

Individual Reflections about learning experience, SA 2015 – Henrik Buch-Larsen, 20151118

In general i think that the outcome of this course has been very usefull. The main topics presented has inspired me to seek more background information on architectural requirements, tactics and evaluation methods. Also i have learned new things about lot implementations. So far so good.

As for the different tools presented in the couse, things are a bit mixed.

I dont think that personas are that usefull as a method for capturing requirement for system design as it could potentially give a wrong or biased view of the system requirements. The method lacks abstraction to the group of users in question and would only give an indication about the specific users requirements without alignment to a user role.

Scenarios are somewhat more usefull but still doesn't force any systematic approach on the problem domain. I struggled a lot with the form and content of the scenario template which i think doesnt support the goal very well.

I'm missing a process or architectural method that ties the different tools together. The hard parts of architectural design has not been given enough attention in the course.

Software patterns which i see as a central tool has only been touched very briefly, but still considered as knowledge in the assignment design process. It would have been helpfull to see some real world examples of patterns applied to solve a specific architectural problems. SOA patterns and Enterprise Integration Patterns could have had more focus in my oppinion.

The reference architecture has been a very usefull guide trough the design process as well as the evaluation process. It also helped structuring the questions about the architecture that was evaluated because it covers the essential functionality in this type of solution.

In general the reference architecture could have been described in more views, eg 4+1. It would have been helpfull if there had been some kind of dynamic perspective of this type of solutions.

Domain knowledge is essential to design a system that actually have the necessary requirements. The lot Smart Home case is a very interesting domain but also very challenging.

First of all it is a domain that contains both hardware and software solutions. This fact is one of several aspects that makes lot as a learning case somewhat problematic.

Given the relatively short time to design this type of system it would have been more effective if we could have focused on a smaller part of the system to get a chance to go into depth with a design.

This would probably also resemble a more realistic situation where one is asked to extend a existing system with new fuctionality instead of designing a system from scratch.