Politecnico
di Milano

Requirements Analysis and Specification Document (RASD)

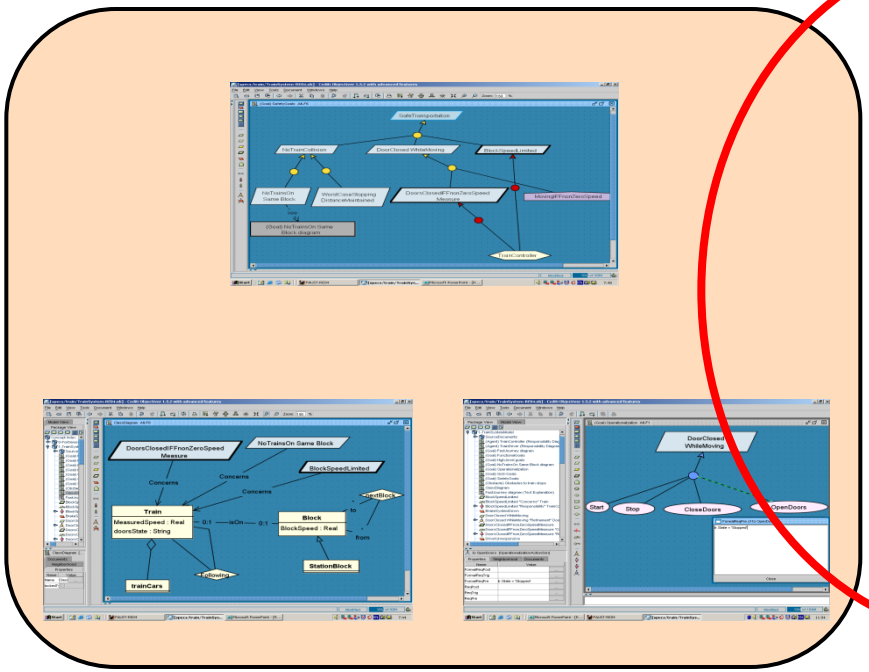
RASD

existing systems

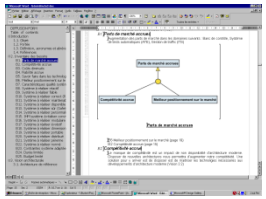
documents

elicitation & modelling

Requirements Models



generation of RE deliverables



requirements document

analysis & validation

Purposes of the RASD

- Communicates an understanding of the requirements
  - explains both the application domain and the system to be developed
- Contractual
  - may be legally binding!
- Baseline for project planning and estimation (size, cost, schedule)
- Baseline for software evaluation
  - supports system testing, verification and validation activities
  - should contain enough information to verify whether the delivered system meets requirements
- Baseline for change control
  - requirements change, software evolves

(slide: Steve Easterbrook)

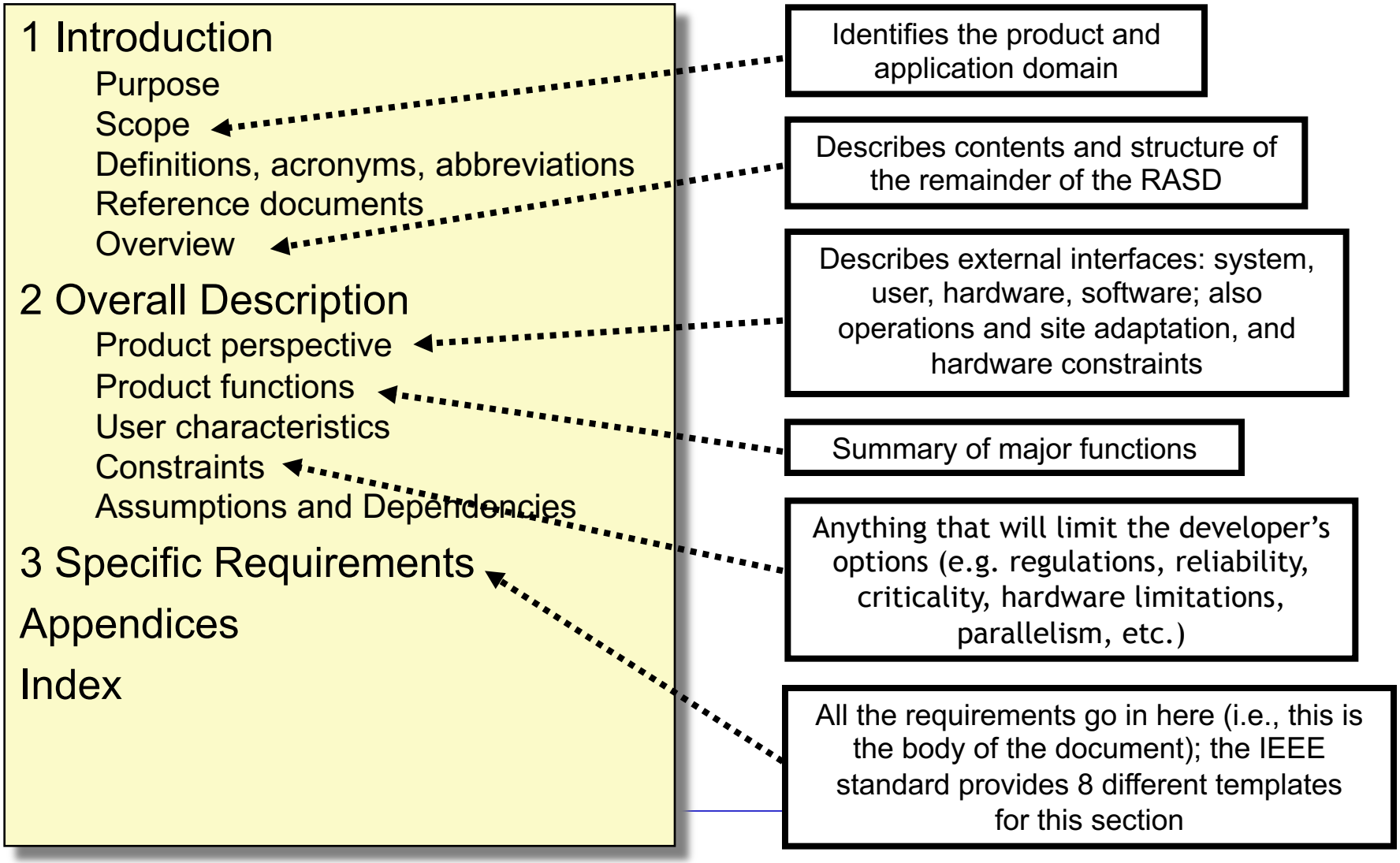
Audience of the RASD

- Costumers & Users
  - most interested in validating system goals and high-level description of functionalities
  - not generally interested in detailed software requirements
- Systems Analysts, Requirements Analysts
  - write various specifications of other systems that inter-relate
- Developers, Programmers
  - have to implement the requirements
- Testers
  - determine that the requirements have been met
- Project Managers
  - measure and control the analysis and development processes

(slide: Steve Easterbrook)

IEEE Standard for RASD

Source: *Adapted from ISO/IEC/IEEE 29148 dated Dec 2011*



(slide: Steve Easterbrook)

IEEE STD Section 3 (example)

Source: *Adapted from ISO/IEC/IEEE 29148 dated Dec 2011*

3.1 External Interface Requirements
- 3.1.1 User Interfaces
- 3.1.2 Hardware Interfaces
- 3.1.3 Software Interfaces
- 3.1.4 Communication Interfaces

3.2 Functional Requirements

this section is organized by mode, user class, feature, etc. For example:

3.2.1 User Class 1

3.2.1.1 Functional Requirement 1.1

…

3.2.2 User Class 2

3.2.2.1 Functional Requirement 2.1

…

...

3.3 Performance Requirements

3.4 Design Constraints

3.4.1 Standards compliance

3.4.2 Hardware limitations

etc.

3.5 Software System Attributes
- 3.5.1 Reliability
- 3.5.2 Availability
- 3.5.3 Security
- 3.5.4 Maintainability
- 3.5.5 Portability

3.6 Other Requirements

(slide: Steve Easterbrook)

Target qualities for a RASD (1)

- Completeness
  - w.r.t. goals: the requirements are sufficient to satisfy the goals under given domain assumptions

    $$\text{Req and Dom} \models \text{Goals}$$

    - all Goals have been correctly identified, including all relevant quality goals
    - Dom represent valid assumptions; incidental and malicious behaviours have been anticipated
  - w.r.t. inputs: the required software behaviour is specified for all possible inputs
  - Structural completeness: no TBDs

(slide: adapted from A. van Lamsweerde)

Target qualities for a RASD (2)

- Pertinence
  - each requirement or domain assumption is needed for the satisfaction of some goal
  - each goal is truly needed by the stakeholders
  - the RASD does not contain items that are unrelated to the definition of requirements (e.g., design or implementation decisions)
- Consistency
  - no contradiction in formulation of goals, requirements, and assumptions

(slide: adapted from A. van Lamsweerde)

Target qualities for a RASD (3)

- Unambiguity
  - unambiguous vocabulary: every term is defined and used consistently
  - unambiguous assertions: goals, requirements and assumption must be stated clearly in a way that precludes different interpretations
  - verifiability: a process exists to test satisfaction of each requirement
  - unambiguous responsibilities: the split of responsibilities between the software-to-be and its environment must be clearly indicated

(slide: adapted from A. van Lamsweerde)

Target qualities for a RASD (4)

- Feasibility
  - the goals and requirements must be realisable within the assigned budget and schedules
- Comprehensibility
  - must be comprehensible by all in the target audience
- Good Structuring
  - e.g., highlights links between goals, requirements and assumptions
  - every item must be defined before it is used
- Modifiability
  - must be easy to adapt, extend or contract through local modifications
  - impact of modifying an item should be easy to assess

(slide: adapted from A. van Lamsweerde)

Target qualities for a RASD (5)

- Traceability
  - must indicate sources of goals, requirements and assumptions
  - must link requirements and assumptions to underlying goals
  - facilitates referencing of requirements in future documentation (design, test cases, etc.)

(slide: adapted from A. van Lamsweerde)

RASD: In which sections do we include all we have learnt about requirements?

- The RASD does not necessarily follow the order of our mental process to the requirements
- Section 1
  - Purpose part → goals
  - Scope part → analysis of the world and of the shared phenomena
- Section 2
  - Product perspective → Further details on the shared phenomena and a domain model (class diagrams and state diagrams)
  - Product functions → Requirements
  - User characteristics → Anything that is relevant to clarify their needs
  - Assumptions and dependencies → Domain assumptions

RASD: In which sections do we include all we have learnt about requirements?

- Section 3
  - More details on all aspects in Section 2 if they can be useful for the development team
  - Section 3.2 → Definition of use case diagrams, use cases and associated sequence/activity diagrams

A note on traceability

- Use cases are related to some requirements
- Keep track of this relationship through proper identifiers
  - E.g., RE.3 is associated with UC.3.1 and UC.3.2
- We may also have use cases that refer to multiple requirements
  - E.g., UC.3.1 may refer also to RE.2
    - …even thought the main relationship is with RE.3
  - Make this explicit in the presentation
    - E.g., you could build a traceability matrix

Traceability matrix

Raw ID	Goal ID	Req ID	Use Case ID	Comments
r1	G.1	RE.3	UC.3.1	
r2	G.1	RE.2	UC.3.1	

- This may grow during the development process, example:

Raw ID	Goal ID	Req ID	Use Case ID	Test case ID	Comments
r1	G.1	RE.3	UC.3.1	TC.3.1.1	
r2	G.1	RE.2	UC.3.1		

Homework for October 23rd 2019

- Within your project team, review the RASD available here
  - https://bit.ly/35FujD1
    - It refers to the assignment described in this document: https://bit.ly/35F6Bqu
- Answer to the questionnaire here (one set of answers per group)
  - https://forms.gle/ddVg8FgdnEFTc5bW6
  - We will assess the answers and assign 1 point to the ones that provide correct answers.

References and interesting sources about Requirement Engineering

- M. Jackson, P. Zave, "Deriving Specifications from Requirements: An Example", Proceedings of ICSE 95, 1995
- M. Jackson, P. Zave, "Four Dark Corners of Requirements Engineering",TOSEM, 1997
- B. Nuseibeh, S. Easterbrook, "Requirements Engineering: A Roadmap", Proceedings ICSE 2000
- A. van Lamsweerde, Requirements Engineering: From System Goals to UML Models to Software Specifications, Wiley and Sons, 2009
- M. Jackson, Software Requirements and Specifications: A Lexicon of Practice, Principles and Prejudices, ACM Press Books, 1995
- S. Robertson and J. Robertson, Mastering the Requirements Process, Addison Wesley, 1999
- Requirements Engineering Specialist Group of the British Computer Society http://www.resg.org.uk/
- B. Bruegge & A.H. Dutoit, Object-Oriented Software Engineering: Using UML, Patterns, and Java, 2nd Edition, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, September 25, 2003
- T. E. Bell and T. A. Thayer. 1976. Software requirements: Are they really a problem?. In Proceedings of the 2nd international conference on Software engineering (ICSE '76). IEEE Computer Society Press, Los Alamitos, CA, USA, 61-68.
- F. P. J. Brooks, "No Silver Bullet Essence and Accidents of Software Engineering," in Computer, vol. 20, no. 4, pp. 10-19, April 1987. doi: 10.1109/MC.1987.1663532
- Slides by Emmanuel Letier UCL