

*Look for the next SEI Bulletin on January 7.*

Trouble reading this email? [View in browser.](#)



## Helping Defense Programs Get on the Software Acquisition Pathway

**December 17, 2025** — Pentagon programs adopting the Software Acquisition Pathway (SWP) face many decisions about how to adapt their acquisition practices. The SEI recently released SWP: Ready, Set, Go!, the first installment in its Software Acquisition Go Bag set of resource guides to help defense programs overcome barriers and challenges when implementing the SWP in their unique environments.

SWP: Ready, Set, Go! provides a mechanism for assessing a program's readiness to adopt the SWP, identifying any shortfalls, and obtaining resources, information, and support.

"Software development organizations now have great flexibility and fast-changing technology, but there are no tried-and-true paths to success for defense programs looking to break away from legacy acquisition methods," said Eileen Wrubel, technical director of the SEI's Software Acquisition Policy

and Practice directorate. “The Go Bag provides data-driven, proven practices for developing and implementing software acquisition strategies that align with modern engineering practice.”

The SEI invites the acquisition community to shape future Go Bag offerings.

[Read more »](#)



### [SEI and Accenture Partner to Develop AI Adoption Maturity Model](#)

Organizations can use the maturity model to establish a baseline for adopting artificial intelligence and roadmap future investments, according to a new SEI paper.

[See more news »](#)



### [Analyzing Partially Encrypted Network Flows with Mid-Encryption](#) *(Steven Ibarra, Mark Thomas)*

Encrypted traffic has come to dominate network flows, which makes it difficult for traditional flow monitoring tools to maintain visibility. This post looks at a new feature added to CERT’s Yet Another Flowmeter (YAF) tool to capture the attributes of encryption when it occurs after the start of the session.

### [Tailoring 9 Zero Trust and Security Principles to Weapon Systems](#) *(Christopher Alberts, Timothy Morrow, Rhonda Brown, Charles Wallen)*

This post outlines how 9 zero trust and security principles might apply to weapon systems.

[See more blogs »](#)

---



## Latest Podcasts

### [Orchestrating the Chaos: Protecting Wireless Networks from Cyber Attacks](#)

Joseph McIlvenny and Michael Winter discuss common radio frequency (RF) attacks and investigate how software and cybersecurity play key roles in preventing and mitigating these exploitations.

### [From Data to Performance: Understanding and Improving Your AI Model](#)

Drift in data and concept, evolving edge cases, and emerging phenomena can undermine the correlations that AI classifiers rely on. Linda Parker Gates, Nicholas Testa, and Crisanne Nolan discuss a new tool to help improve AI classifier performance.

[See more podcasts »](#)

---



## Latest Publications

### [SWP Essentials Kit](#)

This collection of assets focuses on understanding the Software Acquisition Pathway (SWP).

### [A Preliminary Report on a Model for Maturing AI Adoption: From Hype to Achieving Repeatable, Predictable Outcomes](#)

*(Ipek Ozkaya, Anita Carleton, Matthew Butkovic, Sebastián Echeverría, Robert Edman, John Haller, Erin Harper, Michael Konrad, Natalie Schieber, Carol Smith, Shawn Wray)*

This report introduces the key concepts of a model for AI adoption, which will provide organizational leaders with guidance on overcoming the challenges that arise as they try to realize the promise of AI.

### [A Practitioner's Guide to Designing and Developing Hands-On Cybersecurity Skilling Continuation Labs](#)

*(Richard Weise, Christopher Herr, Nicholas Giruzzi)*  
This report describes Skilling Continuation Labs that provide novel, relevant, and unique hands-on immersive training for the federal cybersecurity workforce.

### [Bridging Research and Practice in LLM Agent Security](#)

*(Keltin Grimes, Julie Lawler, Robert C. Garrett, Emil Mathew, Marco Christiani, Sara Kingsley, Zhiwei Steven Wu, Nathan M. VanHoudnos)*

This systematic review discusses academic surveys, grey literature sources, and real-world case studies on securing LLM agents.

[\*\*See more publications »\*\*](#)

---



## **Latest Videos**

[For those on the Software Acquisition Pathway \(SWP\), how do we catch problems before they escalate?](#)

Brigid O'Hearn explains how to catch problems before they escalate for those on the Software Acquisition Pathway (SWP).

[How do we scope and sequence an MVP, MVCR, and subsequent releases?](#)

Brigid O'Hearn explains how to scope and sequence MVP, MVCR, and subsequent releases.

[How to Address the Problem of Poorly-Defined Requirements in Software System Design](#)

Lori Flynn and Lyndsi Hughes offer a solution to the problem of poorly defined requirements in system design that can lead to software flaws, cost and time overruns, and stakeholder dissatisfaction.

[5 Essential Questions for Implementing the Software Acquisition Pathway and the Tools to Tackle Them](#)

Eileen Wrubel and Brigid O'Hearn discuss the launch of the Software Acquisition Go Bag, the SEI's latest effort to help defense programs deliver software-enabled capability through data-driven insights, software engineering research, and acquisition science.

[\*\*See more videos »\*\*](#)

---



## **Upcoming Events**

Webcast - [Right-Sized DevSecOps: How Tooling Complexity Breaks Modern Pipelines](#), January 7, 2026

Joseph Yankel, Vaughn Coates, and David Shepard discuss how right-sizing DevSecOps restores velocity and reliability.

Webcast - [Software Acquisition Pathway: Ready, Set, Go!, January 12, 2026](#)

Julie Cohen, Brigid O'Hearn, and Eileen Wrubel walk through the new Tactical Guide for the Software Acquisition Pathway.

**[See more events »](#)**

---



## **Upcoming Appearances**

[Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences \(HICSS\)](#), January 6-9, 2026

SEI researchers are chairing the mini-track “AI-Driven Program Analysis and Software Synthesis” in the HICSS 59 Software Technology Track.

[AIAA SciTech Forum 2026](#), January 12-16, 2026

Visit the SEI at booth 106.

[AFCEA WEST 2026](#), February 10-12, 2026

Visit the SEI at booth 817.

**[See more opportunities to engage with us »](#)**

---



## **Upcoming Training**

[Software Architecture Design and Analysis](#)

January 26-29, 2026 (SEI Live Online)

[Insider Risk Management: Measures of Effectiveness](#)

February 18-20, 2026 (SEI Live Online)

[Insider Threat Program Manager: Implementation and Operation](#)

February 24-26, 2026 (SEI Live Online)

E-learning - [CERT Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) for Cybersecurity Professional Certificate](#)

E-learning - [Introduction to Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Engineering](#)

E-learning - [Effective Communication of Technical Concepts](#)

[Online registration](#) is now available for January-December 2026 public courses, both live online and in person.

[See more courses »](#)

---



## [Employment Opportunities](#)

[Technical Manager - Cyber Risk Management](#)

[Resiliency Automation Engineer](#)

[Technical Lead](#)

[All current opportunities »](#)

**Carnegie Mellon University**  
Software Engineering Institute





---

*Copyright © 2025 Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute, All rights reserved.*

Want to subscribe or change how you receive these emails?  
You can [subscribe](#), [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).