

Chapter 1- Introduction

Lecture 1

Topics covered



- ♦ Professional software development
 - What is meant by software engineering.
- ♦ Software engineering ethics
 - A brief introduction to ethical issues that affect software engineering.
- ♦ Case studies
 - An introduction to three examples that are used in later chapters in the book.

Software engineering



- ♦ The economies of ALL developed nations are dependent on software.
- ♦ More and more systems are software controlled
- Software engineering is concerned with theories, methods and tools for professional software development.
- Expenditure on software represents a significant fraction of GNP in all developed countries.

Software costs



- ♦ Software costs often dominate computer system costs. The costs of software on a PC are often greater than the hardware cost.
- ♦ Software costs more to maintain than it does to develop. For systems with a long life, maintenance costs may be several times development costs.
- ♦ Software engineering is concerned with cost-effective software development.

Software products



♦ Generic products

- Stand-alone systems that are marketed and sold to any customer who wishes to buy them.
- Examples PC software such as graphics programs, project management tools; CAD software; software for specific markets such as appointments systems for dentists.

♦ Customized products

- Software that is commissioned by a specific customer to meet their own needs.
- Examples embedded control systems, air traffic control software, traffic monitoring systems.

Product specification



♦ Generic products

The specification of what the software should do is owned by the software developer and decisions on software change are made by the developer.

♦ Customized products

The specification of what the software should do is owned by the customer for the software and they make decisions on software changes that are required.

Frequently asked questions about software engineering



Question	Answer
What is software?	Computer programs and associated documentation. Software products may be developed for a particular customer or may be developed for a general market.
What are the attributes of good software?	Good software should deliver the required functionality and performance to the user and should be maintainable, dependable and usable.
What is software engineering?	Software engineering is an engineering discipline that is concerned with all aspects of software production.
What are the fundamental software engineering activities?	Software specification, software development, software validation and software evolution.
What is the difference between software engineering and computer science?	Computer science focuses on theory and fundamentals; software engineering is concerned with the practicalities of developing and delivering useful software.
What is the difference between software engineering and system engineering?	System engineering is concerned with all aspects of computer-based systems development including hardware, software and process engineering. Software engineering is part of this more general process.

Frequently asked questions about software engineering



Question	Answer
What are the key challenges facing software engineering?	Coping with increasing diversity, demands for reduced delivery times and developing trustworthy software.
What are the costs of software engineering?	Roughly 60% of software costs are development costs, 40% are testing costs. For custom software, evolution costs often exceed development costs.
What are the best software engineering techniques and methods?	While all software projects have to be professionally managed and developed, different techniques are appropriate for different types of system. For example, games should always be developed using a series of prototypes whereas safety critical control systems require a complete and analyzable specification to be developed. You can't, therefore, say that one method is better than another.
What differences has the web made to software engineering?	The web has led to the availability of software services and the possibility of developing highly distributed service- based systems. Web-based systems development has led to important advances in programming languages and software reuse.





Product characteristic	Description
Maintainability	Software should be written in such a way so that it can evolve to meet the changing needs of customers. This is a critical attribute because software change is an inevitable requirement of a changing business environment.
Dependability and security	Software dependability includes a range of characteristics including reliability, security and safety. Dependable software should not cause physical or economic damage in the event of system failure. Malicious users should not be able to access or damage the system.
Efficiency	Software should not make wasteful use of system resources such as memory and processor cycles. Efficiency therefore includes responsiveness, processing time, memory utilisation, etc.
Acceptability	Software must be acceptable to the type of users for which it is designed. This means that it must be understandable, usable and compatible with other systems that they use.

Software engineering



♦ Software engineering is an engineering discipline that is concerned with all aspects of software production from the early stages of system specification through to maintaining the system after it has gone into use.

♦ Engineering discipline

 Using appropriate theories and methods to solve problems bearing in mind organizational and financial constraints.

♦ All aspects of software production

 Not just technical process of development. Also project management and the development of tools, methods etc. to support software production.

Importance of software engineering



- More and more, individuals and society rely on advanced software systems. We need to be able to produce reliable and trustworthy systems economically and quickly.
- ♦ It is usually cheaper, in the long run, to use software engineering methods and techniques for software systems rather than just write the programs as if it was a personal programming project. For most types of system, the majority of costs are the costs of changing the software after it has gone into use.

Software process activities



- ♦ Software specification, where customers and engineers define the software that is to be produced and the constraints on its operation.
- ♦ Software development, where the software is designed and programmed.
- ♦ Software validation, where the software is checked to ensure that it is what the customer requires.
- ♦ Software evolution, where the software is modified to reflect changing customer and market requirements.

Software engineering diversity



- There are many different types of software system and there is no universal set of software techniques that is applicable to all of these.
- ♦ The software engineering methods and tools used depend on the type of application being developed, the requirements of the customer and the background of the development team.

Application types



♦ Stand-alone applications

These are application systems that run on a local computer, such as a PC. They include all necessary functionality and do not need to be connected to a network.

♦ Interactive transaction-based applications

 Applications that execute on a remote computer and are accessed by users from their own PCs or terminals. These include web applications such as e-commerce applications.

♦ Embedded control systems

 These are software control systems that control and manage hardware devices. Numerically, there are probably more embedded systems than any other type of system.

Application types



♦ Batch processing systems

These are business systems that are designed to process data in large batches. They process large numbers of individual inputs to create corresponding outputs.

♦ Entertainment systems

These are systems that are primarily for personal use and which are intended to entertain the user.

♦ Systems for modeling and simulation

These are systems that are developed by scientists and engineers to model physical processes or situations, which include many, separate, interacting objects.

Application types



♦ Data collection systems

These are systems that collect data from their environment using a set of sensors and send that data to other systems for processing.

♦ Systems of systems

These are systems that are composed of a number of other software systems.

Software engineering fundamentals



- ♦ Some fundamental principles apply to all types of software system, irrespective of the development techniques used:
 - Systems should be developed using a managed and understood development process. Of course, different processes are used for different types of software.
 - Dependability and performance are important for all types of system.
 - Understanding and managing the software specification and requirements (what the software should do) are important.
 - Where appropriate, you should reuse software that has already been developed rather than write new software.

Software engineering and the web



- The Web is now a platform for running application and organizations are increasingly developing web-based systems rather than local systems.
- ♦ Web services (discussed in Chapter 19) allow application functionality to be accessed over the web.
- Cloud computing is an approach to the provision of computer services where applications run remotely on the 'cloud'.
 - Users do not buy software buy pay according to use.

Web software engineering



- Software reuse is the dominant approach for constructing web-based systems.
 - When building these systems, you think about how you can assemble them from pre-existing software components and systems.
- Web-based systems should be developed and delivered incrementally.
 - It is now generally recognized that it is impractical to specify all the requirements for such systems in advance.
- User interfaces are constrained by the capabilities of web browsers.
 - Technologies such as AJAX allow rich interfaces to be created within a web browser but are still difficult to use. Web forms with local scripting are more commonly used.

Chapter 1 Introduction

Web-based software engineering



- Web-based systems are complex distributed systems but the fundamental principles of software engineering discussed previously are as applicable to them as they are to any other types of system.
- The fundamental ideas of software engineering, discussed in the previous section, apply to web-based software in the same way that they apply to other types of software system.

Issues of professional responsibility



♦ Confidentiality

 Engineers should normally respect the confidentiality of their employers or clients irrespective of whether or not a formal confidentiality agreement has been signed.

♦ Competence

Engineers should not misrepresent their level of competence.
They should not knowingly accept work which is outwith their competence.

Issues of professional responsibility



♦ Intellectual property rights

Engineers should be aware of local laws governing the use of intellectual property such as patents, copyright, etc. They should be careful to ensure that the intellectual property of employers and clients is protected.

♦ Computer misuse

Software engineers should not use their technical skills to misuse other people's computers. Computer misuse ranges from relatively trivial (game playing on an employer's machine, say) to extremely serious (dissemination of viruses).

Case studies



♦ A personal insulin pump

 An embedded system in an insulin pump used by diabetics to maintain blood glucose control.

♦ A mental health case patient management system

 A system used to maintain records of people receiving care for mental health problems.

♦ A wilderness weather station

 A data collection system that collects data about weather conditions in remote areas.

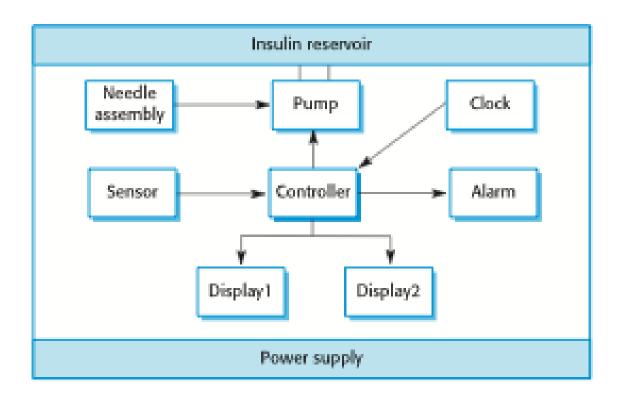
Insulin pump control system



- ♦ Collects data from a blood sugar sensor and calculates the amount of insulin required to be injected.
- Calculation based on the rate of change of blood sugar levels.
- ♦ Sends signals to a micro-pump to deliver the correct dose of insulin.
- Safety-critical system as low blood sugars can lead to brain malfunctioning, coma and death; high-blood sugar levels have long-term consequences such as eye and kidney damage.

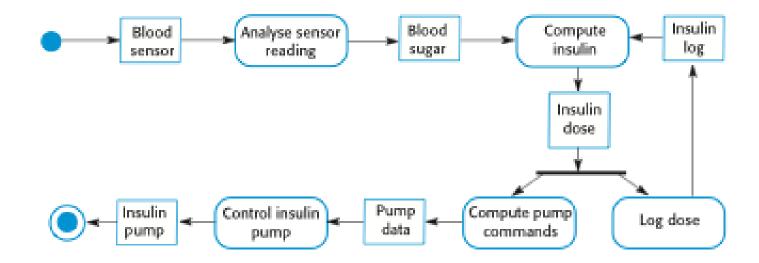






Activity model of the insulin pump





Essential high-level requirements



- → The system shall be available to deliver insulin when required.
- The system shall perform reliably and deliver the correct amount of insulin to counteract the current level of blood sugar.
- The system must therefore be designed and implemented to ensure that the system always meets these requirements.

A patient information system for mental health care



- A patient information system to support mental health care is a medical information system that maintains information about patients suffering from mental health problems and the treatments that they have received.
- Most mental health patients do not require dedicated hospital treatment but need to attend specialist clinics regularly where they can meet a doctor who has detailed knowledge of their problems.
- ♦ To make it easier for patients to attend, these clinics are not just run in hospitals. They may also be held in local medical practices or community centres.

MHC-PMS



- The MHC-PMS (Mental Health Care-Patient Management System) is an information system that is intended for use in clinics.
- It makes use of a centralized database of patient information but has also been designed to run on a PC, so that it may be accessed and used from sites that do not have secure network connectivity.
- When the local systems have secure network access, they use patient information in the database but they can download and use local copies of patient records when they are disconnected.

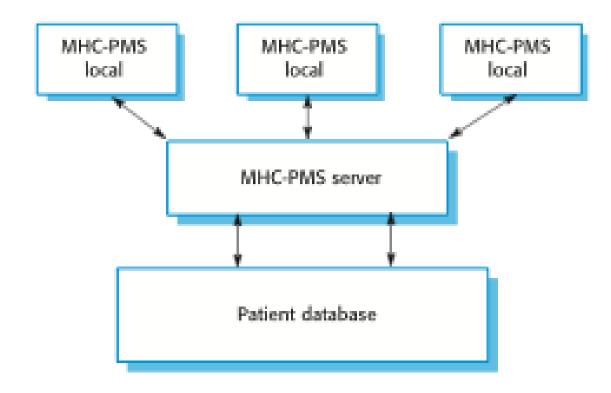
MHC-PMS goals



- To generate management information that allows health service managers to assess performance against local and government targets.
- ♦ To provide medical staff with timely information to support the treatment of patients.







MHC-PMS key features



♦ Individual care management

Clinicians can create records for patients, edit the information in the system, view patient history, etc. The system supports data summaries so that doctors can quickly learn about the key problems and treatments that have been prescribed.

♦ Patient monitoring

The system monitors the records of patients that are involved in treatment and issues warnings if possible problems are detected.

♦ Administrative reporting

The system generates monthly management reports showing the number of patients treated at each clinic, the number of patients who have entered and left the care system, number of patients sectioned, the drugs prescribed and their costs, etc.

MHC-PMS concerns



♦ Privacy

 It is essential that patient information is confidential and is never disclosed to anyone apart from authorised medical staff and the patient themselves.

♦ Safety

- Some mental illnesses cause patients to become suicidal or a danger to other people. Wherever possible, the system should warn medical staff about potentially suicidal or dangerous patients.
- The system must be available when needed otherwise safety may be compromised and it may be impossible to prescribe the correct medication to patients.

Wilderness weather station

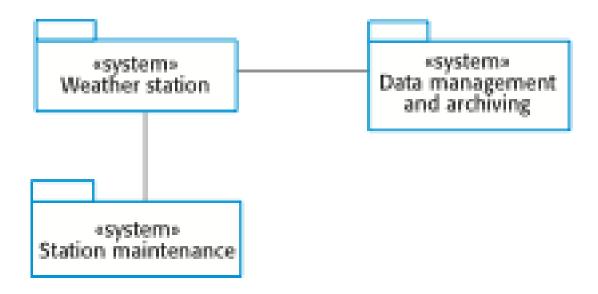


- ♦ The government of a country with large areas of wilderness decides to deploy several hundred weather stations in remote areas.
- Weather stations collect data from a set of instruments that measure temperature and pressure, sunshine, rainfall, wind speed and wind direction.
 - The weather station includes a number of instruments that measure weather parameters such as the wind speed and direction, the ground and air temperatures, the barometric pressure and the rainfall over a 24-hour period. Each of these instruments is controlled by a software system that takes parameter readings periodically and manages the data collected from the instruments.









Weather information system



♦ The weather station system

This is responsible for collecting weather data, carrying out some initial data processing and transmitting it to the data management system.

The data management and archiving system

 This system collects the data from all of the wilderness weather stations, carries out data processing and analysis and archives the data.

♦ The station maintenance system

This system can communicate by satellite with all wilderness weather stations to monitor the health of these systems and provide reports of problems.

Additional software functionality



- Monitor the instruments, power and communication hardware and report faults to the management system.
- Manage the system power, ensuring that batteries are charged whenever the environmental conditions permit but also that generators are shut down in potentially damaging weather conditions, such as high wind.
- Support dynamic reconfiguration where parts of the software are replaced with new versions and where backup instruments are switched into the system in the event of system failure.