

# SECRET

## SDSG Integrated Analytics Workshop (14 Oct 2011)

### Palantir

Opportunities & Strengths	Risks & challenges
Easy to share / publish knowledge amongst the analytical community	Collaboration capabilities less mature than Mamba offering
Timeline capabilities are visually appealing	Analyst education about value and use of target knowledge versus target data
Effective navigation through target knowledge (right-click & explore around)	Dealing with high volumes and big indexes
Sensible division between searching around entities for target knowledge and searching for events or 'raw' data	Concern that the tool gives the analyst greater potential for going down too many analytical paths which could distract from the intelligence requirement
Collaborative app and 'step-back in analytical path' offers potential for sharing tradecraft	Mindset change for analysts surrounding any platform for analysis and collaboration
Easy to do data integration – quick to deliver an 80% solution	Restricted potential (due to being commercial product) – it develops how the owning company want it to develop
Could take any data Flexibility	Openness of commercial 'black box' Code could be better commented
Usability / intuitive interface appears to be a strength (at least relatively)	How many 'versions' of Palantir would the company support?
International user community including SF and DSD	Integration – with other platforms?
Tool responsiveness	
Mature stage of development	
User Interface and usability	
Presentation capabilities	
Accountability	

### Mamba

Opportunities & Strengths	Risks & challenges
Talks to the vision (and thus is powerful)	Are hard coded-questions restrictive?
Great data integration	Usability, usability, usability
Has the potential to deliver more effective and efficient QC'ing capability than current systems provide	Appears to be fairly complex with a steep learning curve

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Opportunities & Strengths	Risks & challenges
Allows the analyst to filter the data prior to importing it onto the chart – means analysts aren't wasting time deleting	Complexity – what skill levels would be necessary or could different levels of access be matched to analyst skill levels
Potential for very intuitive exploration of data and relationships between QFDs	Deliverability and complexity of eclipse user-interface
Strong on sharing of analysis	Challenge of uniform data models
Potential for on-line coaching via screen sharing	Relative immature progress on graph change
Integration agenda – flexibility and illustrates the art of the possible	
Open architecture	
Has the concept of a 'hypothesis'	
Offers good potential for bringing more collaborative opportunities between Ops and JTRIG	
Rich layered model allows unique navigation and viewing of details of the events, especially multi-participant c2c events	
Mamba potentially offers greater potential for closer sharing and collaboration with NSA	Though currently doesn't deliver this

### **Mamba and Palantir 'summing-up' feedback**

“A completely commercial product, in this instance Palantir, is clearly more polished and delivers more in terms of usability, compared with the in-house built offering (i.e. Mamba-based products) which offers complete flexibility, arguably thus more potential but 'Eclipse' doesn't sell simplicity.”

- External collaboration is at least as important as internal collaboration
- Interoperability important between whatever tool(s) are progressed
- A desire where at all possible to avoid local specialism (if the applications can support that)
- Concerns over what capabilities truly work at scale
- Consider competition with tools already 'bedded in' in the business
- Attendees acknowledge the best assessment is realised through using any capability rather than demonstrations alone
- Visual representation of the data is a key component to explore
- Usability / complexity / polish will have an impact on the users
- Could whichever tool have an 'unlock' application features based on analysts skill level, hiding buttons and features until needed and capable of utilising
- Experiment with diverse range of analysts, from Skill level 0 up to L3's
- Fully understand and consider the time necessary for analysts to change / take on new tools and ways of working

Some concerns expressed that there is still a very real risk that as CDO / CDL roles continue to develop across the 4<sup>th</sup> floor that such analysts will need to become users of a vastly growing tool set and that decisions / agreements on tool choices and tool mix will be hard

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A 'shared' decision going forward is needed

Concern over the data model implemented around the collated / fused data and how it supports and integrates itself with a data model around conducting actual analysis and the building of intelligence pictures

Performance of any application / tool / framework is always a key consideration  
Can any tool cope with the diversity of data types?

## Vision and Principals (feedback)

No broad concerns over vision or principals

**Action for ADS:** But simplify vision and key principles

**Action for ADS:** Can the principals be condensed from its current two pages?

**Action for ADS:** Can it be shared more broadly, perhaps on GCwiki and linked to from these workshop pages

## IAC (feedback)

Requires a clear future and decisions

Generic statements that could be considered Ops requirements:

- More independence between front-end user-interfaces and the back-end data, i.e. build service tiers (helps future proofing against new capabilities)
- Easier linkages between social media (i.e. collaborative tools / applications) and the tools / applications that support analysis and data exploration
- Don't necessarily deliver the capability in the engineer's current favourite technology
- Usability for the 'whole' analyst community is key (avoid future kerfuffles)
- There is a need to really understand the user base amongst the analyst community for any capability going forward
- The CapDev community need to give quick assessments to ISD over particular new capabilities, especially to ensure the right tool choices are made and roadmaps are not stove-piped

## Another concern

Concerns that the Olympic questions for Rumour Mill have not been broadly enough shared, at least some attendees had not had visibility of them

**Action:** ADS to circulate (included in email with these minutes) and available at: [REDACTED]

## Attendees

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
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