
Policy 2004 Panel

Policy-Based Management: the Holy Grail?



Panellists

Chair: Morris Sloman, Imperial College London, UK

1 - John Strassner, Intelliden, USA

2 - William Winsborough, George Mason University, USA

3 - Naranker Dulay, Imperial College London, UK

4 - Jeff Kephart, IBM TJ Watson Labs., USA

5 - The audience

What is Policy

Rule governing choices in behaviour of the system

- ★ Change system behaviour without modifying implementation → permit adaptable systems
- ★ Rules are derived from goals
- ★ Are goals just high level policies?
- ★ Policy rules come in many different forms:
 - IF condition THEN action rules
 - Event - condition - action rules (obligation policies)
 - Access control policies eg access control lists, firewall rules
 - Logic specifications
 - Downloadable scripts

Policy Hype

- ★ Vendors claim policy support for QoS Management, VPN provisioning, security management, storage management etc.
- ★ Could range from parameter setting to component 'programming'
- ★ Integrating policy management across heterogeneous routers, firewalls, databases and operating systems, without conflicts and inconsistencies is a long way off.
- ★ Very little real industrial deployment of PBM

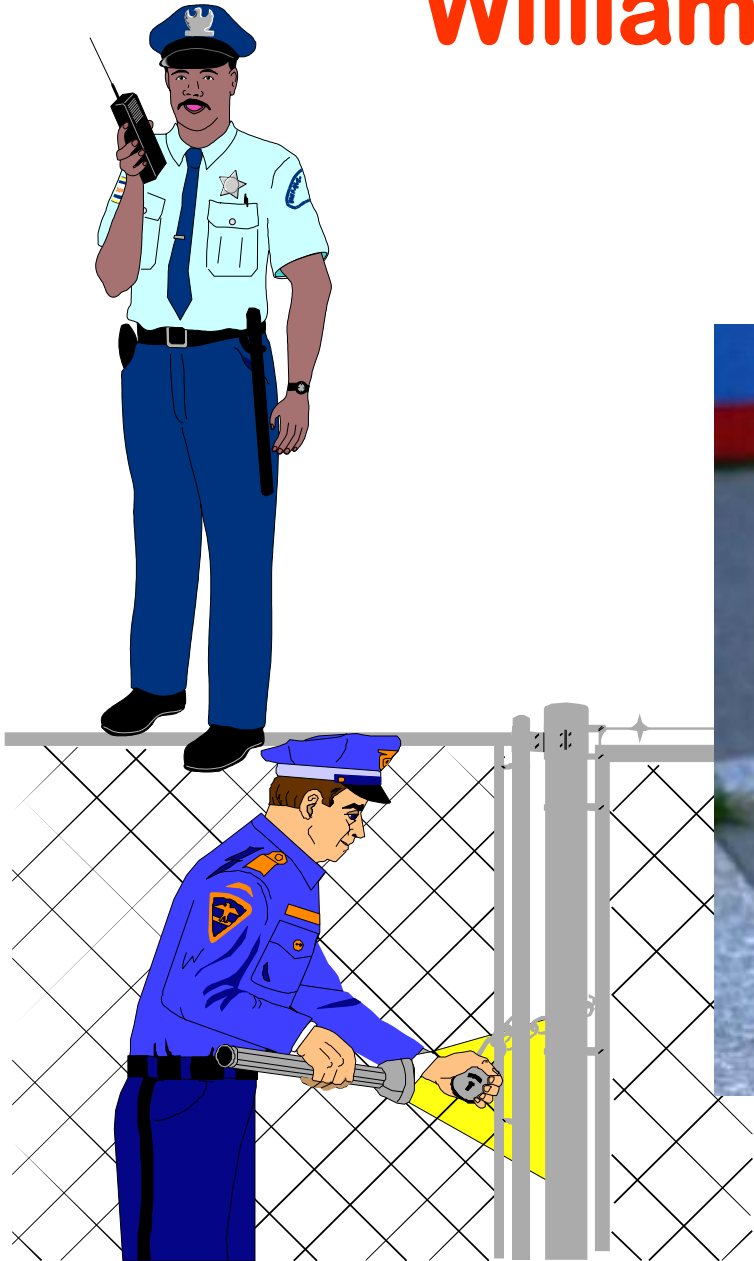
Panel Questions

- ★ Are (event-)condition-action rules sufficient for the specification of management policies?
- ★ Why do we need specific policy schemas and languages – can it all be done with a scripting language or XML?
- ★ Are authorization policies of the form permit/deny action when condition sufficient?
- ★ If goals are policies can we distinguish between policies and requirements?
- ★ Is a universal policy language/representation a waste of time?
- ★ Do different representations require different analysis techniques.
- ★ The AI community have been talking about goals and planning for many years - do they have all the answers?
- ★ Will future policy agents be intelligent enough to derive a set of actions so that only high level goals need be specified?

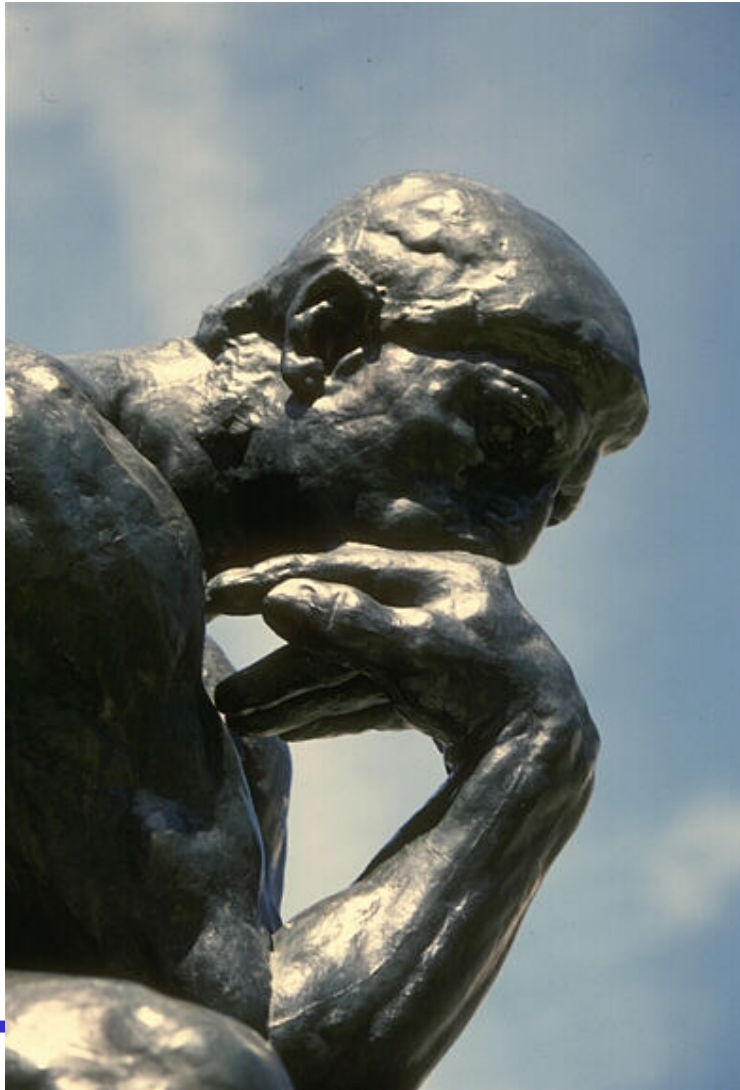
John – NetMan Viewpoint



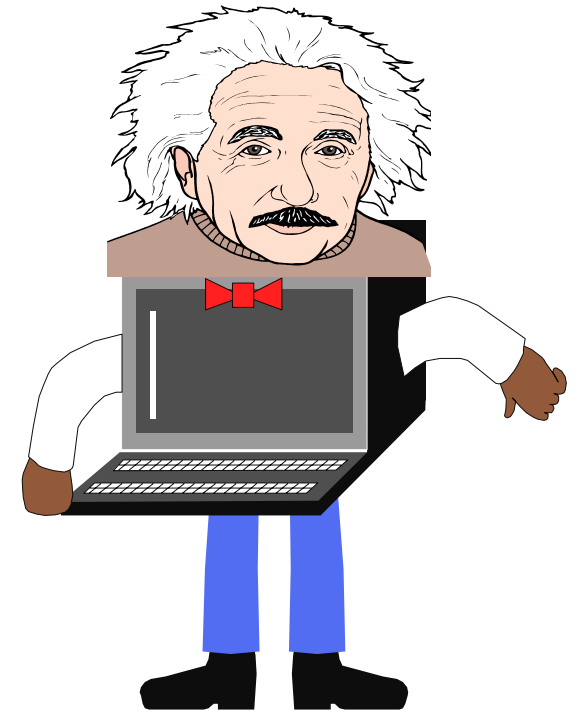
William - Security issues



Naranker - Pondering on Language Issues!



Jeff - AI approach: going for Goal!



Audience - waiting to pounce

