Chapter 9

- **Requirements Modeling: Scenario-Based Methods**

Slide Set to accompany

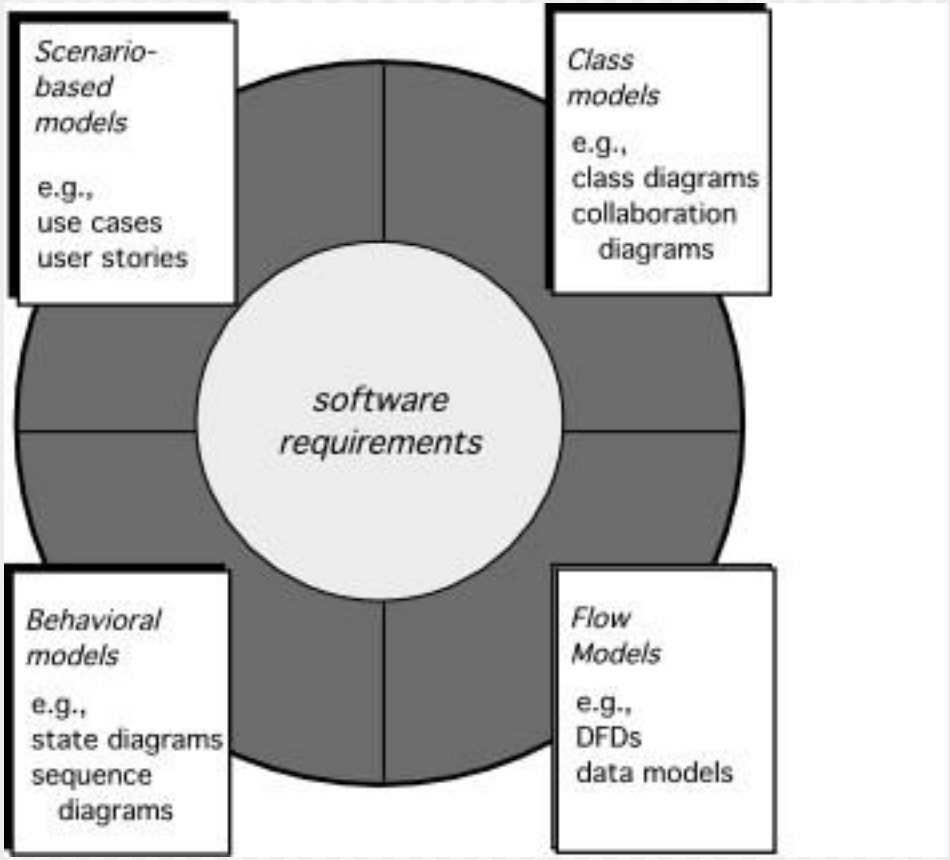
Software Engineering: A Practitioner's Approach, 8/e

by Roger S. Pressman and Bruce R. Maxim

Requirements Analysis

- Requirements analysis
  - specifies software's operational characteristics
  - indicates software's interface with other system elements
  - establishes constraints that software must meet
- Requirements analysis allows the software engineer (called an *analyst* or *modeler* in this role) to:
  - elaborate on basic requirements established during earlier requirement engineering tasks
  - build models that depict user scenarios, functional activities, problem classes and their relationships, system and class behavior, and the flow of data as it is transformed.

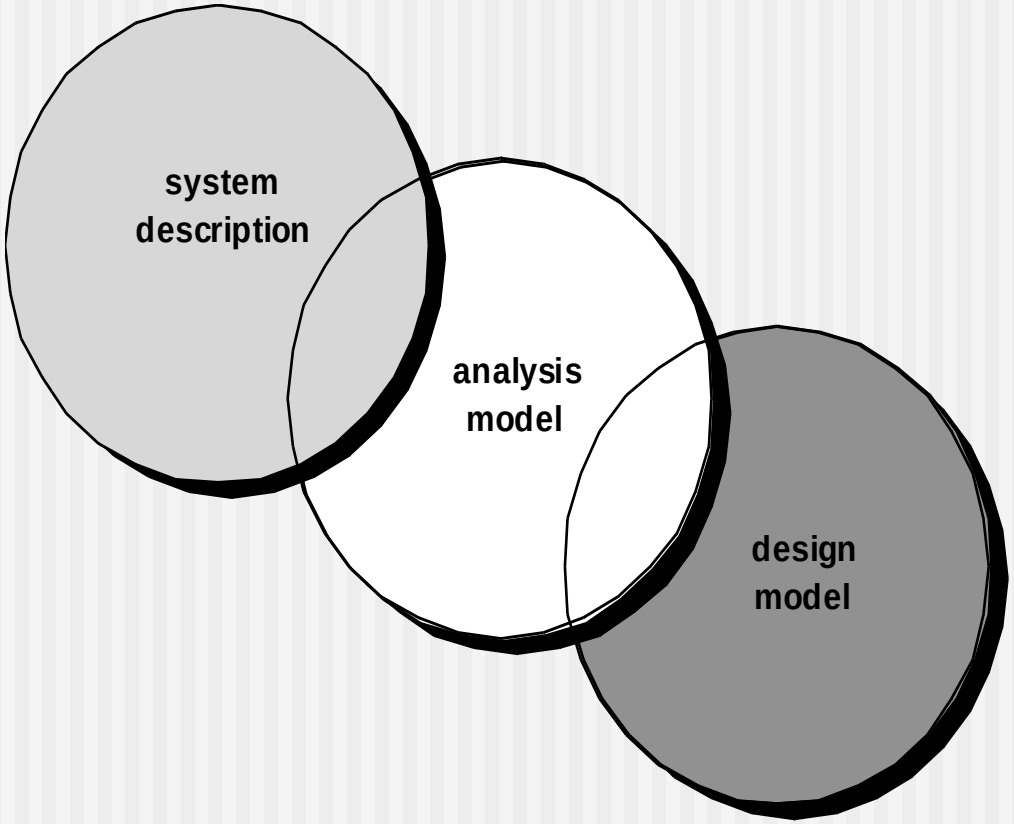
Elements of Requirements Analysis



Requirements Modeling

- Scenario-based
  - system from the user's point of view
- Data
  - shows how data are transformed inside the system
- Class-oriented
  - defines objects, attributes, and relationships
- Flow-oriented
  - shows how data are transformed inside the system
- Behavioral
  - show the impact of events on the system states

A Bridge



Rules of Thumb

- The model should focus on requirements that are visible within the problem or business domain. The level of abstraction should be relatively high.
- Each element of the analysis model should add to an overall understanding of software requirements and provide insight into the information domain, function and behavior of the system.
- Delay consideration of infrastructure and other non-functional models until design.
- Minimize coupling throughout the system.
- Be certain that the analysis model provides value to all stakeholders.
- Keep the model as simple as it can be.

Domain Analysis

Software domain analysis is the identification, analysis, and specification of common requirements from a specific application domain, typically for reuse on multiple projects within that application domain . . . [Object-oriented domain analysis is] the identification, analysis, and specification of common, reusable capabilities within a specific application domain, in terms of common objects, classes, subassemblies, and frameworks . . .

Donald Firesmith

Domain Analysis

- Define the domain to be investigated.
- Collect a representative sample of applications in the domain.
- Analyze each application in the sample.
- Develop an analysis model for the objects.

Scenario-Based Modeling

"[Use-cases] are simply an aid to defining what exists outside the system (actors) and what should be performed by the system (use-cases)." Ivar Jacobson

(1) What should we write about?

(2) How much should we write about it?

(3) How detailed should we make our description?

(4) How should we organize the description?

What to Write About?

- Inception and elicitation—provide you with the information you'll need to begin writing use cases.
- Requirements gathering meetings, QFD, and other requirements engineering mechanisms are used to
  - identify stakeholders
  - define the scope of the problem
  - specify overall operational goals
  - establish priorities
  - outline all known functional requirements, and
  - describe the things (objects) that will be manipulated by the system.
- To begin developing a set of use cases, list the functions or activities performed by a specific actor.

How Much to Write About?

- As further conversations with the stakeholders progress, the requirements gathering team develops use cases for each of the functions noted.
- In general, use cases are written first in an informal narrative fashion.
- If more formality is required, the same use case is rewritten using a structured format similar to the one proposed.

Use-Cases

- a scenario that describes a “thread of usage” for a system
- *actors* represent roles people or devices play as the system functions
- *users* can play a number of different roles for a given scenario

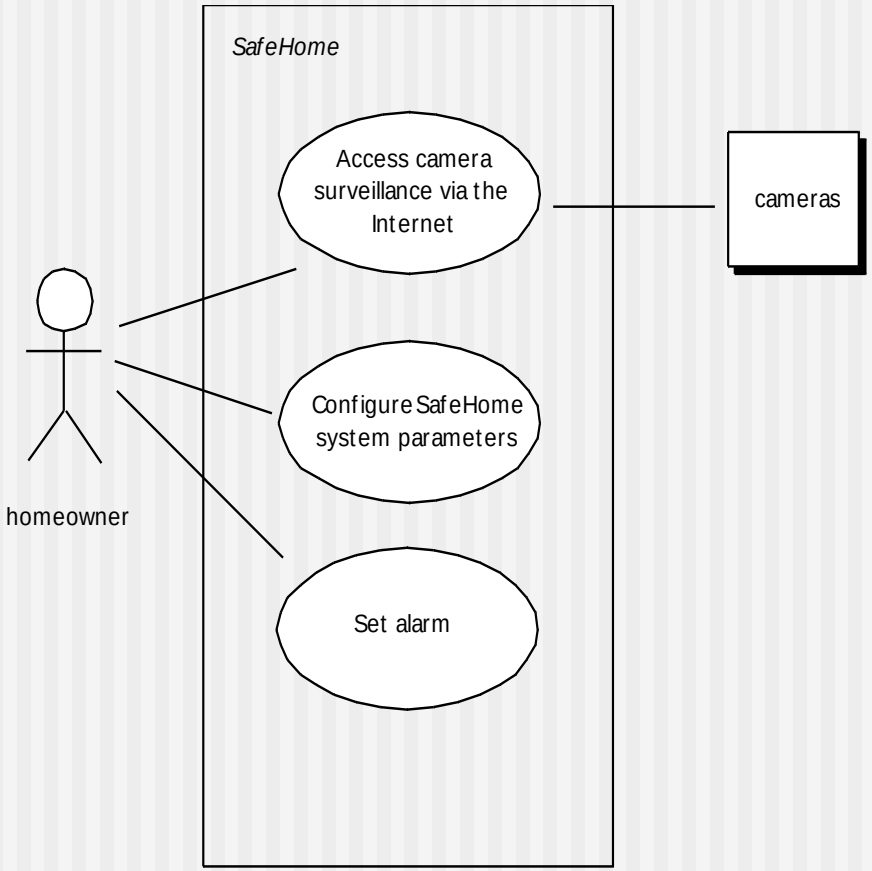
Developing a Use-Case

- What are the main tasks or functions that are performed by the actor?
- What system information will the the actor acquire, produce or change?
- Will the actor have to inform the system about changes in the external environment?
- What information does the actor desire from the system?
- Does the actor wish to be informed about unexpected changes?

Reviewing a Use-Case

- Use-cases are written first in narrative form and mapped to a template if formality is needed
- Each primary scenario should be reviewed and refined to see if alternative interactions are possible
  - Can the actor take some other action at this point?
  - Is it possible that the actor will encounter an error condition at some point? If so, what?
  - Is it possible that the actor will encounter some other behavior at some point? If so, what?

Use-Case Diagram

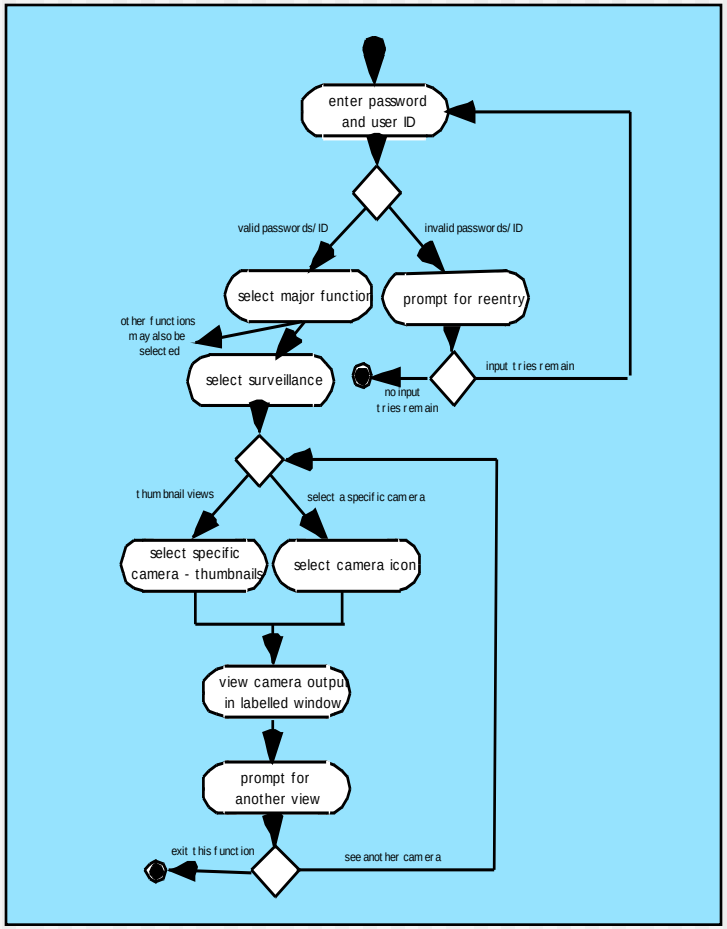


Exceptions

- Describe situations (failures or user choices) that cause the system to exhibit unusual behavior
- Brainstorming should be used to derive a reasonably complete set of exceptions for each use case
- Are there cases where a validation function occurs for the use case?
  - Are there cases where a supporting function (actor) fails to respond appropriately?
  - Can poor system performance result in unexpected or improper use actions?
- Handling exceptions may require the creation of additional use cases

Activity Diagram

Supplements the use case by providing a graphical representation of the flow of interaction within a specific scenario



Swimlane Diagrams

Allows the modeler to represent the flow of activities described by the use-case and at the same time indicate which actor (if there are multiple actors involved in a specific use-case) or analysis class has responsibility for the action described by an activity rectangle