Review of *Importance of Software Documentation*

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I. Authenticity, credibility and value

According to International Journal of Computer Science Issues website, it is a well-established and notable venue for publishing high quality research papers as recognized by various universities and international professional bodies. All published papers are refereed by the international competent researchers and scientists. A full double - blind international refereeing process is used [1]. Both authors, Noela Jemutai Kipyegen and William P. K. Korir, are instructors at Egerton University, have many publications. Kipyegen has master's degree of science, software engineering [2], Korir has the master's degree of computing science [3]. Therefore, this paper is much likely to be authentic and credible. The value is 80 percent, because this paper tells the importance of software documentation.

II. Summary

Documentation is one of the many factors that contribute to success of a software project. There are eight processes in creating a document, analysis, design, development, validation, production, manufacturing, delivery and customer satisfaction. The first process is to analysis the possible audience. Next process is designing based on the documentation form analysis. Third is creating the actual document. Next is testing the documentation. Then is producing high-quality goods. Next is delivering the final product to the customer. Last is customer satisfaction. There are also seven rules of sound documentation;1. Documentation should be written from the point of view of the reader, not the writer, 2. Avoid repetition, 3. Avoid unintentional ambiguity, 4. Use a standard organization, 5. Record rationale, 6. Keep it current and, 7. Review documentation for fitness of purpose. *The role of documentation in a software engineering environment is to communicate information to its audience and instill knowledge of the system it describes [4].* Documentation has advantages in following aspect: reuse of old design, communication about requirements, design reviews, integration of separately written modules, effective code inspection, effective testing, and efficient corrections and improvements. Documentation include Requirements Specification, Design documents, Commented Source Code, Test Plans including test cases, Validation and Verification plan and results, List of Known Bugs and user manual. LaTeXis a powerful tool for documentation. There are standards for documentation: ISO/IEC/IEEE 26514:2008, *Systems and software engineering-Requirements for designers and developers of user documentation*. ISO/IEC/IEEE 26513:2009, *Software and systems engineering-Requirements for testers and reviewers of user documentation*. ISO/IEC/IEEE 26512, *Software and systems engineering Requirements for acquirers and suppliers of user documentation*. IEEE Std 1063-2001, *IEEE Standard for Software User Documentation*.

III. Conclusion

Software documentation plays a important role in software developing, it also acts as evidence of software development. *Therefore, documents need to be up-to date, complete, consistent and usable.* [4]

References

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