

Canterbury Institute of Management



MSIT401 System Development Methodologies Reflective Journal - Week 3

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What is Requirement Engineering?

Requirement engineering is the process of understanding and documenting the functional & non-functional requirement of an information system in such a way that later phases of development, implementation can be properly planned without overlooking the risks, challenges of such implementation. These requirements may be obtained in multiple approaches such as interviews, surveys or observing such like.

How Requirement Engineering is done

We can approach requirement gathering in a way that it leads to defining a clear set of functional and non-functional requirements that are agreed as deliverables between all stakeholders. First of all we need to decide a system boundary, which helps us to determine what type of requirement engineering process needs to be followed. For example, a redesign of a banking system would require interviewing counter serving staff either in groups or individually, whereas a redesign of an ERP system would require interviewing top level management perhaps in very small groups to avoid confusing statements and conflicting views.

Once requirements are identified, proper document must be generated with precise reflection of what was gathered as requirements which is what we need to get the agreement between stakeholders as deliverables with a reasonable time span.

What is next?

We need to learn how requirements are documented what are the methods, techniques available to reduce ambiguous scenarios. Requirement gathering is not as simple as creating a list of items that needs to accomplished as per my opinion. Producing such documents that are precise and cohesive needs practice according to my experience over the years in the industry.