

Improving stakeholder/software developer communication with an

Ubiquitous Language

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The problem

Programmers speak using **technical jargon**
(design patterns, acronyms, geeky in-jokes)

Domain experts use **terminology specific**
to their field of expertise

Computers speak programming languages

something's gotta give!



THE WAR BETWEEN DEVELOPERS, DESIGNERS & PROJECT MANAGERS



u·biq·ui·tous /yoo'bikwətəs/

Adjective: Present, appearing, or found everywhere.

Synonyms: omnipresent
(Dictionary.com)

UBIQUITOUS LANGUAGE

. A language structured around the domain model and used by all team members to connect all the activities of the team with the software. (Excerpted from Domain-Driven Design by Eric Evans)

"We understand each other."

The Art of Agile Development
James Shore and Shane Warden



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Where to apply:

-  **User Stories**
-  **Project Meetings**
-  **Team E-mails**
-  **Instant Messages**
-  **Schedule Plan**
-  **Software Documents**
- 

AND SOURCE CODE !!

The advantages...

- 😊 **Less risk of miscommunication**
- 😊 **Faster communication**
- 😊 **Knowledge of Domain can resides in codebase**
- 😊 **Overhearing**
- 😊 **Source Code easier to understand (maintainability, extensibility)**

User Story Example:

NO

When User logs on with valid credentials, an empty panel is displayed.

YES

When Player logs on with valid credentials, an empty board game is displayed.

(from a Tic Tac Toe Game software example)

Code Example:

NO

- . Integer i = new Integer();
- . String char1 = new String();
- . public class GameDAO() { }
- . catch (Exception e)

NO

- . Ambiguities
- . Inconsistencies
- . Synonyms
- . Abbreviations

YES

- . String realMeaningOfMyString = new String();
- . public class ScoreDataLoader() { }
- . catch (Exception NotLoggedInException)

YES

- . Clarity
- . Precision
- . Reuse
- . Full Names

A class BEFORE and AFTER Ubiquitous Language

```
package tictactoe.client.userInterface;

/**
 * Add the string O or X to a cell in the grid.
 */
public class ShowCellGrid{

    public static void displayUser (Grid grid, Cell cell) {

        if (!Initialization.flag
            && Initialization.gameStatus.getSequence() == null
            && isEmpty(grid, cell)) {

            Initialization.flag = true;

            String mk= showString(Initialization.gameStatus
                .getCurrentUser().getUserString());

            grid.setHTML(cell.getRowIndex(), cell.getCellIndex(), mk);

            Initialization.gameStatus.getStatus()[cell.getRowIndex()][cell
                .getCellIndex()] = Initialization.gameStatus
                .getCurrentUser();

            GameEnd.checkEnd(Initialization.gameStatus,
                cell.getRowIndex(), cell.getCellIndex());
        }

        (...)
```

```
package tictactoe.client.userInterface;

/**
 * Performs a move in the game.
 */
public class PlayerMove {

    /**
     * When the player clicks in a cell, the game draws an O or a X on the
     * game grid depending on which player's turn it is.
     */
    public static void makeMove (GameGrid gameGrid, Cell cell) {

        if (!GameInitialization.waitingMoveFlag
            && GameInitialization.currentGameStatus.getSequenceWinner() == null
            && isCellEmpty(gameGrid, cell)) {

            GameInitialization.waitingMoveFlag = true;

            String marker =
                showPlayerIcon(GameInitialization.currentGameStatus
                    .getCurrentPlayer().getPlayerIcon());

            gameGrid.setHTML(cell.getRowIndex(), cell.getCellIndex(), marker);

            GameInitialization.currentGameStatus.getGameMoves()
                [cell.getRowIndex()][cell.getCellIndex()] =
                GameInitialization.currentGameStatus.getCurrentPlayer();

            CheckWinner.checkForWinner(GameInitialization.currentGameStatus
                , cell.getRowIndex(), cell.getCellIndex());
        }

        (...)
```

Which one would a Stakeholder better understand?

Show Cell Grid

Add the String O or X to a cell in the grid.

Display User Is Empty

Player Move

Performs a move in the game.

Make Move

When the player clicks in a cell, the game draws an O or a X on the game grid depending on which player's turn it is.

Is Cell Empty

The Player can select a cell only if it wasn't already selected.

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