**Requirements Elicitation: An Overview**

Requirements elicitation is essentially a communications process *involving different communities* currently most of the elicitation takes place through *meetings and interviews supported by telephonic conversations, electronic mail and video conferencing*. Though elicitation primarily takes place at the start of the project and element of the elicitation takes place through the life cycle. New requirements may be proposed during design and implementation and existing requirements may be modified or deleted.

In this phase of requirements engineering is basically focused on the gathering of requirements by asking the customer, the users and others to get the information that what the objectives for the system or product are, what is to be accomplished, how the system or product fits into the needs of the business, and finally how the system or product is to be used on a day to day basis. **Requirements elicitation work as bridge between the user and the developer.**

Requirements elicitation requires collaboration of people with different backgrounds such as:

* Users with application domain knowledge
* Developer with solution domain knowledge (design knowledge, implementation knowledge).

On the one hand, the client and the users are experts in their domain and have a general idea of what the system should do, but they often have little experience in software development. On the other hand, the developers have experience in building systems, but often have little knowledge of the everyday environment of the users.

The purpose of elicitation is to get information about: the domain model from which the requirements are written and the requirements from which system is Developed. There is famous quotation regarding the requirements elicitation which was quoted by the software engineer is:

**“You must get information out of clients’ mind**

**without damaging the clients or their minds! ”**

Many times this information does not come out easily. The clients do not know it themselves. The clients do not want to let it out (subconsciously). The requirements elicitation is the human activity involving interaction between the user and the developer so. If you cannot do the human interaction right, you are not going to be able to elicit, no matter what technology and methods you use. Technology and methods might help, but they can also get in the way.

Requirements Elicitation might be described as eliciting a specification of what is required by allowing experts in the problem domain to describe the goals to be reached during the problem resolution. This being so, we may be limited to having a vague (not clear,) desire at the beginning of the process, such as "We want a new aircraft carrier", and at the end of the process having a detailed description of the goals and some clear idea of the steps necessary to reach the goals.

There are some important types of requirements elicitation which are :

1. **Greenfield Engineering**

* Development starts from scratch, no prior system exists, the requirements are extracted from the end users and the client
* Triggered by user needs

1. **Re-Engineering**

* Re-design and/or re-implementation of an existing system using newer technology
* Triggered by technology enabler.

1. **Interface Engineering**

* Provide the services of an existing system in a new environment
* Triggered by technology enabler or new market needs