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**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**  
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**CEF440: INTERNET PROGRAMMING(J2EE) AND  
MOBILE PROGRAMMING PROJECT REPORT**

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## Table of Contents

<b>CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
1. Background and Context of the Study	3
2. Problem Statement	3
3. Objectives of the Study	4
3.1 General Objective	4
3.2 Specific Objectives	4
4. Proposed Methodology	4
5. Significance of the Study	5
6. Scope of the Study	5
7. Delimitation of the Study	5
8. Definition of Keywords and Terms	6
<b>CHAPTER TWO: REQUIREMENT GATHERING</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Requirements Gathering Activities	7
1.1 Survey	7
1.2 Interviews	7
1.3 Studying Existing Documentation	7
1.4 Brainstorming Sessions	8
1.5 Overall Gathered Requirements	8
<b>CHAPTER THREE: REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS</b>	<b>10</b>
1. Objectives of Requirement Analysis	10
2. Requirements Categorization	10
2.1 Functional Requirements:	10
2.2 Non-Functional Requirements	11
2.3 User Requirements	12
2.4 System requirements	13
2.5 Legal and Regulatory Requirements	13
3. Acceptance Test Planning	14
3.1 How it was done	14
3.2 The Test Plan	14
4. Conclusion	14
<b>References</b>	<b>15</b>

# CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

## 1. Background and Context of the Study

Road traffic accidents (RTAs) present a significant global challenge, causing substantial morbidity, mortality, and economic losses. The World Health Organization's global status report on road safety 2023 shows that the number of annual road traffic deaths has fallen slightly to 1.19 million. The report shows that efforts to improve road safety are having an impact, and that significant reductions in road traffic deaths can be made if proven measures are applied. Despite this, the price paid for mobility remains too high. Road traffic injuries remain the leading killer of children and young people aged 5-29 years. More than half of fatalities occur among pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, in particular those living in low and middle-income countries. Urgent action is needed if the global goal of at least halving road traffic deaths and injuries by the year 2030 is to be achieved [1].

This project focuses on Cameroon, a central African nation where road safety is a growing concern. Cameroon's road infrastructure faces several complexities including inadequate road maintenance, poor road signage, insufficient real-time traffic information, and a high incidence of road traffic accidents (RTAs). Though specific statistics regarding RTA rates in Cameroon require further research, the broader African context suggests a pressing need for improved road safety measures [2]. Factors contributing to RTAs in the region include:

- **Driver behaviour:** Dangerous driving practices, such as speeding and disregarding traffic signs, are frequently cited as causes of accidents [3].
- **Road infrastructure:** Inadequate Road maintenance, lack of sufficient signage, and poor road design can create hazardous conditions [3].
- **Limited technological intervention:** Existing road safety measures often rely on static signage, which may be missed or misinterpreted by drivers, and lack real-time updates on road conditions [3].

These factors contribute to a significant public safety issue, highlighting the need for technological solutions to improve road safety and awareness.

## 2. Problem Statement

The project addresses the challenge of insufficient driver awareness of road signs and real-time road conditions in Cameroon poses significant safety risks, exacerbated by the lack of dynamic, real-time information systems. Traditional static signage and limited communication channels fail to provide timely updates, leading to potentially dangerous situations such as abrupt reactions to unexpected road signs or hazardous conditions. This problem results in drivers being unaware of crucial road signs, potential hazards like construction zones or accidents, and facing delays due to unanticipated traffic congestion. Consequently, this issue contributes to increased road traffic accidents (RTAs), economic losses, and disruptions in transportation networks.

### 3. Objectives of the Study

This project aims to design and implement a "Road Sign and Road State Mobile Notification Application" specifically tailored for Cameroon's road networks. The project's objectives are:

#### 3.1 General Objective

To design and implement a mobile application that effectively delivers road sign information and real-time road state updates to drivers in Cameroon, enhancing road safety and reducing the occurrence of RTAs.

#### 3.2 Specific Objectives

- Develop a user-friendly mobile application with an intuitive interface for accessing road sign information and road condition updates.
- Create a comprehensive database of road signs on major highways in Cameroon, providing users with instant access to their meanings and significance.
- Integrate real-time data sources, including traffic cameras, weather sensors, and crowdsourced reports, to provide timely updates on traffic congestion, accidents, weather hazards, and road closures.
- Implement customizable notification settings, allowing users to personalize the types of alerts they receive based on their preferences and travel routes.
- Ensure seamless integration with popular navigation systems and mapping platforms for convenient access within existing navigation applications.

### 4. Proposed Methodology

The project will follow a systematic development process encompassing the following stages:

- **Requirement analysis:** Conducting thorough research on road safety challenges in Cameroon, existing road signage systems, and user needs. Gathering data on road signs (location, type, meaning), mapping data, traffic information, and weather data in Cameroon.
- **Application design:** Developing a user-centered design for the mobile application, focusing on intuitive navigation, clear information display, and optimal usability. Designing a database to store road sign information, real-time traffic updates, and road condition reports.
- **Database development:** Creating a comprehensive database of road signs in Cameroon, ensuring accuracy and completeness of information.
- **Data integration:** Establishing connections with real-time data sources to provide up-to-date information on road conditions.

- **Application development:** Implementing the application using appropriate programming languages and frameworks, ensuring compatibility with popular mobile platforms. Developing the mobile application with features for GPS location tracking, customizable notifications, and integration with navigation systems.
- **Testing and evaluation:** Conducting rigorous testing of the application's functionality, usability, and performance. Feedback will be gathered from users to refine the application.
- **Deployment and maintenance:** Launching the application to the public and providing ongoing maintenance and updates. Creating an intuitive user interface optimized for ease of use while driving.

## 5. Significance of the Study

This project holds significant value for Cameroon and other nations facing similar transportation challenges. It has the potential to enhance road safety by addressing the critical issue of inadequate driver awareness and modernizing transportation infrastructure. By providing real-time information and improving communication between drivers and the road infrastructure, the mobile application can contribute to:

- **Improved driver behaviour:** The application can promote responsible driving practices by providing clear information about road signs and regulations.
- **Enhanced travel efficiency:** Real-time updates on traffic and road closures can help drivers plan their routes more effectively, reducing travel time and congestion.
- **Economic benefits:** Reducing RTAs can lead to significant cost savings associated with medical expenses, property damage, and lost productivity.
- **Reduced RTAs:** Timely alerts and increased awareness of road conditions can help drivers make informed decisions and avoid dangerous situations, leading to a decrease in accidents.

This aligns with initiatives to upgrade Cameroon's transport sector with advanced technology, offering drivers more control over their journeys, boosting confidence, and reducing stress.

## 6. Scope of the Study

The scope of this study encompasses the development of a mobile application tailored for use in Cameroon, concentrating initially on major highways and urban areas. Data collection will involve official government sources, collaboration with pertinent agencies, and utilization of crowdsourced information. Future iterations may extend the application's coverage to include a broader road network, contingent upon the successful implementation of the initial phase.

## 7. Delimitation of the Study

The project will not encompass the development of hardware infrastructure, such as road sensors or cameras. It will rely on existing data sources and publicly available information for real-time updates on road conditions (although future iterations could incorporate these).

## 8. Definition of Keywords and Terms

- **Road traffic accident (RTA):** An accident that occurs on a public road involving at least one vehicle in motion.
- **Mobile application:** A software application designed to run on smartphones and other mobile devices.
- **Real-time data:** Information that is delivered immediately after collection, reflecting current conditions.
- **Crowdsourcing:** Obtaining data or information from a large group of people, typically via the internet.
- **Navigation system:** A system that provides directions and guidance to travellers.

# CHAPTER TWO: REQUIREMENT GATHERING

This is the process of collecting and documenting the needs and expectations of the system from various end users. The goal of this research was to identify the user and system requirements that could be incorporated into the system. In order to attain these goals, these requirements gathering activities like: surveys, interviews, studying existing documentation, mobile app market research and brainstorming sessions were carried.

## 1. Requirements Gathering Activities

### 1.1 Survey

Survey forms were submitted to distant users that could not be interviewed through social media. The purpose of this survey was to know the different difficulties encountered by drivers and to create awareness on this technological solution to road safety practices. By analyzing data obtained from surveys, some of the requirements obtained from distant users were:

- Location tracking
- Voice notifications
- Detect and interpret road signs
- Display location with existing navigation app
- Notify blocked roads and propose alternative paths

### 1.2 Interviews

Interviews were conducted addressing drivers in mile 17 Buea with the purpose of knowing the different difficulties encountered by drivers in Buea and on the highway thereby creating a technological awareness on road safety practices. By analyzing data obtained from interviews, some of the requirements obtained from drivers were:

- Alert about blocked roads
- Alert traffic areas before time
- Detect and interpret road signs before time
- Help in road maintenance
- Alert weather conditions before time
- Alert accident areas
- Speed limit reminders
- Give location of bad road areas

### 1.3 Studying Existing Documentation

- **Cameroon Road Safety Reports:** Analysing reports from crowdsourced data to understand accident statistics, common road hazards, and existing road signage practices providing valuable insights about the country's road safety landscape. This road safety country data, available on the Road Safety Facility website, presents information on all pillars of road safety, including management, roads, speed, vehicles, road users, and post-crash care. It offers an overview of the current status for each country and region, along with extensive information on

key risk factors, issues, and opportunities [2]. Some of the requirements gathered here were:

- **Good post-crash care** reduces deaths and reduces disability and suffering for road crash survivors. The emergency medical care system elements and processes need to be effective to attain this objective [2]. Cameroon has several emergency numbers. These are 112 (General); 117 (Police); 119 (Ambulance).
- **Digital Lead Agency** To produce positive road safety outcomes, strong management in all aspects of road safety is key. Presence of a funded lead agency to guide the national road safety effort and implement a Safe Systems approach is recommended. *Cameroon does not have a lead agency. However, Cameroon has a road safety strategy which is partially funded. The functions of the agency are not defined. The country has no known road safety target* [2].
- **Mobile App Market Research:** Researching existing road safety and navigation apps globally (e.g. Here WeGo, Traffic Signs) [4] and within Cameroon to identify best practices and potential shortcomings to improve upon. Some of this shortcomings are:
  - Users data safety
  - Offline Functionality
  - Robust Security measures
  - Real time road recognition with AI

## 1.4 Brainstorming Sessions

Group gathering to brainstorm ideas on the needs, wants and expectations of end users, extra functionalities, and potential challenges. After a couple of sessions, some of the requirements gathered were:

- Partnerships
- Gamification
- Educational Content
- Multilingual Support
- Community Features
- Monetization Strategies

## 1.5 Overall Gathered Requirements

This is where all the requirements obtained from the different activities are listed. These requirements are:

- i. **From Surveys**
  - a. Location tracking
  - b. Voice notifications
  - c. Detect and interpret road signs
  - d. Display location with existing navigation app
  - e. Notify blocked roads and propose alternative paths



**ii. From Interviews**

- a. Alert about blocked roads
- b. Alert traffic areas before time
- c. Detect and interpret road signs before time
- d. Help in road maintenance
- e. Alert weather conditions before time
- f. Alert accident areas
- g. Speed limit reminders
- h. Give location of bad road areas

**iii. From Studying existing documentation**

- a. Cameroon Road Safety Reports
  - Digital Lead Agency
  - Good post-crash care
- b. Mobile App Market Research
  - Users data safety
  - Offline Functionality
  - Robust Security measures
  - Real time road recognition with AI

**iv. Brainstorming Sessions**

- a. Partnerships
- b. Gamification
- c. Educational Content
- d. Multilingual Support
- e. Community Features
- f. Monetization Strategies

# CHAPTER THREE: REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

Requirements analysis for a road sign and road state mobile notifications application involves identifying, documenting, and understanding the needs and constraints of the application to ensure that it meets the objectives of its users and stakeholders. This process involves gathering and categorizing various types of requirements, including functional, non-functional, user, system, and legal/regulatory requirements, to create a comprehensive understanding of what the application must accomplish.

## 1. Objectives of Requirement Analysis

These objectives ensure that the app meets user needs, adheres to legal and regulatory standards, and provides a clear roadmap for its design, development, and testing. They also help manage stakeholder expectations and prevent misunderstandings during the project's lifecycle.

The objectives of the requirements analysis for a road state and road sign mobile notification app, as follows:

- **Clearly define the application's scope and features:** Identify the core functionalities and prioritize them based on user needs and project feasibility.
- **Elicit and document user needs and expectations:** Understand the target audience and their specific requirements, including drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- **Identify technical constraints and dependencies:** Determine the technological limitations, hardware requirements, and potential integrations with existing systems.
- **Create a shared understanding between stakeholders:** Ensure that developers, designers, testers, and clients have a unified vision of the application's goals and functionalities.
- **Lay the groundwork for acceptance testing:** Define criteria for evaluating the application's performance and ensure it meets the agreed-upon requirements.

## 2. Requirements Categorization

### 2.1 Functional Requirements:

These requirements define the basic functions that the application must perform. The table below gives the list of functional requirements;

Functional Requirement	Description	
<b>Location Tracking</b>	The app should track the user's location using GPS to provide contextually relevant information and notifications	
<b>Display Location with Navigation App</b>	The app should integrate with existing navigation apps to display the user's location and provide relevant information within the preferred navigation environment	
<b>Post-Crash Care Information</b>	The app should provide access to information about emergency services and procedures related to post-crash care, potentially including relevant contact information	
<b>Customize Notifications</b>	Choose specific types of alerts and set notification preferences for specific areas or routes.	
<b>Voice Notifications</b>	This allows users to receive important information without needing to look at their device, which is especially important while driving	
<b>Road State Monitoring</b>	The app should access and display real-time information on various road conditions, including:	
	<b>Blocked Roads</b>	Alert users about road closures and suggest alternative routes
	<b>Traffic Areas</b>	Notify users about areas with high traffic congestion in advance
	<b>Accident Areas</b>	Alert users about locations where accidents have occurred
	<b>Bad Road Areas</b>	Inform users about stretches of road with poor conditions
	<b>Weather Conditions</b>	Provide timely alerts about potentially hazardous weather conditions

## 2.2 Non-Functional Requirements

Non-functional requirements are specifications that define how well the application or product should perform. The table below gives the list of functional requirements below;

Non-Functional Requirement	Description
<b>Responsiveness</b>	Fast sign recognition and alert generation.
<b>Accuracy</b>	Reliable road sign detection and interpretation, accurate road condition reports.
<b>Usability</b>	The application interface should be user-friendly, intuitive, optimized for mobile devices and minimal driver interaction required.
<b>Offline Functionality</b>	Store basic road sign data and provide limited functionality when internet connectivity is poor.
<b>Performance</b>	Fast loading times and real-time updates are crucial for safety and effectiveness.
<b>Compatibility</b>	The app should be compatible with a wide range of mobile devices and operating systems to ensure broad accessibility
<b>Response Time and Accuracy</b>	The app should be responsive and provide accurate information regarding road signs and conditions with minimal delays
<b>Scalability and Reliability</b>	The application should be able to handle increasing numbers of users and data volume while maintaining reliable performance
<b>Data Privacy and Security</b>	The app should prioritize user data security and privacy through robust security measures, including secure authentication, data encryption, and compliance with relevant data protection regulations
<b>Real-time Road Recognition with AI</b>	The app should utilize artificial intelligence using the device's camera for road sign recognition.

### 2.3 User Requirements

These requirements are based on the needs and preferences of the target users. The table below gives the list of user requirements below;

User Requirement	Description
<b>Different User Profiles</b>	The app should cater to the specific needs of various user groups, including drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, by providing relevant features and customization options
<b>Accessibility Features</b>	The app should incorporate accessibility features for users with disabilities, such as visually impaired users, ensuring inclusivity.
<b>Customization Options for Notifications and Alerts</b>	Users should have the option to personalize their notification preferences, choosing the types of alerts, frequency, and specific areas of interest

## 2.4 System requirements

These requirements define the technical specifications for the application. The table below gives the list of system requirements below;

System Requirement	Description
<b>Programming Languages, Frameworks, and Libraries</b>	Our team here defines the specific programming languages (Dart and JavaScript), frameworks (Flutter), to be used for building the application
<b>Architecture and Design</b>	The app's architecture and design were clearly outlined, including any backend servers or databases required for data management and processing
<b>Integration with External Systems</b>	The app should integrate with external systems such as mapping APIs, traffic data providers, and weather services to access and utilize real-time information

## 2.5 Legal and Regulatory Requirements

These requirements define how the application must comply with relevant laws and regulations. The table below gives the list of legal and regulatory requirements below;

Regulatory Requirement	Description
<b>Compliance with Road Safety and Traffic Laws</b>	The application must comply with road safety regulations and traffic laws in the regions where it will be used
<b>Data Protection and Privacy Regulations</b>	The app must adhere to data protection and privacy regulations, such as GDPR and CCPA[6], to protect user data and ensure ethical handling of personal information

### 3. Acceptance Test Planning

Acceptance testing in the requirements analysis phase primarily focuses on creating a comprehensive Acceptance Test Plan. This plan outlines the procedures and criteria for evaluating the final application against the defined requirements.

#### 3.1 How it was done

- **Defining acceptance criteria:** Translating each requirement into testable criteria that clearly define what constitutes a "pass" or "fail." For example, the accuracy rate for road sign recognition or the timeliness of road condition notifications.
- **Designing test cases:** Creating specific scenarios that simulate real-world use cases and test various aspects of the application's functionality.
- **Identifying test data:** Defining the necessary data sets (road sign images, traffic data, weather information) to execute the test cases realistically.
- **Establishing acceptance test environment:** Specifying the hardware, software, and network configurations required for conducting the tests.

#### 3.2 The Test Plan

The Acceptance Test Plan serves as a blueprint for the final testing phase, ensuring that the application meets user expectations and fulfills the agreed-upon requirements before deployment. It also acts as a communication tool between stakeholders, solidifying their shared understanding of what defines a successful application.

### 4. Conclusion

The requirement analysis phase is a critical step in the development cycle of a road sign and road state mobile notifications application. By thoroughly understanding the needs and expectations of stakeholders and users, documenting clear and comprehensive requirements, and conducting acceptance testing, the project team can ensure the successful delivery of a user-friendly and effective application that enhances road safety and provides valuable real-time information to drivers.

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