Rachel Maxwell is the Program Manager for the Catapult Information System (Catapult) within the Information Management and Technology (IT) Directorate at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). Ms. Maxwell oversees all aspects, including technical performance and IT modernization of Catapult, a private cloud-based data analytical platform that uses an Agile, Secure Developmental Operations (DevSecOps) pipeline. Catapult has more than 12,000 unique users each month from the strategic to the tactical level across the Department of Defense (DoD), Interagency, and Intelligence and Law Enforcement communities, and was approved for the SW Pathway in May 2021. Catapult is also one of the most exciting programs in the software pathway, as it delivers capabilities to the end user in hours due to its emphasis on secure and frequent capabilities to the end-user.

Ms. Maxwell has over a decade of experience in supporting the DoD, Special Operation Forces, Intelligence agencies, and Law Enforcement communities as a civilian and contractor employee. She served as a Senior Intelligence Analyst, Subject Matter Expert in Biological and Physical Science, and as a Science & Technology and IT Program Manager. Her experience as an end user as well as her expertise in the DoD acquisition process is integral in leading the operation, sustainment, and modernization of the Catapult system.

“In 2017, I switched careers from an Intelligence Analyst to an IT Program Manager. What has served me well in this role is my ability to relate to the end user and to understand their requirements - having been in their shoes at one point in my career,” says Ms. Maxwell. “An effective Agile, DevSecOps analytical platform is not just about the cutting edge technology incorporated into the system, but the ability to empower that technology to deliver those quick wins for the end user.”

Ms. Maxwell holds a M.S. in Biological and Physical Science from the University of Virginia and a B.S. in Biology from Washington College. She has a Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Management from Georgetown University, and is Level III DAWIA certified in Program Management.

When Ms. Maxwell is not supporting Catapult, she serves as the Soldier and Family Readiness Group Advisor on her spouse’s Battalion Command Team in Fort Sill. In her spare time, she is either supporting her children at their ice hockey and soccer games, skiing on the slopes, or enjoying time on the water.

Outreach

May 26 Operationalizing the SWP – From Policy to Execution: Roadshow for Navy PEO-C4I that covers policy to execution. [Link]

June 22-24 DoD AI Symposium and Technology Exchange: Sean Brady, DoD Senior Lead for Software Acquisition, will participate in a panel regarding artificial intelligence and how when combined with the flexibility of the software acquisition pathway, can transform the military, as well as other topics surrounding artificial intelligence.

Calendar

June: DAU 6/17 12:30PM – 2:00PM EDT: Think Differently Series – How Do We Get The Workforce Quantum Ready [Link]

July: DAU 7/7 1:00PM – 2:00PM EDT: Let’s Talk Agile: Nicolas Chaillan – DevSecOps an Enabler for a Continuous ATO. [Link]