COMP3297 Introduction to Software Engineering
Department of Computer Science
The University of Hong Kong

Inception Task Sheet: The *AS-P* Project

Inception Overview

Your general objectives in Inception are to:

- understand the problem and ensure the scope is clear and agreed upon;
- identify, in broad terms, the required features of *AS-P*;
- identify stakeholders and their interests;
- identify the majority of use cases, and describe a small number of key scenarios in detail;
- identify major risks and establish a mitigation strategy.

Thus, your major goals are to develop an initial understanding of what to build and thus establish the Vision and Scope of the project. Work also begins on the use-case model.

An additional objective in Inception in the Unified Process is to understand any important non-functional requirements and any other constraints that may impact the choice of architecture. For the *AS-P* project, since there is no freedom in choice of architecture or framework, we'll postpone this until the start of Elaboration.

Normally, you would also examine feasibility, devise at least one candidate architecture, and produce rough project plans and estimates. For *AS-P*, because of the course constraint that requires a somewhat pre-defined project that will serve all teams, you may assume that these aspects have been taken care of.

Inception 1 Deliverables

1) Vision and Scope Document *(Reminder: a Vision and Scope Document should be quite short)*

The nature and scale of the *AS-P* project allows us to omit or combine various sections that appear in the full Vision and Scope sample for the COS. The template in our Moodle > Samples section reflects these omissions.

1 Business Requirements

Sections 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6 of the sample are omitted and the remaining sections are renumbered. You can assume that those parts of the business analysis were performed when the project was proposed. 1.7(now 1.4) may contain "None" if no assumptions/dependencies have been identified.

2 Scope and Limitations

2.2 Scope of Initial and Subsequent Releases
For our project we have a single product release: Release 1. If there are features that you wish to emphasize are out of out of scope for our project, yet still remain part of the overall vision of the product, you can add additional Releases to take AS-P through to its final, full-scale production form as shown in the COS sample.

2.3 Limitations and Exclusions
May contain "None" if you have not identified any limitations/exclusions.

3 Business Context

3.1 Stakeholder Profiles
Include only the following columns: Stakeholder, Major Value and Major Interests.

Omit the section"Project Priorities"(labelled 3.2 in the sample).

3.2 Deployment Considerations
A renumbered section 3.3. This can be an overview or summary. If details need to be recorded, a better place for them is the Supplementary Spec that you'll prepare in a later iteration.

2) User Interface Prototypes

Your prototypes need not be functional. Paper prototypes are often better during these early stages of development while you are developing a better understanding of requirements and exploring ideas and alternatives.

Your prototypes should show rough UI layout and flow. An effective way to develop prototypes and to communicate with users is to sketch storyboards showing the sequences of frames involved in users' principal interactions with the system. That is, show users how they will use your system to perform their tasks. In general during Inception you should develop storyboards for the main success scenarios of the use cases you describe in detail (see *Deliverable 3*). Since those use cases serve the Clinic Manager and Dispatcher, it will be useful to add a further storyboard for a scenario involving Warehouse Personnel to ensure that the needs of a wide range of users are covered.

You should develop preliminary versions of your prototypes for the meeting with your client to ensure you share a common understanding of *AS-P*'s interface. You may refine them if necessary before delivering them as part of your document set at the end of Inception.

3) Use-Case model (Partial)

a) To write your use cases, follow the Use-Case Template posted on our Moodle page. In your model you will describe two use cases in detail. Those use cases will be those whose implementation will mitigate large risks in the project and/or deliver core functionality and/or touch many parts of the architecture. They are:

- *Order Supplies,*
- *Dispatch Orders.*

For each use-case, you must provide a fully-detailed description of the main success scenario and all alternate success scenarios. We do *not* require you to describe failure scenarios or exception handling.

b) Identify all remaining use cases and document them by listing only their names and a short summary of the main success scenario – that is, describe them using the Brief Format.

4) Glossary (Preliminary)

Here you will gather and define any important terms from the problem domain. This will ensure there are no misunderstandings and is mostly for the benefit of developers. Over the course of the project, the Glossary will develop into a form of data dictionary where you can also specify format and validation rules for the data items. Two examples of terms you would add to the Glossary for *AS-P* would be *Itinerary Leg* and *Location Latitude.* What are they? If they are data, are there any constraints on length or format?

Beware: there are many poor examples of Glossaries available online. Make sure yours serves its intended purpose.

5) Individual Contribution

Summarize teamwork and responsibilities, indicating the relative contribution of each team member to the work performed in this iteration. Use a five-point integer scale of 0 (no contribution at all) to 4 (excellent contribution) to indicate the contribution made by each member. Also let us know if there are any team members you still can't contact or who rarely respond.

6) Team Name

Choose a name for your software development team to use in your documents and in communications with your client.

Important In the various documents you deliver during our project, please avoid listing the name or student ID of any group member except in the report of individual contributions (Deliverable 5, above). Rather, just use your team name in the "Prepared by:", "Originated by:" fields, and in the change histories. This is to safeguard your privacy.

The reason is that we present many of your documents to Faculty Committees as samples of coursework. These are then reviewed by external bodies. As part of Faculty's responsibility to maintain privacy of Personal Data they require us to remove any information that could be used to identify individual students. That means if such information is present, we need to find it and redact all occurrences before passing the documents to Faculty.

We don’t pass your reports of individual contributions to Faculty and so it’s fine to leave such information in that document.

Handin Method: Via Moodle, with two hard copies delivered manually.
Deadline: Softcopy: October 13 (Saturday) 17:00. Hardcopy: As soon as possible after softcopy deadline.