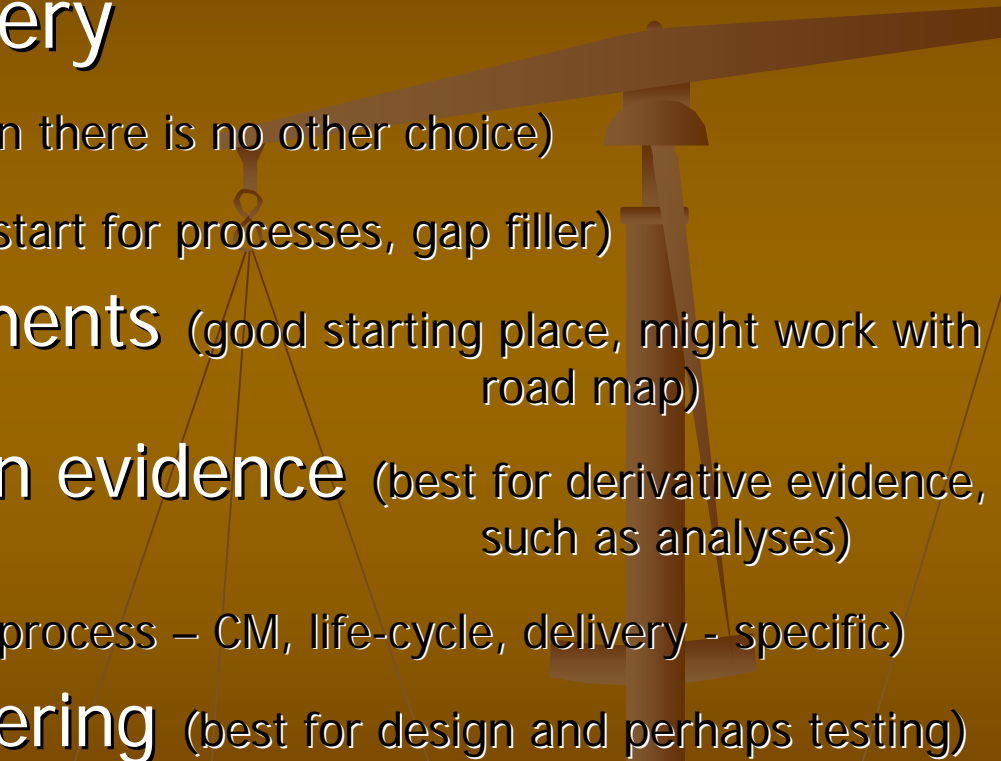


Approaches

- Guide by example
 - Templates
 - Fill in the blank
 - Examples
 - Follow the example
 - Questionnaires
 - Answer the questions



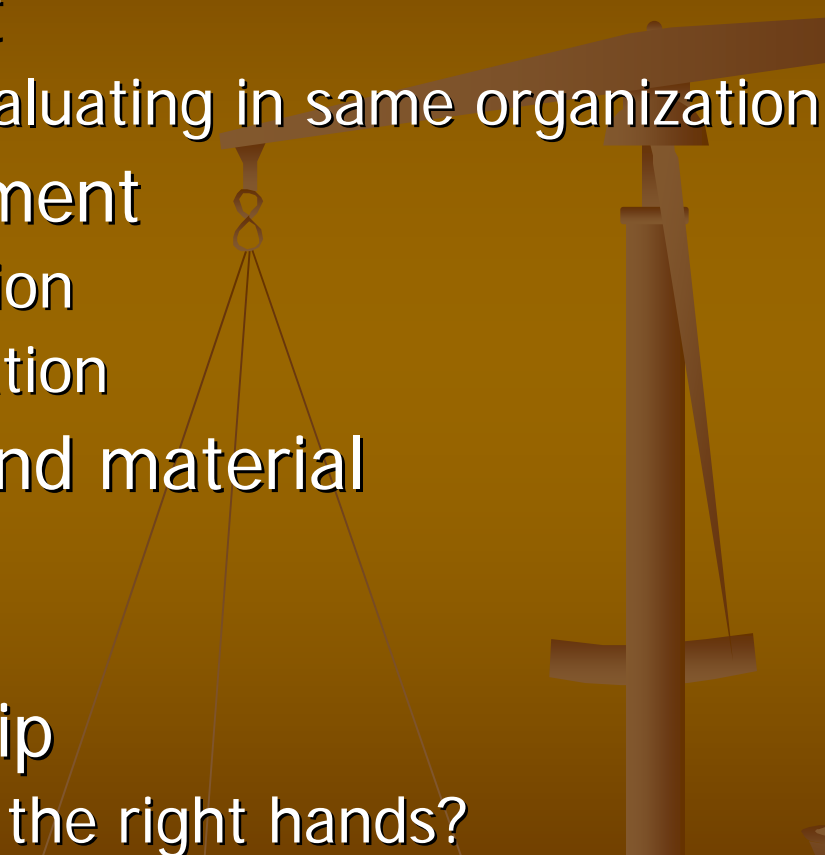
Approaches

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- Evidence discovery
 - Hypotheses (when there is no other choice)
 - Interviews (good start for processes, gap filler)
 - Available documents (good starting place, might work with road map)
 - Other evaluation evidence (best for derivative evidence, such as analyses)
 - Process audits (process – CM, life-cycle, delivery - specific)
 - Reverse engineering (best for design and perhaps testing)

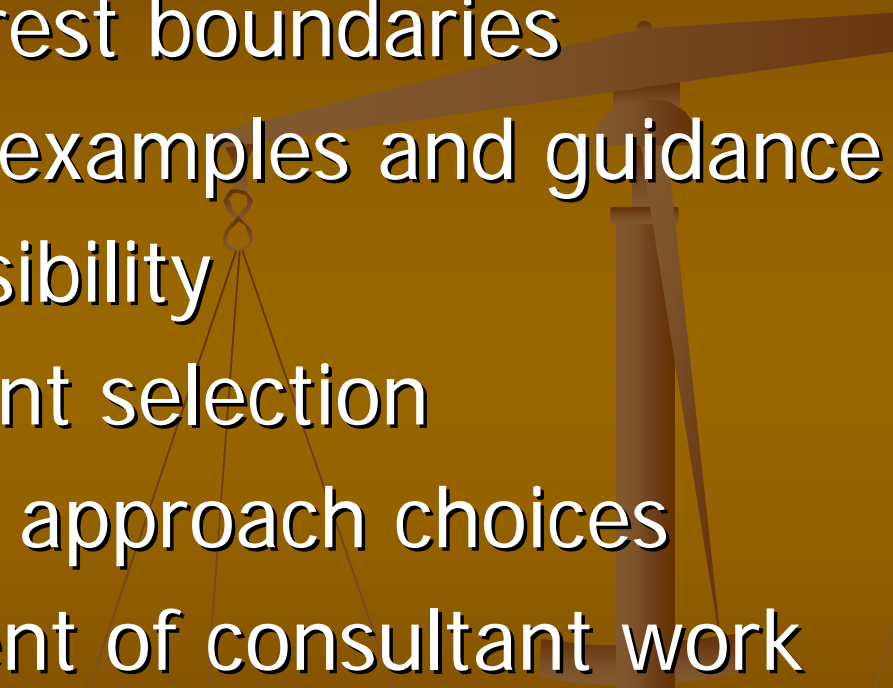
Considerations

- Property rights
 - Who owns the evidence?
- Evaluator vs. consultant
 - Similar skills, different perspective
- Consultant skills
 - Better consultants = better results

Potential Impacts

- Conflict of interest
 - Consulting and evaluating in same organization
 - Evidence development
 - Too little information
 - Too much information
 - First or second hand material
 - Translation errors
 - Second opinion
 - Evidence ownership
 - Is the evidence in the right hands?
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Recommendations

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- Conflicts of interest boundaries
 - Public evidence examples and guidance
 - Sponsor responsibility
 - Careful consultant selection
 - More evaluation approach choices
 - Acknowledgement of consultant work

Conclusion

- Common Criteria Consultants
 - Proven to expedite evaluations
 - Need to balance consultant/developer effort
 - Choose consultants carefully

Contact

James Arnold

SAIC CCTL Technical Director

James.L.Arnold.Jr@saic.com

<http://www.saic.com/infosec/cctl.html>