# Requirements Analysis and Design Document Template

**(The requirements and design document template is given at the end of this document)**

Why do it? The requirements analysis which you perform and document before you start designing and writing a computer program is useful for two very good reasons:

1. It provides you with a means of confirming and agreeing with the person who commissioned you to develop your program (your client) that you have an appropriate understanding of what is needed.
2. Once you have agreed with the client that the analysis is correct, it provides you with a working document, against which, at any time, you can check if your design and/or program is meeting requirements.

Requirements analysis is a topic which you will learn more about in detail if you study Software Engineering in later years but there are some basic principles which are usefully adopted right from the start. The sections which should be present in the requirements analysis which you do should be based on the following headings:

**Statement of the problem**

Make a clear statement of the problem which you are trying to solve at a very high level – in other words, unambiguously but with only the essential detail. In other words, say what your program sets out to do.

In the assignments you will do as programming exercises, this will often be a repetition of the set problem. For example, you might be set the following problem: “Write a program to find the average of a series of numbers”. Your *Statement of the Problem* might simply say: “A program to calculate the arithmetic mean of a series of numbers”. This statement stands on its own but it doesn’t say very much about your program **except** what it does. Notice also that even at this stage it says a bit more than the set problem – “average” has been redefined to mean “arithmetic mean”, not mode or median, so the process of refinement has already begun.

In real life, requirements are likely to be derived from extensive consultation with users.

**Users**

Often, especially in programming exercises, it will be obvious who the users are. You should still make it clear who they are. For example, “The program will be used by primary school children to help them to understand the concept of arithmetic mean” implies a very different solution from “The program will form a module within a financial package which is used by accountants for assessing clients’ tax liabilities”.

Both are equally legitimate reasons for writing the program to calculate means, yet the tasks involved in designing the two programs are likely to be completely different. In what ways do they differ?

You should also identify the range of users: will any have special needs? In what way? What prior experience with computers do they have? How motivated will they be to use the program? (Can you think of any other questions?)

**Details**

1. **Assumptions**

State the assumptions you are making (and why if necessary). For example, *“the numbers input are integers”* or *“the numbers are real and will be given to 2 decimal places”*; *“users will understand the concept of arithmetic mean”*; *“no more than 50 numbers will be input in any run of the program”*; *“some users will be visually impaired”*. These are all assumptions about the requirements of the program which have implications for its design.

1. **Input and Output**

How is the computer to accept input and give output? For example, *“errors in input will be handled by…”*; *“input will be received from the rawdata module as an array of 50 floating point numbers”*; *“output will be to the screen with no explanatory message”*; *“output will be to a speech synthesiser with an explanation of its meaning in non-technical terms”*.

All of these are requirements for input and output which will emerge from a requirements analysis and which should be specified in the requirements analysis document.

1. **Standards**

State any relevant standards. For example, *“The program will be implemented in Microsoft Windows and will meet all interface guidelines for Windows programs”*.

**Performance**

Measurable performance requirements should be noted at this stage. These may be **system** or **usability** performance targets, for example, *“The program must calculate the result accurately to 35 decimal places 100% of the time; 90% of the target user group will be able to calculate an average of five numbers after 2 minutes training.”* Setting measurable performance targets like these enables you to test the system later on to see if it is good enough for its stated purpose. If your client has already agreed the performance standards then it also protects you from statements like “oh it’s very good but we expected it to be a bit faster”.

**Functional and Non-functional Requirements**

Most of the ideas above are to do with functional requirements – what the system is to do and not to do; how the system should react in situations and so on.

Equally important, the system needs put in a context. To some developers, these aspects are much more interesting and are known as non-functional requirements. Non-functional considerations include product usability, the user experience, the portability and reliability of the system. They also include process considerations, such as delivery, how the implementation is done and to what standards.

Finally, there are external non-functional requirements such as other programs, ethical and legal considerations and safety.

Given that modern software products (such as games) often succeed or fail on the basis of the quality of the user experience, some of these non-functional requirements can be very important. You will consider functional and non-functional requirements much more in years to come; for now, just be aware of them when you are thinking about software requirements and design.

*This is a template for an object-oriented design document. It provides an outline with headings. You do not have to follow this template, but it can provide you with a guide. The notes in [italics] are to help you and should be removed. Please delete the instructions on the first two pages of this document before submitting it!*

# Name of Project

**Date: 20/09/2019**

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## Statement of requirements

*[Start by giving a brief description of the problem here]*

[Includes brief sections on *Assumptions about the user, Inputs to the program and Outputs from the program]*

*The program is designed to be used by children.*

### Requirements

**Functional Requirements**

*[These should deal with the function of the system, i.e. this will be the main body of requirements that clearly specify what requirements the system shall, should or may meet]*

*R1 – The system shall open with a Main Menu*

*Rational: This page allows the user to select a function of the program*

*R2 – The system shall contain a Start New Game option*

*Rational: It will initiate a completely new game. It will be activated by a mouse click.*

*R3 – The system shall display a 10 x 10 square grid as the playfield*

*Rational: The x axis is labelled by the alphabet from A to J. The y axis is labelled by ascending numbers from 1 to 10.*

*R4 – The system shall randomly place its battle fleet on the grid.*

*R5 – The positions of the ships shall be hidden by default*

*R6 – The system shall have a way to reveal the positions of the ships on the grid.*

*R4 – The player shall play against the computer.*

*Rational: It is a one player game, the computer does not shoot back, so the player does not place any ships on the grid.*

*R5 – The system shall allow the player to choose a previously not chosen square in attempt to locate the computer’s battleships.*

*R6 – The system shall indicate whether the fire hit or missed.*

**Non-functional Requirements**

[These relate to non-functional aspects of the system such as u*sability, performance or system hardware constraints (e.g. minimum hardware specification), required software etc.]*

*NFR1 – The Java Runtime Environment (JRE) shall be installed on the system*

*NFR2 – The program shall be played by a mouse*

*Rational: This program cannot be played on a mobile device*

*NFR3 –*

### User Interface

*[Notes or sketches describing the user interface]*

### Use Cases

*[Consider who or what will use the system and how they will interact with it. Give a descriptive sentence for each use case then the USER: SYSTEM dialogue]*

### Classes

##### Candidate Classes

*[Fill in the table below with ALL the nouns form the statement of requirements. Note that you do not have to limit yourselves to just these nouns. If a more appropriate noun is sensible then use that]*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Candidate Classes** | **Accept / Reject** | **Reason for rejection** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

##### Class Descriptions including Responsibilities, Fields and Methods

*[For each class state what it is responsible for and list the fields (with type) and methods (type and parameters)].*

##### Class Diagram

*[Show the relationships between classes]*

***Activity Diagrams / Pseudocode***

*[For any complex or critical methods]*