CS-UY 4513 Software Engineering (DP I)

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Exercise Two: Analyze the Brita Water Filter

The Brita Water Filter Pitcher seems to be of an ordinary product acting as a container for water. However, the product was immensely backed up with apparent filtration knowledge of filtering toxic chemicals such as chlorine, copper, cadmium, and mercury. However, within the same table of toxic chemicals the pitcher filters, lead, asbestos, turbidity, benzene, TTHMs, and 4 more are still present.

The pitcher does great job at maintenance of the pitcher. The FAQ suggests a maintenance cycle of replacing the filter every 40 gallons or every two months, typically to keep the filtered water fresh and to prevent algae from growing. To further prevent algae from growing, it is suggested that the pitcher be stored in a cool place/refrigerator and away from sunlight. The FAQ takes into consideration the life expectancy and typical household environments of where customers leave their pitchers.

The User’s Guide includes a simple “getting started” and “filter change indicator” mini-guides in 4 and 7 steps. In the event the customers does not know how to use the pitcher via common sense, the User’s Guide explains in depth with precise description such as in step 3 of “getting started”, “flush filter with cold, running tap water for 15 seconds” describes a temperature and type of water was specified, along with a time specification.

The ideal product should be easily accessible and satisfactory to consumers. Most softwares are made for industrial-consumer grade, with the purpose of commercialization and continuous maintenance down the road. This product should not be super cheap—as in open source—but targeted for middle class. The product should also be quality assured constantly if it is going for continuous service, i.e., online interaction such as Facebook, YouTube, and Google.