

Additional Thoughts on Milestone-1

Over the years - I've received a number of questions from students who are not sure how to start or progress through the documenting of the Critical Summary Analysis Report.

Here are some additional thoughts on how you can proceed through this activity – the original Milestone-1 document gives you an approach to use, but perhaps this description of what you need to do will help. Remember that the point of this exercise is to get you looking at system descriptions and critically thinking about them - that is - what are the real requirements and what are details that aren't important at this time in understanding the system functionality ...

Anyway - here is an idea of how to proceed:

- The "Critical Summary Analysis" report requires you to read over the GIORP-5000 requirements that Thorton provided and sift through them in order to separate the ideas into 2 piles initially
 - a pile of useful system requirements (that describe what the system will do / how the system will behave)
 - a pile of extra details that don't seem to have to do with the system behavior or requirements
- then you take the 2 piles and separate them further into a pile of useful and (apparently) useless information for each of the main subsystem areas of the GIORP
 - The Kiosk Environment
 - Item Searching Ability
 - Item Inventory Level Tracking
 - Item Mapping
 - Item Ordering
 - Item Viewing Ability
 - this will result in you now having 12 piles of information (a useful and useless pile for each subsystem)
- once you've done this - you need to look at each subsystem's useful pile and ask yourself ... "Does this completely describe the behavior and functionality of the subsystem?" "Is there anything missing or do I have any questions about the requirements?"
 - in critically looking at each subsystem's pile of information and detail - you should be able to identify both the real (given) requirements as well as "holes" in the requirements [Where you ask yourself - what does that really mean? How does this function? etc.]
 - I would caution you to always keep the pile of what appeared to be useless detail around for each subsystem's analysis ... because sometimes information that may initially appear to be useless comes in very handy
 - what you are really doing at this stage of the analysis is extracting the real useful requirements about each subsystem as well as identifying the "holes" in the requirements (where detail and information has not been given)
- While doing the analysis indicated above - you cannot help but often begin to ask yourself questions about "how will this feature be designed within the system" or "how will this feature be implemented / coded in the system"
 - remember that the "Critical Summary Analysis" report is meant to focus on the **Analysis Phase** of the SDLC (and therefore focus on the requirements of the GIORP - what it can do / how it will behave. It is not meant to focus on design or implementation
 - but asking these questions is a good thing during your critical thinking period -- you just need to realize that you are asking questions about the Design and/or Implementation phases of the SDLC - and you need to document your questions there
- After doing this for all of the different subsystems in the GIORP - you will have many "piles" of information and now you need to collect and document them

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- The "Requirements" section of the Analysis report is meant to be broken down into 6 subsection - one for each subsystem within the GIORP
 - each of these subsections is then divided into 2 sub-subsections - one for "Known Requirements" where you document the pile of actual Analysis phase requirements that you've extracted for that subsystem. And one sub-subsection "Additional Questions about Requirements" where you document your Analysis phase questions about the requirements - i.e. the "holes" that you found in the requirements
 - all information presented for each subsystem may be summarized in bullet-list form if your like. You don't need to document in paragraph form
 - just make sure that the bullet list ideas are complete and describe what you are trying to say properly
- The "Future Considerations" section is where you present and ask your design phase and/or implementation phase questions that you may have come up with
 - it may be a good idea to break this section down into "Design-Level Questions" and "Implementation-Level Questions"
 - again you can present your ideas and questions in bullet list format so long as the ideas are complete enough that someone reading them will understand your meaning