



# In this lecture: field report and opinions on ...



# How does Requirements Engineering take place in practice?

Differs significantly from the textbooks Much more difficult than expected

# Why is that – challenges and root causes?

Capacities, religion, other disciplines, tools and domain complexity

# Ways forward – what can we do?

Our contribution as computer scientists

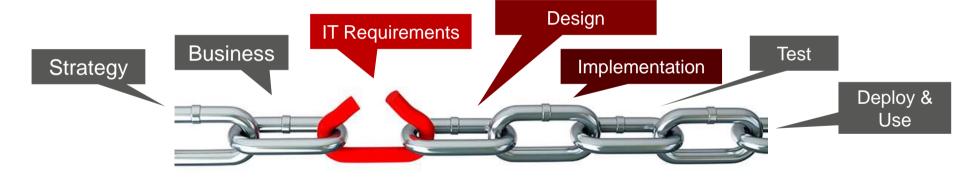


## Disclaimer



I do not consider myself an RE expert (in scientific terms)

I observe RE practices for 20 years in countless projects



# Proper requirements are of paramount importance!

Otherwise: **no** reasonable testing, **no** customer satisfaction, business value but **excessive cost/time** or failure.

Requirements are often a particularly weak link in the chain

## **About itestra**

Founded in 2004

Background in computer science research Financially and technologically independent

100 staff members (internal FTEs)

100% Computer Science ("Informatics")

12 locations

90+ Customers in 11 Countries

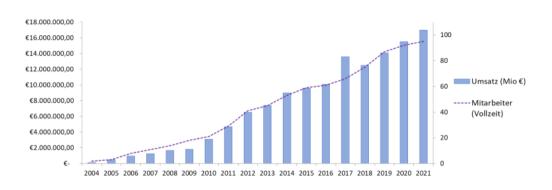
**18** Mio € (2021)











# **Roots: Research**

#### 80+ international publications

Software Reengineering, High Performance Computing

#### Most Influential Paper Award 1

Software Maintenance and Evolution (ICSME), 2017, Shanghai *An Activity-Based Quality Model for Maintainability* 

#### Most Influential Paper Award 2

International Conference of Program Comprehension (ICPC) 2015, Florenz Concise and Consistent Naming

#### Keynote ICMSE 2018, Madrid

Inside Software Renovation

#### Research cooperations + itestra Student-Lab

Technische Universität München





# Specialist for differentiating IT



Legacy Software Renovation **Transformation** 

Optimization, Correction, Redesign, Migration

**Managed Service** 

- Extension, Application Management

Software comprehension, cost reduction, increase of value

**Solution Engineering** 

(Agile) Design and Implementierung of Custom Solutions for innovative business processes

# Projects - Information Systems/ERP







# Information and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems Particularities



### Most functionalities rather trivial by itself

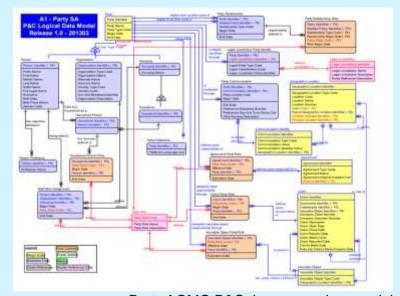
Store the name and address of a person

### 100s/1000s of objects, processes, functionalities

Dates, places, availabilities, contact possibilities, rooms, changes, ...

## Dependencies between the objects

What happens to the overall schedule if a date or location is updated?



Part of OMG P&C, insurance data model Full realistic model ~ 300 – x.000 classes

"Forgetting" and adding things later: expensive!

# How do we (itestra) perform RE?



# We are delivery consultants and providers

Often, requirements engineering is / has to be performed by others We (have to) comply and apply costumer standards

# Many large organizations have their own development processes

#### Significant differences

User stories, pure business level concepts or nothing
 Currently often applied (based on available tools, not method research)

Jira user stories, epics and other tickets









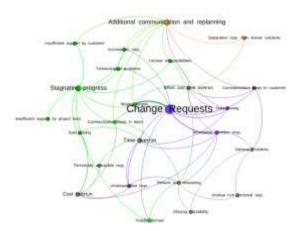


# You already learned ...

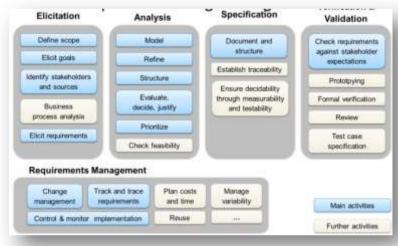
itestra be excellent

- Requirement artifact: (
- A stakeholder (in RE) is created
  - e.g. user, administrator, se
  - and thus a potential source
- A requirement source

#### **Terms**



Consequences



#### **Practices**

IEEE Recommended Practice for Software Requirements Specifications

Retreate Engineering Standards Convention of the IEEE Consputer Society

Approach III Jane 1998

RESE-Consputer Society

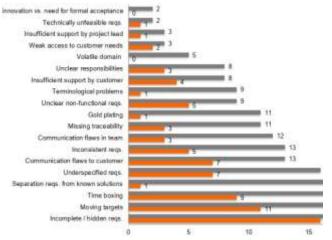
Approach III Jane 1998

RESE-SA Standards Coard

Abstract: The process and published of a good pullware requirements specification (IEEE) are described and second energy IEEE coaffeet are presented. The incommencing particular is service as service an experted or a service as society or process of the second energy and commence of the process. The incommencing particular is sent in the second but and such as one particular to sent in the second part of services and commencial ordinate process. Devicement for completes were 1972-1972-1972 as one of process.

Respectively.

#### Standards



#### **Typical Problems**

#### From Stakeholders to Requirements

The needs and requirements of the stakeholders need to be "elicited".

The result of the elicitation is a requirement candidate.

#### Challenges:

- Finding the stakeholders
- Some stakeholders are not available for discussions (e.g. legislation,
- Stakeholder are not able to express their expectation:
  - "Well, I don't know what I imagined, but certainly not that!"
- Stakeholder might know what they want, but not what they actually ne "I want a Ferrari to go on safaris in the jungle."
- Hardly any separation of problem and solution:

#### The fuzzy challenge "elicitation"

Brainstorming, design thinking, ...

# My first experiences (Investment Banking)

#### **Encounter 1**

Q: "When and how are large (>10m €) credits approved"

A: "We have the folders where we collect the signatures over there"

... rules for amounts, kind of investment, expiration, etc. in heads only.

### Encounter 2

Q: "How are the percentages of the criteria combined into the overall rating?"

A: "Weighted sum of all percentages"

.... i.e. -30% risk possible.

# Learning: business departments – of course – don't think in (math. modeled) requirements

Requirements might be stated or not and be useful, incomplete or just plain wrong! Business experts are <u>business</u> experts(!) ... not modeling experts.





# **Example: Real-Life**



```
falls WTERM(1) + L(MM) >= ZW-UEBBEG2:
                                                 Falls ZERLSCHL # 0080:0280:0281:0282:
  falls (WTERM(1) + L(MM))(MM) = ZW-
  UEBBEG2 (MM) zu LVTTYP = 01 oder ZERLSCHL
                                                 falls ZERLSCHL = 023x:
  = 0080.0280.0281.0282:
                                                 ZW-XVT1 = E-XVT1 + E-XVT1MON / 12
                                                                                      (N, 3, 6, R)
    falls (ZERLSCHL =
    0036,0037,0038,0039,0070,0080,0130,
                                                 S = max(min(35;t;75 - XVII);0) * ZW * ZERLBIG,
    023x,0246,0270,0280,0281,0282):
                                                      (N.9.1.R) falls ZERLSCHL = 0035
    HERASID ZH Art 7 # 0:
                                                      (N, 9.2, R) falls ZERLSCHL = 0037,0038,0039,7038
                                                    023x,0246,
(Kosten-Überschußanteil auf
  Deckungskapital)
Aufruf von "Überschußanteilsatz ermitteln"
    mit den dort angegebenen
                                                   = max(min(35;t;75 - ZW-XVT1);0) * ZW * ZERLBTG,
                                                      (N, 9.2, R) falls ZERLSCHL = 023x
  US-UEBASID(1) = UEBASID zu Art 7.
  ÜS-ANFKZNRE = E-ANFKZNRE,
                                                   = min(35;t) * ZW * ZERLBTG
  \ddot{U}S-ALTZUTKZN = 0,
                                                      (N,9.1,R) sonst; ZERLSCHL # 0036,0130
  ÜS-SCHICHTNR = SCHICHTNR
                                                      (N, 9.2, R) sonst;
```

### 80s Style

Specification defines implementation

### Origin

Idea: programmer needs precise description

Math. department (here within insurance)

#### **Facts**

Zero abstraction, rationale, explanation "Programmer" can not add much value Low performance Enormous duplication

>200 pages A4

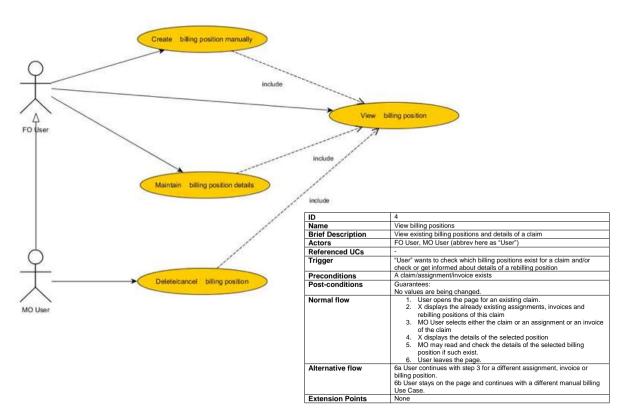
# Is still done in 2010+



```
1.1.1 Get Assignment cost Text
// determine and display assignment cost
calculateBenefitInvoiceAmount:
      benefitInvoiceSum = 0
      IF VATON = [J] THEN
          benefitInvoiceSum = SUM of (
                  IF entry exists in <TAUFTRAG HWB> for <TAUFTR E
      <TAUFTRAG>.<<FREMDWAERUNG>> = <TAUFTRAG>.<<FREMDWAERUNG>> f:
                      <TAUFTR ELEMZUS>.<<NETTOBETRAG>>
                  ELSE
                        <TAUFTR ELEMZUS>.<<NETTOBETRAG>> * <TAUFTF
                                                           > ctd. over mutliple pages ...
```

# Transition to Use Cases started ...





Value	Calculation rule
Gross amount	Net amount * (100+ VAT rate)/100
Rebilling amount (Net amount)	Gross amount * 100 / (100 + VAT rate)

### Involved

#### **Training**

Analysis and re-modelling of the specifications Use Cases, Business Rules, UI, ...

### First results considered useful

### **Aborted**

Large gap to current practices

High costs for change

- Analysis and rework of existing material
- Intense modelling training

# Another problem: delta documentation



3.2.2 Bildschirmmaske

3.2.2.1 Selektionsmaske

Die Bildschirmmaske bleibt unverändert.

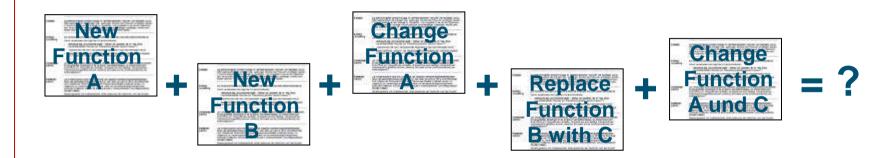
3.2.2.2 Folgemaske

#### Die Felder

- Anzahl P-Behälter
- Anzahl M-Behälter
- Anzahl Pakete
- Anzahl M-Beutel/Rollenpck.

sind künftig in der Maske nicht mehr eingabebereit.

# Typical situation over time:



Nowadays, most requirements entail changes of existing software.

What is the right approach to elicit and document these requirements?

# **Duplication: study of 28 commercial specifications**



Table 1: Study Objects

Spec	Pages	Words	Spec	Pages	Words
A	517	41,482	0	184	18,750
В	1,013	130,968	Р	45	6,977
C	133	18,447	Q	33	5,040
D	241	37,969	R	109	15,462
E	185	37,056	S	144	24,343
F	42	7,662	T	40	7,799
G	85	10,076	U	n/a	43,216
Н	160	19,632	V	448	95,399
1	53	6,895	W	211	31,670
J	28	4,411	X	158	19,679
K	39	5,912	Υ	235	49,425
L	535	84,959	Z	n/a	13,807
М	233	46,763	AB	3,100	274,489
N	n/a	103,067	AC	696	81,410
Σ	11/2	<del>(1)</del>		8,667	1,242,765

© Jürgens et al, TUM/itestra, 2010

Table 2: Study Results: Cloning

Spec	Clone cov.	Clone groups	clones	blow-up relative	blow-up words
A	35.0%	259	914	32.6%	10,191
В	8.9%	265	639	5.3%	6,639
C	18.5%	37	88	11.5%	1,907
D	8.1%	105	479	6.9%	2,463
E	0.9%	6	12	0.4%	161
F	51.1%	50	162	60.6%	2,890
G	22.1%	60	262	20.4%	1,704
Н	71.6%	71	360	129.6%	11,083
I	5.5%	7	15	3.0%	201
J	1.0%	1	2	0.5%	22
K	18.1%	19	55	13.4%	699
L	20.5%	303	794	14.1%	10,475
M	1.2%	11	23	0.6%	287
N	8.2%	159	373	5.0%	4,915
0	1.9%	8	16	1.0%	182
P	5.8%	5	10	3.0%	204
Q	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
R	0.7%	2	4	0.4%	56
S	1.6%	11	27	0.9%	228
Т	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
U	15.5%	85	237	10.8%	4,206
V	11.2%	201	485	7.0%	6,204
W	2.0%	14	31	1.1%	355
X	12.4%	21	45	6.8%	1,253
Υ	21.9%	181	553	18.2%	7,593
Z	19.6%	50	117	14.2%	1,718
AB	12.1%	635	1818	8.7%	21,993
AC	5.4%	65	148	3.2%	2,549
Avg	13.6%			13.5%	
Σ	i i	2,631	7,669		100,178

# **Excessive prose**



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 Erreisbung der antig, Knankolunden über BA.

13.2	Standard-Schnittstelle Meldung	997				
13.2.1	Datentypänderungen997					
13.2.2	13.2.2 Semantische Nachrichtenänderungen					
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13.5.1	Lieferantenanbindung					
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13.7.1	Link zum Objekt Problem	1014				

# Tooling and Teamwork - MS-Word



#### Historie

Version	Stand	Autor	Änderungen
1.0	25.09.2006	G	Erstellung nach Besprechung am 13.09.2006 bei P-12
1.1	07.02.2007	S	Beantwortung der Fragen (ToDo) und Ergänzungen auf Basis des Workshops am 02.02.07 (blaue Schrift)
1.2	23.02.2007	S	Geringfügige Ergänzungen (grüne Schrift)
1.3	30.03.2007	D	Geringfügige Abweichung bei Motorrad (violette Schrift)
1.4	11.04.2007	S	Ergänzungen aufgrund Rückmeldung aus Erstellung der Testfälle von Hr. B (orange Schrift)
1.5	29.04.2007	D	Ergänzungen Abweichung bei Motorrad (violette Schrift + gelber Hintergrund))

Bei MC würde nur Planungsebene "Modell" zielführend sein), die auch per Default so eingestellt wird. Der Baum in der Produktauswahl kann nur bis zur Ebene Baureihe aufgeklappt werden, auch die Selektion der Produktebene kann maximal nur bis zur Tiefe der Planungsebene "Baureihe" "Serie" erfolgen (höhere Produktebenen oberhalb "Baureihe" können selektiert werden). Eine Mehrfachauswahl ist möglich. Bei einer Selektion der Produktebene "Baureihe" ist auch gleichzeitig die Selektion der Planungsebene auf dieser Ebene möglich

Colors
Track changes

What is the current state?

Often virtually unreadable.

# A modern project ... with Confluence / Jira

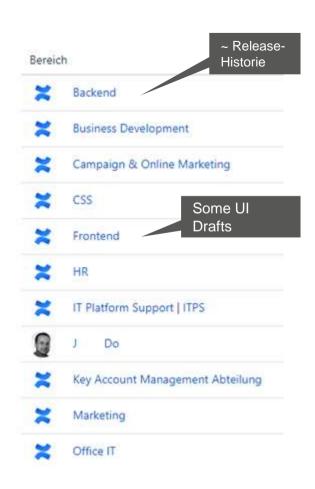


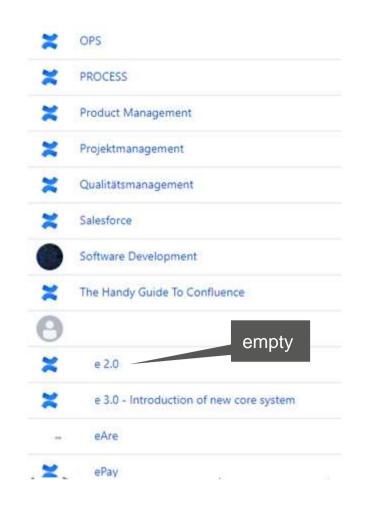
Ca. 25 areas 1000s of pages Structure unclear

Some parts valuable, others not

The Wiki Messy problem.

- A) Many people "contribute" with their personal style
- B) There IS NO STRUCTURE
- → It gets quite chaotic.





# Nice lists but details?



Seiten / Product Management / Knowledge Base







Collection of user stories covering all minimum requirements to earn cashback

Erstellt von Benutzer-5ef47, zuletzt geändert von Benutzer-4c299 am Mär 22, 2018

I want to find relevant shops where I intend to buy something now.

- I want to search for shops
- I want to search for brands and find the shops which sell the brands
- I want to search for shopping categories, topics, product ranges and find shops which are relevant
- When I don't find what I have been looking for, I want to get useful alternatives and suggestions

I want to remember my favourite decisions

- I want to mark shops which I like and access them quickly
- . I want to see relevant news from shops I like
- I want to be informed about really exciting promotions from my favourite shops

I want to browse through categories to find the right shop

- I want to see a list of all categories
- I want to be able to search for topics and find the right category (cf. find story)
- I want to search for relevant keywords in a category
- I want to refine my search if there are too many results or if I am looking for something very specific

I want to be inspired to buy something

- For special events (Christmas, Valentine's Day) I want to see shop ideas
- I want to be informed about trends and lifestyle and media-related product recommendations
- The recommendations I see should be related to my favourite shops or recent purchases (e.g. similar categories)
- · I also want to see shops where other users who are similar to me were satisfied
- I don't want to see anything that does not interest me
- I want to tell the website when I am no longer interested in something

I want to see all details of the shop which encourage my buying decision

- I want to see the experience of other users with this shop
- . I want to see how this shop ranks on the website and in its own category

For all of this:

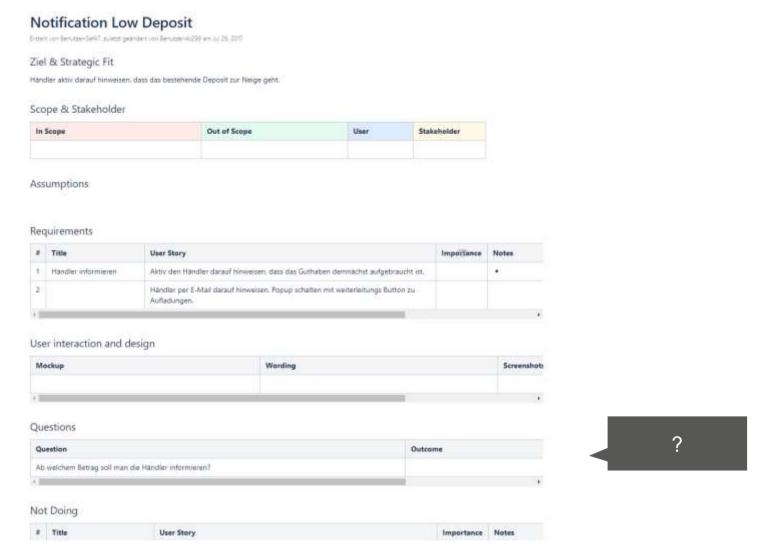
- A) HOW? Note: getting "search" right, was the match winner für Google
- B) What does it mean precisely? "relevant", "useful", ...

The "As a ... I want to ..." is far from enough. You need:

- Business rules
- Maybe an outstanding UI idea
- Maybe an object model

# Templates - most times clones or empty





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# Frequent abuse



### **Functional Requirements**

Certainly no "User Story"

**User Stories** 

#### EPE-00001 setup DEV environment

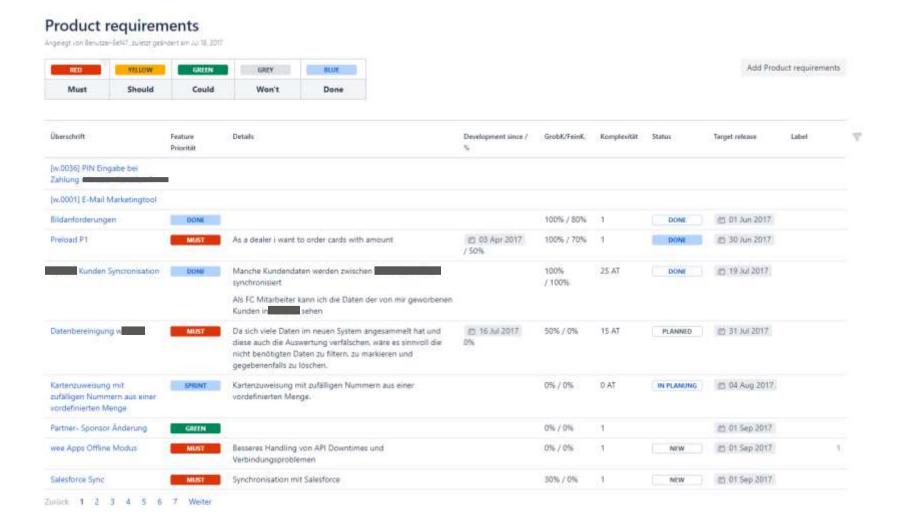
As the company

I want a configured development environment so I can develop and test the EPE application on it. Details:

- \* hint: hardware and OS are setup and maintained by TO
- hint: developers have user account without special permissions ( temporarily)
- \* scope: setup HDFS, Zookeeper, sftp-server

# **Further lists in other formats**





With project management in Confluence

# And more in Jira (=Task Management)



### 10.995 Issues

Epics, Stories, Tasks and others

Requirements fragments in Issue descriptions

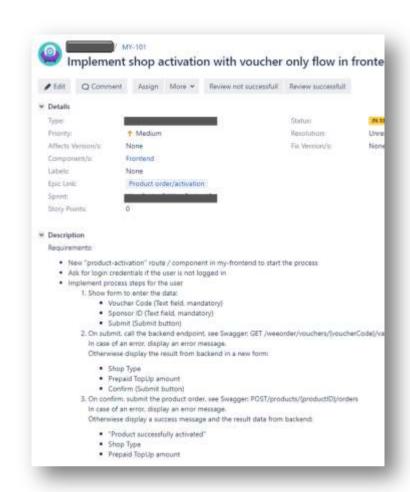
# Jira (=TM) does not provide structuring

Links between issues and labels but no breakdown structure (w/o addons)

<u>Epics do not significantly improve structuring</u> of requirements either

- Epics add at most one level of abstraction
- Jira Epic are work packages, not to <u>complete</u> slices of business aspects.

Jira should not be abused for RE content.



# **Beyond Methods**



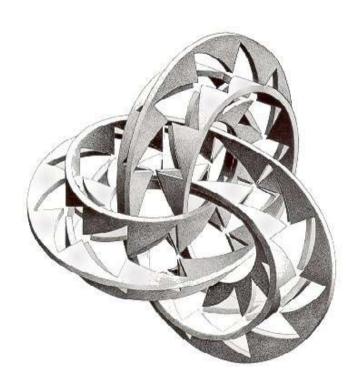
# Challenges so far

Methods

Skills ~ Knowing and correctly applying the methods

### Even more difficult: the content!

- I.e. "elicitation" or finding the right requirements
- A) Deep understanding of a domain of business; it always gets complex
- B) Delivering Innovation



# Deep business understanding is mandatory



### E.g. a new incentive & commission (dt. "Provision") solution for an insurance

How does the insurance business work?

What is the role of incentives and commissions within an insurance?

Who gets it? For which products? How high? What are the rules?

When are the being paid?

What happens in case of cancellations or retrospective changes? E.g. "factoring" Substitutes, handovers between sales staff members, ...

Sales is at the heart of insurance business



Usually, there is no-one who just knows, has time and tells you the requirements

For RE one has to be a true **EXPERT IN THIS FIELD!** 

# Ask other experts? ... Yes, but who?



Always a good idea to let others solve the problem ©

**Business Department** 

> performs business, doesn't model it, doesn't know IT possibilities

Development team

→ know methods but not the business

Product owner

→ is also looking for someone who know :-)

Head/Guru of business → if he/she exists, no time ©!

**Business** analyst

in rare cases possible; but often not available

Workshop

→ expensive joint learning ©

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# Even "small" things get complex



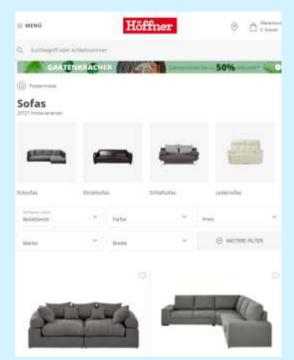
# Example: Import of a brochure

# Setting

International Furniture Retail Business Entering product information is time consuming

# (Simple) Requirement

"Import IDM files published by producer"



100.000s of products and variantions



**Brochures** with 1000s of pages

IDM 2.7.0 XML-Schema Dokumentation Stand 01 .05 2019 Integriertes Datenmodell tall plusmer (bdcc-troobs) o Telefon 0 52 25/12 65/37

XMI format

# A more closer look – not so trivial



#### Product variations can be specified by provider in different ways in IDM

As options (e.g. color) or as combinable building blocks (e.g. feet)



You need some asynchronous processing
A possibility to see the state of imports, what went right and wrong and why and fix it

#### The user might only want to import selected products

E.g. some options don't sell well, others are just irrelevant.

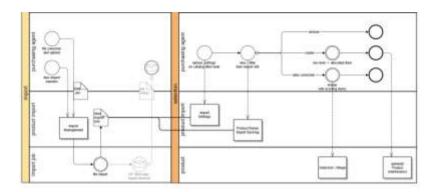
#### The IDM file might deliver updates for existing products

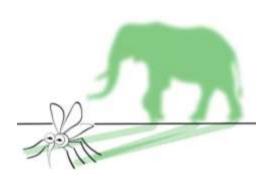
Corrections but also new versions with a certain start date

### Product information might have been manually added or changed meanwhile

E.g. prices, delivery times in different regions, user ratings or standard names "brick light red" → "red"
The user must be allowed to view which information is affected and define what to keep, what to overwrite







# Requirements for Requirements Engineers



Take a really broad and deep dive into the topic

Understand the current **business** and the economics behind it

Know how others in the market handle this topic

Know suitable technical options

Proper use of RE methods

Think creative and economically



# And one step further: Innovation



# New systems are built to gain an advantage

More (incl. new) business Lower costs

## New features must be better than in the past

What do the most successful sales folks expect or dislike?
What are cost drivers and how can they be reduced with technology?

# Requirements can not be "collected"

Systems requirement must be **creatively shaped!**By combining knowledge about business, technology, law, psychology, ...



# **Summary 1: what makes RE in practice hard?**



# Capacities / shortage of skilled staff

- In business
- In IT

#### Broad skills needed

- Numerous Methods
   UCs/USs, Business Rules,
   UML, UX, Data Models, ...
- Domain Expertise

#### Fashions & Misbeliefs

- Agile, Jira tickets,
   Team pulls tickets
   ... not much todo with RE
- Later changes with refactoring
- "Collecting" requirements

### **Insufficient Tools**

- Word
- Wikis incl. Confluence
- CASE Tools did not succeed either

### Methods are premature

- High volatility
- Structured methods, Use Cases, Storycards, User Stories, ...
- What is it?

### Other disciplines

- Economics
  - Cost / benefit of solutions
  - RE as a source of revenue
- Law: what is allowed?
- Politics: who wants what why?

# **Example for misleading fashions**



Bedingungen zum Einsatz von Fremdkräften in der agilen Produktentwicklung im – nachfolgend genannt.

(Bedingungen der agilen Produktentwicklung)

#### 1. Geltungsbereich

 Die nachstehenden Bedingungen gelten für die Anwendung der agilen Produktentwicklung unter gleichzeitigem Einsatz von Fremdkräften, wie im Folgenden

Das **Product Backlog** ist eine geordnete Liste von allem, von dem bekannt ist, dass es im Produkt enthalten sein soll. Es dient als **einzige Anforderungsquelle** für alle

#### 2. Vertragsbestandteile

2.1. Die vorliegenden "Bedingungen zum Einsatz von Fremdkräften in der agilen Produktentwicklung" (Bedingungen der agilen Produktentwicklung) ergänzen die

Eine **User Story** ist eine in Alltagssprache formulierte Anforderung. Sie ist bewusst kurz formuliert, besteht in der Regel nur aus wenigen <u>Sätze</u> und umfasst dabei das gewünschte Ziel inklusive bestimmter Akzeptanzkriterien. Der <u>Product Owner</u> verantwortet die User Stories und fügt diese dem Product Backlog hinzu.

Current legal contract

Agile method required by contract

Short, colloquial User Stories are the only source of requirements allowed!

# Summary 2: what can we do?



If you like it, learn it in-depth: business understanding and methods

As CS (masters) we are trained in modelling and have to be involved.

### Apply core RE principles

Suitable requirements can't be collected and often not "known" by others. They need to be created or developed.

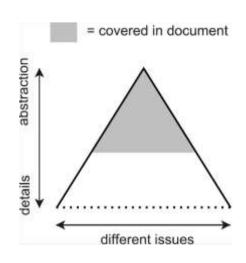
Always go strict **Top-Down**: what is the stated goal, what is the actualy intention? What is possible for this?

#### Fully understand the business

Use and combine various techniques as the topic requires it:

- Business Process Models (explains the context and some rationale)
- Use Cases / User Stories
- Business Rules
- UI Prototypes
- Obect Models (in particular for structuring complicated information), selected UML diagrams, ...

### **Convince others!** ©



### Want to see more?

### Bei uns gibt es eine Vielzahl an Möglichkeiten für interessierte Informatiker/innen

jobs@itestra.de



Werkstudent/in

Praktikum

**Abschlussarbeit** 

Endspurtstipendium

Festanstellung



#### mittendrin

Bei uns arbeitest du als wertvolles Teammitglied mit Impact direkt in Kundenprojekten.



#### flexibel

Individuelle Stundenaufteilung während der Vorlesungszeit und in den Semesterferien voll aufdrehen - es gibt immer einen Weg. Let's talk!



#### wohlfühlen

++ top ausgestattete Arbeitsplätze ++ positive Arbeitsatmosphäre ++ highskilled Kolleg:innen ++ spannende Teamevents ++ open end Mate, Eis, Säfte & Co. ++



#### fair

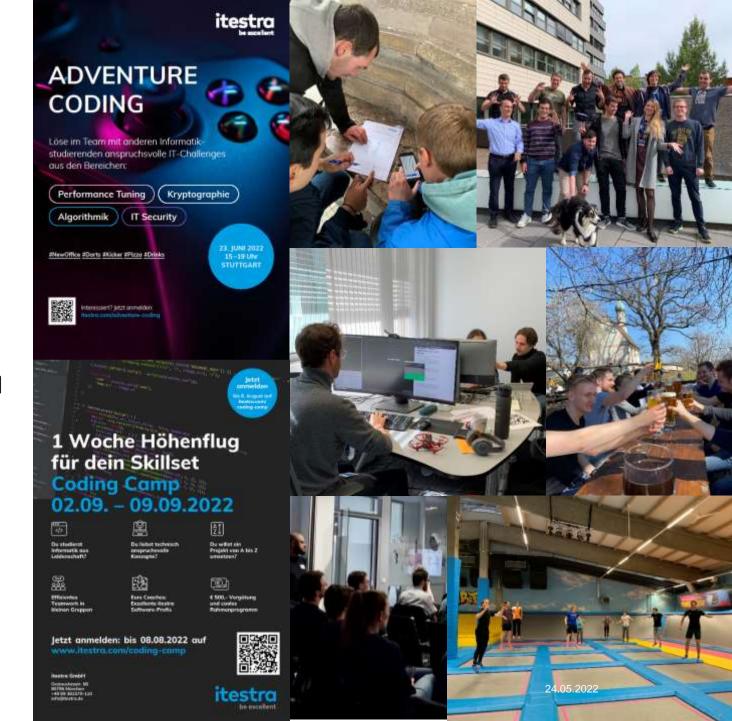
Spaß allein macht nicht satt. Eine faire Vergütung ist für uns selbstverständlich.

### **EVENTS.**

Coding Camp
Workshop
Escape Game
Geo Coding und viele mehr

→ melde dich an zum Event-Newsletter und bleib auf dem Laufenden:





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