The research team from the Texas Center for Applied Technology (TCAT) was excited to learn that the Universal Audit Tool (UAT) software application was awarded a U.S. Army Certificate of Networthiness (CoN) on 13 April 2011.

The Universal Audit Tool is a TCAT developed cross-platform desktop software application which allows the Central Technical Support Facility, Configuration Management Department, located at Ft. Hood, Texas, the ability to unobtrusively gather state information on a particular computer and then compare that to an existing baseline. In the end, this state information is used to validate that a computer is authorized to participate in official army software certification and integration testing. The Universal Audit Tool will replace the CTSF developed Interrogator tool which has been in use since 1999. Deputy Director of the CTSF Configuration Management Department and the applications primary user, Mr. Langston Carter said, “This software will improve our process greatly and will benefit the CTSF as well as the entire army.”

The Army Networthiness (NW) program was created out of an Army need to address compliance and mitigate risks. In effect, the program is to determine whether an application or system is worthy to go on the Army’s Enterprise network. With the CoN, the UAT software can be loaded and used on any army computer.

Located at Fort Hood, Texas, the Central Technical Support Facility (CTSF) is the U.S. Army’s strategic and central testing facility responsible for interoperability engineering, executing Army Interoperability Certification (AIC) testing, maintaining configuration control for all operational through tactical-level information technology/national security systems, and supporting the digital needs of deployed warfighters. The Universal Audit Tool was fielded to the CTSF in September of 2010 and was the culmination of a two year software development effort. The first year’s effort resulted in the identification of a set of unique metrics that could be used to determine what software is present on a computer. Year two resulted in the development and fielding of the UAT software application. An eight year TCAT employee and project technical lead during both years of the project, Mrs. Deepa Narayanan said, “The UAT software provides the CTSF the means to easily build new baselines and extend existing baselines. This application provides the flexibility to support CTSF needs for years to come.”

Mr. Larkin O’Hern, Texas A&M class of ’80 and a retired army officer was the TCAT project manager. “I really like how this project came together to support a real requirement in the army. The end product is the result of an outstanding development team working in close cooperation with army sponsors.”

The Universal Audit Tool is the second application produced by the Texas Center for Applied Technology to successfully undergo the rigorous Army Certificate of Networthiness process. In November 2009, the Process Oriented Data Visualization (ProDV) tool received a CoN. The ProDV application provides interactive visual analysis capabilities to both analysts and data collectors by combining data transformation, processing, and visualization capabilities within an easy-to-use visual programming environment. This allows analysts to both detect the expected and discover the unexpected in extremely large and diverse collections of data. ProDV is currently being used by the United States Army, Operational Test Command.

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There are many problems that require the careful and proper integration of applied technologies to find solutions. The Texas Center for Applied Technology (TCAT) was created to focus on these specific problems and to develop effective and efficient solutions. TCAT’s core competency is the innovative application of existing technologies and advanced research to solve complex real-world problems.

TCAT’s primary objective is to apply and test technologies to address targeted problems and engage basic research as required. TCAT has employees in a variety of locations with the ability to perform research that cuts across multiple technologies, disciplines, and cultures. The Center’s employees are knowledgeable regarding customers’ requirements and are ready to respond effectively to provide the best value for the customers’ needs including expertise in technology insertion, technology assessments, and test and evaluation.

TCAT is part of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), a member of The Texas A&M University System. The A&M System is one of the largest and most comprehensive systems of higher education in the United States. Through a statewide network of eleven university campuses, seven state agencies, and a comprehensive health science center, the A&M System educates more than 120,000 students on its university campuses, conducts more than $780 million in research, and reaches another 22 million people through service each year. TEES is an engineering research agency for the state of Texas and conducts over $147 million in research annually. Because of the Center’s position within the Texas A&M Engineering program, TCAT’s expertise can easily be extended by rounding out its team with world class faculty researchers, as appropriate. TCAT is in an excellent position for collaboration not only with The Texas A&M University System components and their customers but with other universities, institutions, centers, and industry.

**TCAT’S CORE COMPETENCIES**

- Energy Sustainability
- Environmental Sustainability
- Manufacturing & Systems Engineering
- Information Technology
- Modeling & Simulation
- Technology Insertion
- Test & Evaluation

**TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING**

Texas A&M Engineering consists of the Dwight Look College of Engineering, and three engineering agencies, including TEES: Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) conducts research and professional education in all modes of transportation. The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) works to develop a highly skilled and educated workforce and enhances public safety through training, continuing education, and technical assistance.

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