[See the last page for template assistance.]

<Use Case Abbreviation>: <Use Case Name>

<Project/Sub-project Title>

<Office/Group>

Prepared for

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[Note: As a general rule the file name should contain the use case name.]

File Name: Document1

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<Project/Sub-project Title>

[A use case specification contains the textual properties of a use case. This document is used with a requirements management tool, such as Rational® RequisitePro®, for specifying and marking the requirements within the use case properties.

Use case diagrams can be developed in a visual modeling tool, such as Rational Rose®. A use case report, with all properties, may be generated with Rational® SoDA®. For more information, see the tool mentors in the Rational Unified Process® (RUP®).]

# Description

[Present the description of the use case here. It should briefly convey the role and purpose of the use case. A single paragraph will suffice for this description.]

# Actors

[Present the actors that will be used throughout this use case. If any of the actor names deviate from the ones listed in the model, make sure to note that and provide the reasoning in this section.]

## <Actor A>

## <Actor B>

## <Actor C>

# Pre-conditions

[A precondition of a use case is the state of the system that must be present prior to a use case being performed.]

## <Pre-condition A>

[Present the pre-condition text here.]

## <Pre-condition B>

[Present the pre-condition text here.]

## <Pre-condition C>

[Present the pre-condition text here.]

# Post-conditions

[A post-condition of a use case is a list of possible states the system can be in immediately after a use case has finished.]

## <Post-condition A>

[Present the post-condition text here.]

## <Post-condition B>

[Present the post-condition text here.]

## <Post-condition C>

[Present the post-condition text here.]

# Basic Flow of Events

[You are recommended to tag/mark the business rules in the flow of this use case specification.

This use case starts when the actor performs an action. An actor always initiates a use case. The use case describes what the actor does and what the system does in response. It is phrased in the form of a dialog between the actor and the system.

The use case describes what happens inside the system, but not how or why. If information is exchanged, be specific about what is passed back and forth. For example, it is not very informative to say that the actor “enters customer information” if it is not defined. It is better to say the actor “enters the customer’s name and address.” A glossary (or a more formal Domain Model) is essential to keep the complexity of the use case manageable⎯you may want to define things like customer information there to keep the use case from drowning in details.

A complex flow of events should be further structured into sub-flows. In doing this, the main goal should be improving the readability of the text. Sub-flows can be invoked many times from many places. Remember that the use case can perform sub-flows in optional sequences or in loops or even several at the same time.

A picture is sometimes worth a thousand words, but there is no substitute for clean, clear prose. If it improves clarity, feel free to paste flow charts, activity diagrams, or other figures into the use case. If a flowchart is useful to present a complex decision process, by all means use it! Similarly, for state-dependent behavior, a state-transition diagram often clarifies the behavior of a system better than pages upon pages of text. Use the right presentation medium for your problem, but be wary of using terminology, notations, or figures that your audience may not understand. Remember that your purpose is to clarify, not obscure.

Where a Business Rule applies within the use case, create a reference to the exact step in the Basic Flow where the rule applies. The reference should link to the specific rule defined in the Business Rules artifact. (Simply saying that use case X uses Business Rule Y is not sufficient. It is important that the designer know exactly where in the flow of the use case the rule applies in order to accurately capture the business needs in the system.)]

## <Basic Flow Step A Title>

[Place the text for the Basic Flow Step here.]

## <Basic Flow Step B Title>

[Place the text for the Basic Flow Step here.]

## <Basic Flow Step C Title>

[Place the text for the Basic Flow Step here.]

# Alternative Flows

[More complex alternatives are described in a separate section, referred to in the “Basic Flow” subsection of the “Flow of Events” section of this document. Think of the “Alternative Flow” subsections like alternative behavior⎯ each Alternative Flow represents alternative behavior usually due to exceptions that occur in the main flow. They may be as long as necessary to describe the events associated with the alternative behavior.

Start each Alternative Flow with an initial statement clearly describing where the Alternative Flow can occur and the conditions under which it is performed.

End each Alternative Flow with a statement that clearly describes where the events of the main events flow are resumed. This must be explicitly stated.

Using Alternative Flows improves the readability of the use case. Keep in mind that use cases are just textual descriptions, and their main purpose is to document the behavior of a system in a clear, concise, and understandable way.

Where a Business Rule applies within the use case, create a reference to the exact step in the Alternative Flow where the rule applies. The reference should link to the specific rule defined in the Business Rules artifact. (Simply saying that use case X uses Business Rule Y is not sufficient. It is important that the designer know exactly where in the flow of the use case the rule applies in order to accurately capture the business needs in the system.)]

[Often there are multiple Alternative Flows related to a single area of functionality (*e.g.,* specialist withdrawal facilities, card handling or receipt handling for the Withdraw Cash use case of an Automated Teller Machine). It improves readability if these conceptually related sets of flows are grouped into their own clearly named sub-section.]

## <Functionality Area >

### <Alternative Flow A>

[Provide a Brief Description of this Alternative Flow.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step A1 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step A2 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step A3 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

### <Alternative Flow B>

[Provide a Brief Description of this Alternative Flow.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step B1 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step B2 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step B3 Title>

## Exceptions

[This section has been provided to assist you with creating an Exception Flow. Flows that occur as a result of exceptions are rarely being captured in the use cases at FSA; by pulling this section out separately from the rest of the alternates, we hope to draw focus to its importance.]

### <Alternative Flow A>

[Provide a Brief Description of this Alternative Flow.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step A1 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step A2 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step A3 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

### <Alternative Flow B>

[Provide a Brief Description of this Alternative Flow.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step B1 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step B2 Title>

[Place the text for the Alternative Flow Step here.]

#### <Alternative Flow Step B3 Title>

# Extension Points

[This section lists extension points of the use case.]

## <Extension Point A>

[Define the location of the extension point in the flow of events.]

## <Extension Point B>

[Define the location of the extension point in the flow of events.]

## <Extension Point C>

[Define the location of the extension point in the flow of events.]

# Special Requirements

[A special requirement is typically a nonfunctional requirement that is specific to a use case but is not easily or naturally specified in the use case’s event flow text. Examples include legal and regulatory requirements, application standards and quality attributes of the system to be built including usability, reliability, performance, or supportability requirements. Additional requirements should be captured in this section, such as operating systems and environments, compatibility requirements, and design constraints.]

## <Special Requirement A>

[Place the text for the special requirement here.]

## <Special Requirement B>

[Place the text for the special requirement here.]

## <Special Requirement C>

[Place the text for the special requirement here.]

# Key Scenarios

[List the most important scenarios of the use case. Simply provide a short name and accompanying description to uniquely identify each key scenario. There will potentially be many scenarios possible with this use case specification: it is important to focus on the most important or frequently discussed scenarios that are either exemplars of this use case or are of concern or specific importance to the actor stakeholders. These can be used as a starting point in the development of test cases.]

## <Scenario A>

[Place the text for the scenario here.]

## <Scenario B>

[Place the text for the scenario here.]

## <Scenario C>

[Place the text for the scenario here.]

# Additional Information

[Include or provide references to any additional information required to clarify the use case. This could include overview diagrams, examples, etc.]

# Concerns

[List any business dialog to address questions asked by the development team.

Note that this section should not replace Change Requests. Any changes identified during the process of developing the system must go through the change control process by capturing a formal Change Request.]

Revision History

| Version | Date | Summary of Changes | Author | Revision Marks (Yes/No) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0.1 |  | Initial revision. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

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