



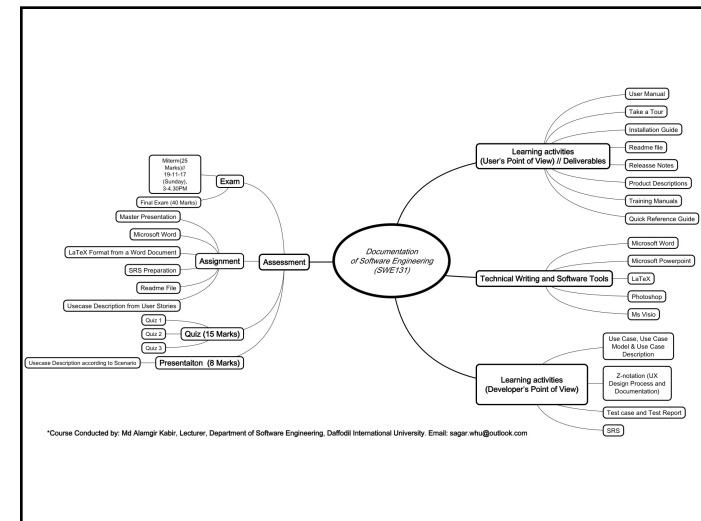
Department of
Software Engineering

Documentation of Software Engineering

Documentation Principles

Presenter

Md Alamgir Kabir
sagar.whu@outlook.com



Department of
Software Engineering

Outline

- Documentation Principles
- Single Sourcing Technical Documentation
- Single Sourcing Principles



Department of
Software Engineering

Principles of Sound Documentation
Single Sourcing in Technical Documentation
Single Sourcing Principles

Documentation Principles

Principles of sound documentation

- (1) Write from the point of view of the reader;
- (2) Avoid unnecessary repetition;
- (3) Avoid ambiguity;
- (4) Use a standard organization;
- (5) Record rationale (A set of reason with particular description);
- (6) Keep documentation current but not too current; and
- (7) Review documentation for fitness of purpose.

Check: Clements, Paul, et al. Documenting software architectures: views and beyond. Pearson Education, 2002.

Single Sourcing in Technical Documentation

- described as: “write once, publish everywhere”.
- two main goals:
 - Publish your content to several different output formats - PDF, HTML, Mobile, etc.
 - Use the content you’ve authored in multiple contexts - e.g. reuse a piece of text (often called "topics") as building blocks to produce documentation for several products or other variants, instead of having to copy and paste.
- you should break down your content in smaller chunks of content, and then reuse them.

Single Sourcing Principles



The Dry Principle



The KISS Principle



Only Talk to Your Friends



The Single Repository Principle



The Abstraction and Generalization Principle

Check: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/5-principles-single-sourcing-technical-documentation-anderson-svensson/>

Single Sourcing Principles – The Dry Principle

- DRY stands for “**Don’t Repeat Yourself**”
- So if at any moment you find yourself thinking, “I’ve written something like this before”, this should trigger the principle Don’t Repeat Yourself - and then rack your brain to find a way to reuse, instead of rewriting it!



Department of
Software Engineering

Single Sourcing Principles – The KISS Principle

- The KISS principle stands for “Keep It Simple, Stupid” or “Keep It Simple and Straightforward”.
- **Make sure that others can understand what you did**



Department of
Software Engineering

Single Sourcing Principles – Only Talk to Your Friend

- Only link to or connect to other topics, if you know they are a close “friend”.
- Guidelines
 - You should aim to make your topics “stand alone”
- Content Management System helps with a lot of these things.



Department of
Software Engineering

Single Sourcing Principles –Single Repository Principle

- **It should only fulfil one purpose/contain one piece of subject matter**
- For instance, if I write a topic that both describes the safety information about an engine, and also how to install it, I’m assigning two responsibilities to this topic. This should be avoided.



Department of
Software Engineering

Single Sourcing Principles –Abstraction and Generalization

- generic instead of specific
- if you have a chance to make a topic more “generic”, do so.



*Department of
Software Engineering*

SUM UP



*Department of
Software Engineering*

QUESTIONS ?



*Department of
Software Engineering*

thank you!