Module Eight

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, you will meet these learning objectives:

☑ Describe the implementation and maintenance phases of the SDLC

☑ Reflect on the system design process by evaluating design documentation

Module Overview

Welcome to the final module of CS 255! In previous modules, you have explored the early phases of the SDLC. Your work in the projects has focused primarily on the analysis and design phases. In this final module, you will learn more about the last two phases: implementation and maintenance. During these phases, the systems analyst takes more of a background role.

In the implementation phase, the role of the systems analyst is mainly to answer any questions that the "end users" have as they build the system. The term end users refers to the programmers, database developers, or designers who build off of the documents and diagrams the systems analyst provided. The job of the analyst is to ensure that people working on the UML diagrams are following each element. Communication between the client, systems analyst, and developers is still maintained throughout this phase. However, the client is only contacted when necessary—for example, if clarification is needed on certain elements of the system that the systems analyst cannot provide. In rare cases, developers might provide the systems analyst with a prototype to demonstrate the concept that they will build. In these instances, the systems analyst would show the prototype to the client to make sure the "look and feel" matches what was intended. However, it is important to note that building prototypes costs money and time. This means that clients only rarely request prototypes. Once the full system is built, the end result of the implementation phase is the delivery of the new system.

In the maintenance phase, the end users might refine the system's functionality, enhance system performance, or add new capabilities to meet additional user requirements. In this phase, most of the end users' work is done and the client is shown the final system. The client will give comments on the system, possibly ask for a few changes that won't affect the overall operations (no scope creep), and then sign off on it. Depending on the contract, a light team would stay on top of the system to ensure that it runs smoothly and that any bugs are fixed during the early stages of the system's release.

Module at a Glance

This is the recommended plan for completing the reading assignments and activities within the module. Additional information can be found in the module Resources section and on the module table of contents page.

1   Review the Module Eight resources.

2   Post your initial response to this week's discussion.

3   Complete the Module Eight journal by adding an artifact to your GitHub portfolio.

4   Post peer responses to the discussion.