




Chapter 1: THE ROLE OF SOFTWARE DESIGN

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THE NATURE OF DESIGN PROCESS

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- **Purpose of Design:** To produce a workable (implementable) solution to a given problem.
 - **Main Characteristics Found in Almost All Design Problems:**
 - No Single “Right” Solution
 - Many Factors and Constraints to be Balanced in Choosing a Solution
 - No One Measure of “Quality”
 - No Particular Process That Can Ensure That We Can Even Identify an Acceptable Solution.




■ Fitness for Purpose

- The Key Measure of the Appropriateness of Any Solution


■ Is There a Systematic Approach to Design?

No, a Designer Must Create Each System


- Identify the Properties Required: Stake Holders (Customer, Users, etc.)
- Devise a Structure That Possesses the Properties


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- A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide contains several images: a person at a computer, a globe with a chain, binary code, a keyboard, and a row of four dots.
- **Designer Formulates and Develops** an Abstract Design Model Representative of the Solution.
 - Why is This Process Not Understood as Well as Other Forms of Design?
 - The Complexity of Software
 - The Problem of Conformity
 - The (Apparent) Ease of Changeability
 - The Invisibility of Software

SOFTWARE DESIGN PROCESS

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- Software Design Method:
 - Used When a Designer Lacks Experience or is Unfamiliar With the Problem to be Solved
 - Limited to Forms of Design Practice That Can be Prescribed in a Procedural Manner.
 - These Methods Provide:
 - A Representation Part
 - A Process Part
 - A Set of Heuristics

DESIGN CONSTRAINTS


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- Designing Software is Rarely an Unconstrained Process
 - Examples of Constraints:
 - Programming Language to be Used
 - Execution Environment or Operating System
 - Performance Expectations
 - User Interface Needs

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- Constraints Affect the Design Process and the Form of the Product.
 - Set of User Needs to be Met
 - **Fitness of Purpose**
 - Requirements Elicitation and Analysis:
Leads to Identifying Inconsistencies
Between the Requirements and the
Solution
 - Designer Must “Think Ahead”
 - Short Term Use, Long Maintenance
Effort, Stability of the Solution Space,
etc.


- A formal process for engineering software includes the following phases:

Phase	Description
Requirements	Initial stage in the software development life-cycle where requirements are elicited, analyzed, specified, and validated.
Design	The requirement's specification is used to create the software design, which includes its architecture and detailed design.
Construction	Relies on the requirements' specification, the software architecture, and detailed design to implement the solution using a programming language. A great deal of design can also occur at this phase.
Test	Ensures that the software behaves correctly and that it meets the specified requirements.
Maintenance	Modifies software after delivery to correct faults, improve performance, or adapt it for a different environment.

- Of importance to this course is the design phase, where requirements are used to create a blueprint of the software to be constructed.


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- **Fitness of Purpose** Doesn't Provide an Absolute Measure of Quality
 - Correct and Within Constraints May Not be Enough to Achieve Fitness of Purpose
 - Quality Factor “ilities”:
 - Reliability
 - Efficiency
 - Maintainability
 - Usability


ASSESSING DESIGN QUALITY

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- A Systematic Form of Measurement is Difficult to Achieve
 - Favourable Assessment Techniques
 - Design Walk-through Meetings
 - Reviews
 - Refactoring (XP)
 - How Often?



- Design is not a new concept conceived by software engineers. Design is used in all other engineering disciplines, e.g., electrical, mechanical, civil, etc. Dym and Little define engineering design as:
 - A systematic, **intelligent process** in which designers generate, evaluate and specify designs for devices, systems or processes whose form(s) and function(s) achieve clients' objectives and users' needs while satisfying a specified set of constraints.

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- A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide. It contains a collage of images: a person working at a computer, a globe with binary code, a close-up of a computer keyboard, and a series of four colored circles (blue, green, yellow, red) at the bottom.
- What do we mean by intelligent process?
 - We refer to it as intelligent process because a great deal of problem-solving occurs during design.
 - During the design process, engineers are constantly engaging in problem solving activities.
 - Their work requires them to identify, evaluate, and proposed solutions to complex problems.
 - Some problems encountered by engineers have never been solved before!

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- A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide. It contains a collage of images: a person working at a computer, a close-up of a computer keyboard, a stylized globe with binary code, and a close-up of a computer mouse.
- Because of the large number of problem-solving activities present during design, a formal discussion on problem-solving is required.
 - To become a good designer, engineers must be good problem solvers.
 - To become a good problem solver... well, that requires lots of time and effort, but we can at least set up a framework for solving problems throughout the design phase.

SUMMARY

Expanded essential use case narrative for Register for Classes

Use case:	Register for Classes
Actors:	Student
Purpose:	Register a student for classes and record the student's schedule.
Overview:	A Student requests the sections of class desired for a term. The system adds the Student to each section if there is space available. On completion, the system provides the Student with a list of the classes in which he or she is enrolled.
Type:	Essential
Preconditions:	Class schedule must exist. Student is known by the system.
Postconditions:	Student was enrolled in the section.
Special Requirements:	Student must get a system response within 10 seconds.

Flow of Events

ACTOR ACTION

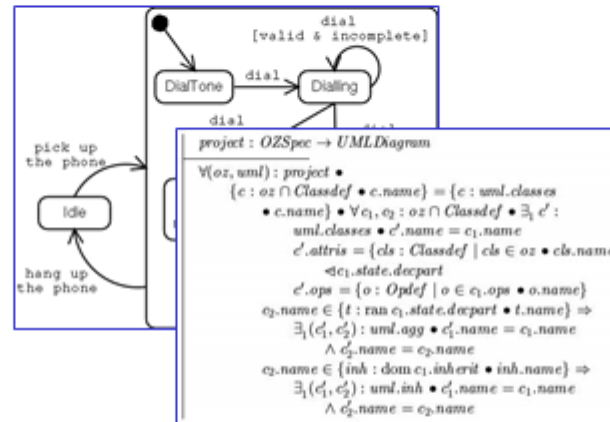
SYSTEM RESPONSE

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|---|--|
| 1. This use case begins when a Student desires to register for classes. | |
| 2. The Student provides the Student's identifier and a list of the department code, course number, and section number for each section desired. | 3. Adds the student to the section if there are seats available. |
| 4. On completion of entry of the section requests, the Student indicates that the request is complete. | |
| 5. The Student receives the student class list. | 5. Produces a student class list for the Student. |

Alternative Flow of Events

- Line 3: Invalid department code and course number entered. Indicate error.
Return to Step 2.
- Invalid section number entered. Indicate error. Return to Step 2.
- No seats remaining. Inform the Student. Return to Step 2.

Activity	Sub Activity	Description
Priority requirements	Review candidate requirement	Results in the concept CANDIDATE REQUIREMENT
Priority requirements	Assign relative value of candidate requirement	Results in a value for the attribute relative value in the concept CANDIDATE REQUIREMENT
Priority requirements	Estimate relative cost of implementing each candidate requirement	Results in a value for the attribute relative cost in the concept CANDIDATE REQUIREMENT
Priority requirements	Calculate value and cost, plot these on a cost-value diagram	Results in the concept COST-VALUE DIAGRAM
Priority requirements	Analyze, discuss and prioritize candidate requirements	Results in a value for the attribute prioritization in the concept CANDIDATE REQUIREMENT
Select requirement		Concept SELECTED REQUIREMENT is created, which is a CANDIDATE REQUIREMENT
Define release requirement document		Concept RELEASE REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT is created, which contains a.s. at least one SELECTED REQUIREMENT
Validate release requirement		Results in a modification of the concept RELEASE REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT, because the requirements in this document are validated.
Prepare launch		Concept LAUNCH PREPARATION PACKAGE is created, which contains a.s. the RELEASE REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT.

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Design Models

Code

Design should play a pivotal role:

- *Clarify and refine requirements*
- *Early defect detection and elimination*

SUMMARY

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- Design was introduced as a systematic and intelligent process for generating, evaluating, and specifying designs for devices, systems, or processes.
 - In software engineering, design provides blueprints that capture how software systems will meet their required functions and how they will be shaped to meet their intended quality.