

Ampersand Event-Condition-Action Rules

Software Requirement Specification

Version 0

Yuriy Toporovskyy, Yash Sapra, Jaeden Guo

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Table 1: Revision History

Author	Date	Comment
Yuriy Toporovskyy	26 / 09 / 2015	Initial skeleton version
Yuriy Toporovskyy	30 / 09 / 2015	Project drivers, description and added project diagram and project flow chart
J Guo	09 / 10 / 2015	Update: Non-Functional first half 4.1-4.3, added to 1.2.2, completed 2.2
J Guo	13 / 10 / 2015	Update: Figures added for Non-Functional 4.1-4.7, Non-Functional second half 4.4-4.7 half, added Functional 3.3 - System requirements and diagram figure, & Section 5.8
Yash Sapra	12/ 09 / 2015	Non-Functional - legal requirements, Functional - User Requirements, tasks, risks and chapter 5.
Yuriy Toporovskyy	13 / 10 / 2015	Initial round of editing
J Guo	04/ 02/ 2016	Revision 0

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Project Time Table			
Projected Date	Finish	Milestone	Actual Finish Date
09/10/2015		EFA SRS version 0	13/10/2015
19/10/2015		EFA SRS version 1	22/10/2015
23/10/2015		Proof of Concept Demonstation	19/01/2016
11/02/2016		Software Demonstration	11/02/2016
01/04/2016		EFA Complete	—

Chapter 1

Ampersand As A System

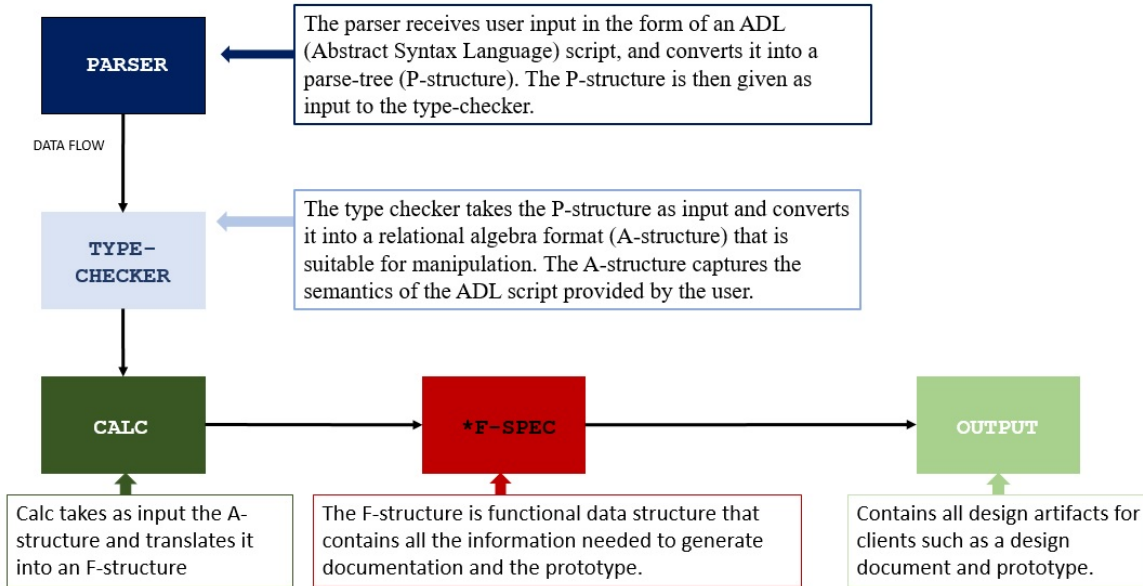


Figure 1.1: Components of Ampersand System

Ampersand is an open-source project that produces design artifacts based on business rules. One of the essential functions of Ampersand is to maintain all the business rules that keep transactions valid during the course of each cycle, where multiple transactions could take place. Figure 1.1 breaks down the major components of ampersand ignoring specification details. This project focuses mainly on one component of Ampersand, which is the F-spec which contains ECA (Event-Condition-Action Rules) that each process must obey. These rules are essential to the functionality of ampersand, and purpose of this project is to correctly translate ECA Rules into type safe SQL queries.

1.1 The Ampersand Environment

Ampersand is a on-going project with an increasing number of modules being added to it on a weekly basis. Since this project focuses on a component of ampersand, it must be built to fit within the ampersand environment and co-exist with other modules. Due to this restriction, many design decisions are predetermined such as types of data that are used and programming language used to build them.

1.1.1 Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to correctly translate ECA rules into type-safe SQL queries using Haskell. These ECA rules are used to maintain business constraints.

1.1.2 Project Goals

The goals of this project can be divided into two components. The first component consists of satisfying the condition necessary for the completion of an undergraduate capstone project. The second component is to design and implement maintainable code that can be absorbed to the ampersand open-source project.

1.2 The Stakeholders

The stakeholders are separated into two sections, those that directly benefit from this projects contribution and those that indirectly benefit.

1.2.1 Ampersand Designers

Ampersand designers are our client, and they directly benefit from this project as it bring Ampersand one step closer to completion. This project EFA (ECA for Ampersand) delivers a maintainable component for Ampersand that produces type safe SQL queries, which will be used to maintain the consistency of the data in the back-end Database.

1.2.2 End-Users

Ampersand users indirectly benefit from this project's contribution because it drastically decrease the time spent manually restoring system invariants, which are the rules that maintain the validity of each business process. As EFA is executed during

compile time, the user will not suffer any noticeable delays and can rest assured that the artifacts they received are correct according to specification.

Chapter 2

Project Constraints

The current Ampersand system is the main limitation of this project; everything that is built, must be built to fit within its current constraints. These constraints include the language used to build Ampersand (i.e. Haskell). Anything incorporated into Ampersand must be implemented in the Haskell language. An Additional constraint placed on the acceptance of this project by our clients is to produce maintainable code; this includes the use of dependable libraries and any support modules generated by this project to help the translation of ECA rules to SQL queries.

2.1 Mandated Constraints

All code must be well documented, backwards compatible and fit seamlessly into the current Ampersand project. Due to the long-term nature of this project, we must minimize the number of external dependencies.

2.1.1 Implementation Environment of the Current System

Haskell

The Ampersand code base is written almost entirely in Haskell ([?]) with the exception of user interfaces for the generated prototypes written in PHP and Javascript. Haskell is the only programming language we can use to build modules for ampersand.

The Glasgow Haskell Compiler & Cabal Build System

As most of Ampersand's base code is written in Haskell, a compiler must be used to compile it. The Glasgow Haskell Compiler ([?]) with the Cabal build system (see `ampersand.cabal` must be used to compile ampersand [?]). Ampersand is not designed to used with other Haskell compilers.

GitHub Repository

Ampersand's main repository is hosted on Github, we must also host our project on Github to be able to maintain consistency with the Ampersand source code.

Graphviz

Graphviz is an open source graph visualization software, which can visually represent information in the form of charts and graphs. Graphviz is used to create visuals in ampersand artifacts and is an essential to running ampersand.

XAMPP

XAMPP is used to create a local ampersand database for the generated prototype. Ampersand is internally built to use XAMPP configurations, and currently it is not set up to use alternative software for database generation.

2.1.2 Partner of Collaborative Applications

Name	Type	Description
AbstractSyntaxTree	Ampersand module	A module designed specifically for Ampersand, data from this module is manipulated in EFA.
Control.Applicative	Library module	An interface that provides an intermediate structure between a monad and a functor. This interface is used to embed pure expressions, sequence computations and combine their results.

Control.Exception	Library module	An interface that provides support for raising and catching build-in and user-defined exceptions.
Control.DeepSeq	Library module	This module is used to fully evaluate data structure and is used to prevent resource leaks in lazy IO programs.
Data.Proxy	Library module	A concrete proxy type, used to represent the value of something else.
Data.Type.Equality	Library module	This module offers pattern-matching on types and provides a proof, it is used as a definition of propositional equality.
Data.List	Library module	A module that provides support for operations on list structures.
Data.Char	Library module	A module that provides support for characters and operations on characters.
Data.Coerce	Library module	Provides safe coercions between data types; allows user to safely convert between values of type that have the same representation with no run-time overhead.
Debug.Trace	Library module	Interface for tracing and monitoring execution, used for investigating bugs and other performance issues.
GHC.TypeLits	Library module	Internal GHC module that declares the constants used in type-level implementation of natural numbers.
GHC.Exts	Library module	This modules allows the use of pointers to an object or array of objects.

Language.SQL.SimpleSQL	Library module	<p>Syntax: provides the AST for SQL queries.</p> <p>Pretty: provides pretty printing functions that formats output for human reading.</p>
Numeric.Natural	Library module	Natural number type
Prelude	Library module	A standard module that is imported by default and provides support for basic data types, comparison functions, and methods used for data manipulation.
System.IO.Unsafe	Library module	This module allows IO computation to be performed at any time, the IO computation must be free of side effects and independent of its environment to be considered safe. Any I/O computation that is wrapped in <code>unsafePerformIO</code> performs side effects.
Text.PrettyPrint.Leijen	Library module	A pretty printer module based off of Philip Wadler's 1997 "A prettier printer", used to show SQL queries in a readable manner to humans.
Unsafe.Coerce	Library module	A helper module that converts a value from any type to any other type, the user must assure that the old data type and the new data type have identical internal representations, else runtime corruption occurs. This is used in the translation of ECA rules to SQL using unique data types.

2.2 Naming Conventions and Terminology

ECA Stands for Event-Condition Action. The rule structure used for data bases and commonly used in market ready business rule engines. ECA rules are used in Ampersand to describe how a database should be modified in response to a system constraint becoming untrue.

ADL Stands for “Abstract Data Language” ([? , 13]). From a given set of formally defined business requirements, Ampersand generates a functional specification consisting of a data model, a service catalog, a formal specification of the services, and a function point analysis. An ADL script acts as an input for Ampersand. An ADL file consists of a plain ASCII text file.

Ampersand Ampersand is a method and the name of the open source project.

⇒ The Ampersand method is used to generate functional specification from formalized business requirements.

⇒ The Ampersand software is a tool that implements this method.

Business rules Rules that exist to represent real world constraints that the virtual world does not naturally possess, such as resource and social limitations. Examples of constraints include but are not limited to financial, logistic, physical or legal constraints.

EFA Stands for “ECA (see above) for Ampersand”. This term is used to refer to this project.

Functional specification A *formal* document which details the operation, capabilities, and appearance of a software system.

Natural language Language written in a manner similar to that of human communication; language intended to be interpreted and understood by humans, as opposed to machines.

Requirements engineering The process of translating business requirements into a functional specification.

2.3 Relevant Facts and Assumptions

This project makes the assumption that Ampersand users are using it according to its intended purposes and have all the necessary software dependencies installed for it properly function. This project is designed with the assumption that no direct interaction is necessary between the design component and the user. All interactions that could take place is buffered by Ampersand. Furthermore, we assume that Ampersand

users are industry professionals that are capable of tracing error messages and fixing them.

2.3.1 Error Detection

EFA provides traceable error messages for the developer, however on a user level these trace error messages would be absorbed into Ampersand and its various error detection mechanisms situated on every level of compilation. Ampersand is equipped with friendly error detection for the user beginning with syntax detection for ADL scripts to assure that there are no missing or out of place components. To logical error detections that the user might have missed during the creation of their information system. The error messages inform the user what line the error has been found, what the error pertains to, and what is expected typically in the script structure. The script structure provides the user clues for how they may wish to fix the error by adjust their script to fit the appropriate format.

Chapter 3

Functional Requirements

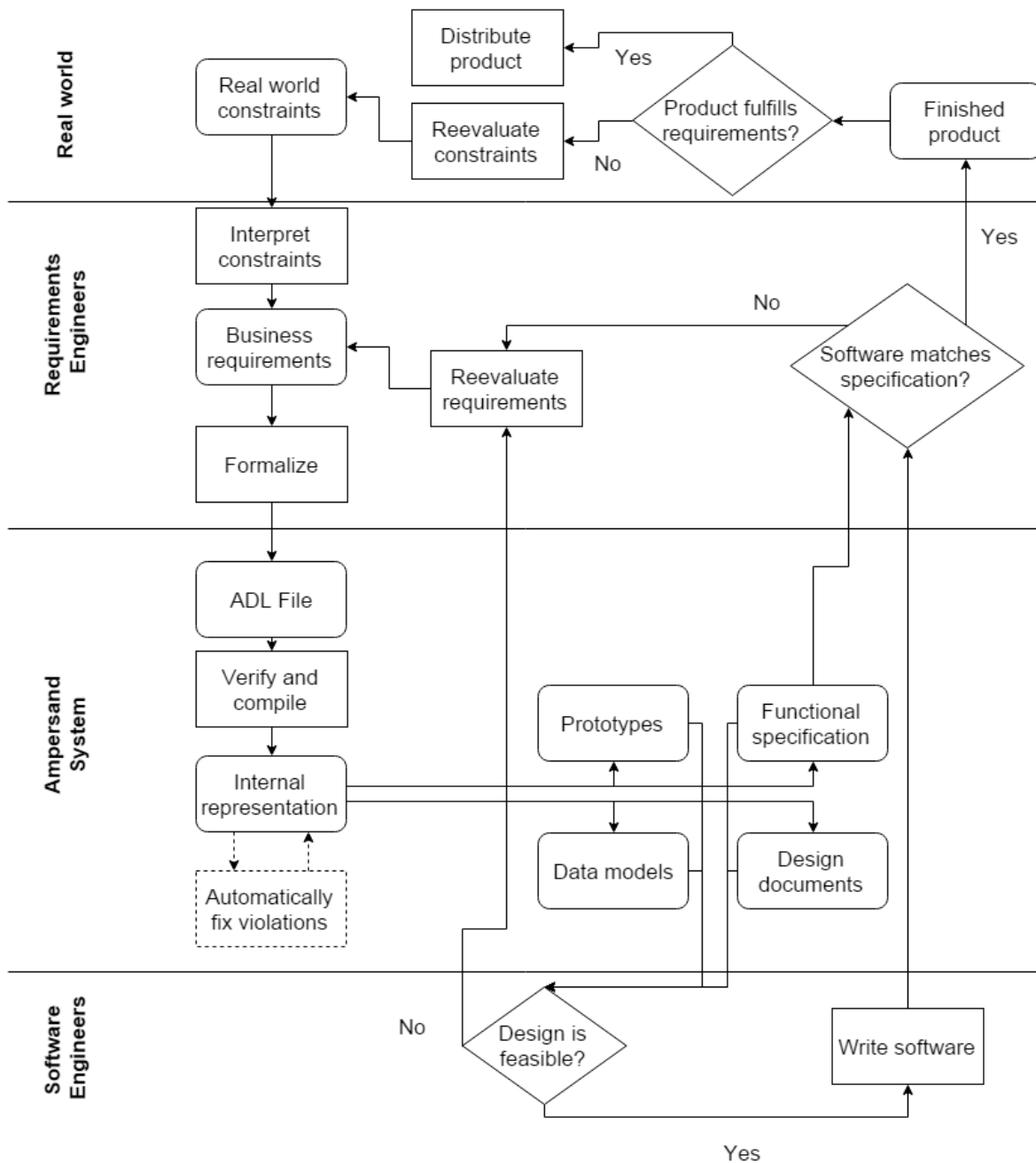


Figure 3.1: Business process diagram representing the role of Ampersand in the software design cycle

The diagram is a simplified view of the software design cycle, intended to highlight the role of Ampersand in this cycle. This view omits many of the uses of the design artifacts generated by Ampersand; instead it focuses mainly on the primary purpose, which is to help create a finished software system.

The contribution of this project is denoted with dashed lines. Note that it is isolated to a process completely internal to Ampersand.

3.1 The Scope of the Work

The following sections focuses specifically on EFA and how it will function in the Ampersand environment. EFA is an automated process internal to Ampersand, and as a part of the ampersand system it works in collaboration with other internal components such as the F-spec. The purpose of EFA is to replace the current exec-engine, creating a permanent solution for the implementation of ECA rules. EFA also provides extensive functionalities that the exec-engine is missing, such as the ability to manipulate data in a database beyond the basic level of creating and dropping tables, and basic select queries. It provides the fundamental datatypes that are crucial for the expansion and maintenance of Ampersand as it grows. Due to the way that queries are generated in its present state, large number of projects will bog down the system until it becomes unmanageable, and if Ampersand is used in practice.

3.1.1 The Current Situation

Ampersand currently has an exec-engine that passes SQL queries which are triggered by the prototype user interface implemented in PHP. Though the exec-engine functions, it is a temporary solution for translating ECA rules into SQL queries. Any changes made to the information system after its initial generation require manual maintenance. This project will create a permanent solution that is provably correct and will automate the correction of system invariants so that manual maintenance of system invariants is no longer necessary once EFA has been successfully incorporated into Ampersand.

3.2 The Scope of the Product

The translation of ECA rules into SQL queries require unique data types that preserves the semantics the user provides in the ADL script. ECA rules are generated from the conditions the user specifies in the ADL script. The SQL queries generated from ECA rules can be thought of as a sequence of changes made to the data. This sequence of actions are made through specific event triggers, and the actions only take place if all conditions are satisfied and are valid. An example of this, would be attempting to delete a person who does not exist. This actions cannot be completed because the person does not exist, this action would be invalid.

3.3 Functional Requirements

[What about error handling on the new contributions? Where's the functional requirement related to: "be a pure function; it should not have side effects." and "provide diagnostic information about the algorithm to the user, if the user asks for such information."? —DS]

3.3.1 System Requirements

Requirement	S1
Description	Create pure functions with no unintended side effects
Rationale	The use of a functional programming languages requires that this program be a pure function and does not have side effects, however certain portions of the code requires the execution of side effects to match the behaviour presented by external programs. In these specific instances, the side effects are an intended behaviour.
Originator	Stakeholder/Developer
Fit Criterion	This behaviour is necessary to produce the results the stakeholders desire
Test Case	Desired results can be confirmed as they will be reflected in changes that take place in the ampersand database.
Customer Satisfaction	5 - Highest
Priority	5 - Highest
Supporting Materials	(Rule Based Design [?])

Requirement	S2
Description	The use of Haskell to implement EFA modules
Rationale	The source code of Ampersand is written completely in Haskell, and thus Haskell must be used for any modules created by this project to be absorbed into the pre-existing source code.
Originator	Ampersand Creators (i.e. our client)
Fit Criterion	Primary ability to write code compatible with Ampersand as it is.
Test case	Added modules are tested with cabal build inside of Ampersand
Customer Satisfaction	5 - Highest
Priority	5 - Highest
Supporting Materials	Dr. Joosten, Joosten and Kahl
Requirement	S3
Description	Added modules must fit within Ampersand's current framework
Rationale	As Ampersand is a huge system that has weekly additions to prevent conflict and breaking of existing packages/modules, an effort should be made to minimize external dependencies. As EFA will be an internal component of Ampersand, if a package that EFA depends on to function properly is no longer maintained and breaks, it will in turn break Ampersand.
Originator	Ampersand Creators (i.e. our client)

Requirement	S3
Fit Criterion	Functionality of EFA as an Ampersand internal component.
Test case	Added modules are tested with cabal build inside of the Ampersand system as an internal component (i.e. System testing)
Customer Satisfaction	4 - High
Priority	4 - High
Supporting Materials	Hackage, Dr. Kahl

3.3.2 Project Requirements

Requirement	P1
Description	Provable Correctness: Haskell like other functional programming languages have a strong type system which can be used for machine-checked proofs.
Rationale	Curry-Howard correspondence which states that the return type of the function is analogous to a logical theorem, that is subject to the hypothesis corresponding to the types of the argument values that are passed to the function and thus the program used to compute that function is analogous to a proof of that theorem.
Fit Criterion	Provable correctness of the program that is generated.
Test Cases	Internal structure of ECA rules can be compared to SQL queries through a series of datatype tests, each of which will result in a traceable result or error message
Priority	4 - High

Requirement	P1
Supporting Materials	Programming language theory, Dr. Kahl
Requirement	P2
Description	Generated SQL queries must preserve the semantics of ECA rules.
Rationale	The translation would otherwise not be correct, as the rules would be meaningless if their semantics are lost.
Originator	Ampersand Developers
Fit Criterion	Generated queries must be provably correct as per client's request.
Test Cases	Internal structure of ECA rules can be compared to SQL queries through a series of datatype tests, each of which will result in a traceable result or error message
Priority	4 - High
Supporting Materials	Hackage, Dr. Kahl
Requirement	P3
Description	Generating traceable results and error messages for handling new contributions from this project
Rationale	Saves time by allowing the program to inform the programmer where the errors are located.
Originator	Ampersand Developers

Requirement	P3
Fit Criterion	Errors must be traceable and have a standard format that can be easily followed.
Test Cases	Error message will print to screen.
Priority	4 - High
Supporting Materials	Hackage, Dr. Kahl

3.3.3 Non-Functional Requirements

Requirement	N1
Description	EFA must be available at anytime ampersand is running.
Rationale	To provide the user with unlimited access to EFA within Ampersand.
Originator	Ampersand Developers
Fit Criterion	Ampersand can detect when internal components are non-responsive
Test cases	Ampersand is subject to sentential tests on a daily basis as part of its maintenance.
Priority	4 - High
Supporting Materials	Useful feedback in Ampersand parser [?]

Chapter 4

Non-functional Requirements

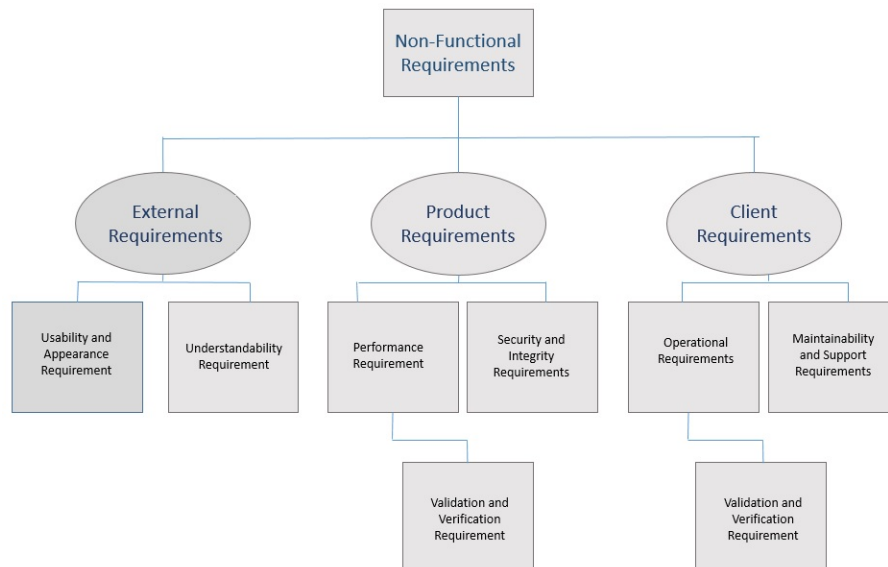


Figure 4.1: Tree of non-functional requirements as it relates to EFA

4.1 Usability and Humanity Requirements

This section is not directly related to EFA, but rather Ampersand.

4.1.1 Administrators

Administrations are the primary end users that create the ADL script and any individual who can use Ampersand can or will be automatically using EFA. Administrators in particular have full system access and will use EFA whenever the system requires change. No users interact with EFA, but if usability is extended to Ampersand, it is a rather complicated system to navigate and is geared towards industry professionals. Those ages 21 and under are unlikely to use this product. Users seeking to be administrator should have a basic understanding of programming.

4.1.2 Ordinary Users

This section covers the majority of individuals who are able to use the artifacts that Ampersand produces, such as the prototype interfaces which are very use friendly for all those who are 12 years of age and over and computer literate.

4.2 Understandability

What EFA does is simple to understand: it fixes logical inconsistencies with minimal, if any, input from the user. It does this by looking for contradictions, or violations. This product will use natural language that is easy to understand when error reporting and hide the details of its construction from the user. Any symbols that are not standard mathematical symbols will be explained and a full range of mathematical symbols are explained in detail in the Ampersand User Guide.

An example is given as to how a decision making process takes place: there is a red chair, there is a blue chair, but there is only one chair. That chair cannot be blue and red simultaneously; to fix the problem, either another chair is added or one of the color conditions is eliminated. What is eliminated may be based on what is more important for the system and the user. In the previous example, if it is most important that there is only one chair, then one of the colors statements is erased.

It may pick a chair color depending on another criteria that comes from another part of the information system. For example, if majority of customers' favorite color is red, then most individuals who may use the chair would prefer it to be red rather than blue. Ampersand is built to keep external conditions in mind and those conditions are passed along to EFA. EFA can recognize if any of these conditions are violated and may return a message to the user concerning what was modified based on what conditions.

[\[What are your understandability requirements for this project? —DS\]](#)

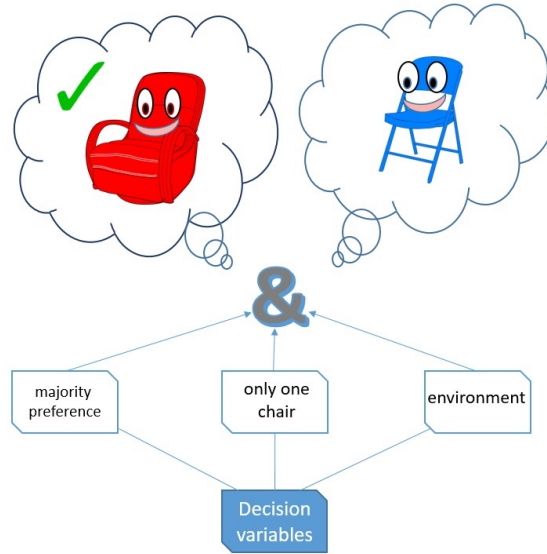


Figure 4.2: Simplistic diagram of decision making process

Note: For this process, the blue chair is discarded, we can think of it as the deletion of a dataset that contradicted one or more of the conditions that the user specified. In this case, a message may be returned such as:

Based on condition : "can only have one chair", "higher precentage of users prefer the use of red chair".

modified: deletion of blue chair, retain red chair.

Each condition is seperated by a comma, and each action taken to modify the existing system is also seperated by a comma.

The original dataset is always preserved thus any changes can be reverted if they are deemed undesirable, however if the user decides that they would like to keep the changes that are made. They are prompted (e.g. Would you like to keep current changes?) and the most current copy is saved over previous copies. In either circumstance the original input data created by the user is kept as "before" version.) ??

4.3 Performance Requirements

Ampersand can efficiently process a large amount of information in a short amount of time; and the process that EFA requires will be added onto Ampersands process time. The time it would take to verify data inconsistencies would depend on the complexity of the system design and the number of corrections it may take to update the system to a valid prototype according to specification. Any interface between a user and the automated system shall have a maximum response time of 1 minute. The response time shall be faster after the initial compilation to avoid breaking the user's flow of thought. The system shall prevent deadlock and cycling by flagging areas that it has already corrected.

The prototypes termed "simple models" are tasks that can be accomplished by an individual within a short amount of time, such as selecting the best actor/actress to play lead according to experience and audience appeal. Simple models are able to take into consideration not only the task at hand but the context and environment to which the task must be completed in. Performance is measured on speed, but also on validation of limitations set forth by the user; it will not matter how quickly EFA can do something if it does it incorrectly and creates more work for the user. Currently, the quantification of the desired accuracy of the results produced is unknown, as EFA is in its initial stages. Furthermore, the allowable time between failures is unknown and untested.

EFA can be a great tool, but in case of failure, in the unlikely event that errors are propagated through the system and no one through any cycle of development catch it. If the designer puts full faith in EFA it could be catastrophic, especially if mistakes are not caught and products proceed into the production stage ([? , 153]). However, our contribution will include the propagation of proofs as well as feedback to the user. These proofs will be generated based on the algorithm used by EFA. These proofs will be human-readable, so that if an engineer suspects that EFA has made a mistake, she can examine the proof to be convinced that EFA is indeed sound. If the proof contains a mistake, it will be much easier to catch than a code error.

[Explicitly state your performance requirements. Also, fix the odd break in the last paragraph. —DS]

4.4 Operational and Environmental Requirements

Any system that is currently running Ampersand will be able to run this product under a new version and thus no new requirements have been introduced. [Either explicitly state the current requirements for running Ampersand, or mention that any system currently running Ampersand will be able to run the new version and thus no

new requirements have been introduced —DS].

4.5 Maintainability and Support Requirements

All code submitted for this project must be maintainable, which mean it is well documented and comes with mathematical proof. This is an essential requirement for the future maintenance of Ampersand. EFA must make sure that each specification/error is traceable ([? , 2]).

[Pull out the explicit requirements and remove the fluff. —DS]

4.6 Security and Integrity Requirements

As an open source project any individual who clones the Ampersand Github has access to source code and can manipulate it as they wish. Irrelevant of what changes the user makes locally, it does not effect the Github respository, as only developers of Ampersand (i.e., our client) has permission to change source code in the respository. Access to the database and software which supports the various functions of Ampersand are run locally and subjected to the security system the user has in place on his or her work station.

[The git repository is not the issue here, are there any security/integrity concerns for the data you will be handling or for the way your contribution will handle data? —DS]

4.7 Validation and Verification Requirements

Validation and verification are important parts of non-functional requirements used to test the quality of the final product. Validation is a human activity and requires user input; the rules for the software system to follow are provided by the user, and only the user can judge if the rules are correct for the system that they are attempting to create. The validation that EFA offers is a logical test to confirm that all data sets do not violate the rules that the system follow for the model to properly mimic realistic conditions.

Verification test the accuracy of EFA, and how well it can replicate what the use has in mind according to an ECA rule system. Verification is an automated process that confirms correctness of the project in accordance to previously validated rules.

Furthermore, verification confirms the success of ECA rule adoption, and is able to quantify the level of success or failure encountered by EFA ([?]).

[What are your explicit verification/validation requirements? —DS]

4.8 Legal Requirements

The implementation must eventually be included in Ampersand, which is licensed under GPL3. To comply with this license, all of the implementation code must be either written by us so we may license it under GPL, or must already be licensed under GPL, or a compatible license, by its original author. We do not plan to use existing code, other than as a reference.

Chapter 5

Project Issues

5.1 Open Issues

Our contribution consists entirely of adding a new feature to Ampersand. There have been no significant previous efforts to implement this feature within Ampersand. There are no open issues outside of implementing this feature.

5.2 Off-the-Shelf Solutions

No off the shelf solutions exist for this project.

5.3 New Problems

Our contribution will be entirely internal to Ampersand; it will not affect end users in terms of the interface to Ampersand or any of the resources that Ampersand generates.

The current Ampersand environment will not be affected by our contribution, since EFA is an additional feature whose functionality will exist on top of existing functionality; that is, EFA will not affect old functionalities of Ampersand.

Our contribution will be smoothly intergrated into Ampersand using git and GitHub. This transition is not expected to create any problems.

5.4 Tasks

- Analyze the existing software code base and do an impact analysis of our project on the existing software.
- Propose a solution to the supervisor and product owner.
- Implement the solution and provide the annotated source code to the supervisor and the product owner for a review.
- Incorporate any changes suggested by them and create a pull request in the main Ampersand repository upon successful completion of the task.

5.5 Migration to the New Product

Upon final review by the client and intensive testing, if the client is satisfied by the quality of code and its maintainability, the implementation will be made part of the production stream. This process is quite simple due to the nature of the project; the core development team of Ampersand is quite small, and the project is hosted on GitHub; so our migration will consist of submitting a pull request to the Ampersand repository.

5.6 Risks

- The new code must not introduce any errors or performance regressions into Ampersand.
- The code must satisfy existing tests and additional tests written for the new algorithm being implemented.

5.7 Costs

Currently the Ampersand software system is open source and maintained by Tarski Systems. All the software subsystems used in Ampersand are also open source. There will no change in cost as a result of our implementation. The client (Tarski Systems) will be responsible for managing the cost of maintenance of the software in the future. All software used in the development of EFA (GHC, LaTeX, etc.) are open source as well; there is no cost requirement for any component used. [\[You can also mention time costs. —DS\]](#)

5.8 User Documentation and Training

User documentation will accompany EFA which will give a brief explanation concerning how EFA works and how users can use EFA to maximize their efficiency. EFA requires minimal input from user, but each possible input will be explained thoroughly and various examples will be provided in a step by step tutorial to help familiarize the user with EFA. Furthermore, a practice simulation will be in place for the user. The test will include a well documented default script which the user can compile to try out different priority options. The manual will include pictures as a type of visual guide concerning what the screen should look like from beginning to end. The documentation will likely be part of the Ampersand documentation, but for the purposes of this project, it will be submitted independently.

5.9 Waiting Room

Our project consists of implementing a single feature. There are no other features that even touch the scope of this project. Therefore, there are no requirements which will not be satisfied as a part of the initial release.

[Overall comment: Too verbose. Throughout the document you use a lot of words to say very little. —DS]