From:	Cook, Katie
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SECTION 809 PANEL

Daily Media Clips

May 31, 2018

The Section 809 Panel is a congressionally mandated panel designed to be a catalyst that restores agility and simplicity to defense acquisition through bold and effective recommendations.

Good morning! We found several articles that you may be interested in.

How technical debt makes government software crap, and what we can do about it
May 29, 2018 | Shaun Verch

Technical debt is all the cruft, hacks, and shortcuts that get baked into a piece of software over time, making it insecure, unreliable and hard to maintain.

To give a non-technical analogy, imagine a concise, well written policy. Everyone understands it and agrees that it's a good thing. Then things change, and the team that wrote it must quickly add an update before a deadline. They don't have time to update the original document, so it gets added as an addendum. Then, as the policy catches on, other organizations add their own input and recommendations, some of which conflict. Finally, some brave souls try to simplify the whole thing, but they also have a deadline and end up writing yet another incomplete or conflicting recommendation.
...

This process is a pattern that has persisted for decades. It causes our government to accumulate a massive amount of technical debt. Millions of lines of completely undocumented, copy-pasted code, written in languages that no one still knows, are running on systems whose creators are now dead. Some of these systems provide life-or-death services for real people, so the instability that comes from this technical debt has real consequences.

The engineers building this software are set up to fail by contracts that reward checking boxes over delivering working and maintainable software, making any effort to pay off technical debt effectively charity. This is not a great situation for anyone.

Read more HERE.

Other Articles of Interest

A new government digital services playbook
May 31, 2018 | Steve Kelman

China in race to overtake the US in AI warfare
May 30, 2018 | Bill Gertz

Will an IT update revamp government?
May 30, 2018 | Derek B. Johnson

Pentagon Still Lacks Accurate Property Inventory, Says Watchdog
May 30, 2018 | Charles S. Clark

Dave Mader: It's time federal government expands thinking on shared services [Audio]
May 30, 2018 | Federal Drive

How a Pentagon contract became an identity crisis for Google
May 30, 2018 | Scott Shane, Cade Metz, and Daisuke Wakabayashi

Is AI the answer to Army electronic warfare troubles?
May 30, 2018 | Mark Pomerleau

Pentagon Needs More Accurate Cash Management, Watchdog Warns
May 30, 2018 | Charles S. Clark

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Delegation of Special Emergency Procurement Authority (DFARS Case 2018-D024)
May 30, 2018 | Federal Register

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Micro-Purchase Threshold (DFARS Case 2017-D027)
May 30, 2018 | Federal Register

GSA inks governmentwide database deal with IBM
May 30, 2018 | Carten Cordell

Got emerging tech ideas? Apply for Tech Modernization Fund money
May 29, 2018 | Carten Cordell

Why should the US stay in Afghanistan? Here's what the top commander there said.
May 30, 2018 | Tara Copp

Congress on target for dogfight over military aircraft
May 30, 2018 | Joe Gould

Section 809 News

On this month's Bold Bites Podcast, Lt Col Sam Kidd provides us with information about topics such as Title 10, how to understand U.S. Code, and the complexity of this topic. Listen to this informative podcast to learn more about U.S. Code and the recommendations being considered here at the Section 809 Panel.

KATIE COOK, CAPM
Digital Media Project Manager
Section 809 Panel
1400 Key Blvd., Suite 210
Rosslyn, VA 22209
(**W**) 703-571-2989
(**C**) 571-342-0589

SECTION 809 PANEL | Streamlining & Codifying Acquisition