

Documentation organizes and communicates project needs and objectives between people involved in the project before, during, and after development. Good business documentation allows non-technical audiences to understand and assess the risks and benefits of solutions. Good design documentation highlights the boundaries and interfaces that allow work to be done in parallel by separate teams. Good technical documentation allows work to be done successfully by developers.

Part 1

For part 1 of our documentation exercise, we are going to generate a set of screen mockups for LOST.

Using the mockups, we can have a storyboarding meeting with the customer where we verify that we have captured their needs and get them to sign off on how they will interact with the system. Seeing that we have a plan for the user interface reduces the risk that we will deliver something unfit for purpose and helps them to better see the benefit of the system (through imagining how much better this interface is than their current solution). If we've missed an important requirement or made bad assumptions, the customer can correct our understanding now before we've invested in implementing the wrong thing.

On the technical side, the mockups help us to bridge from the business requirements to how those are addressed. Each screens should be traceable to a requirement in the LOST requirements document; each screen should support a documented use case or workflow. If there is a needed screen that is not traceable, we should ask

- Do we actually need this screen/feature? Extra work costs time that we could be spending on things the customer cares about.
- If we need the screen, what requirement did we miss? Requirements documents are always incomplete; correctness proofs of real code are super expensive due to the level of effort required to fully specify nontrivial software. Having uncovered an important requirement, the requirements document should be updated.

...Further direction would be produced regarding sketching screens and documenting the usecase/workflow as well as the datamodel data needed to implement the screen. A graph of the screen flow would also be expected...

Part 2

For part 2 of our documentation exercise, we are going to do a really light weight security questionnaire. For systems that need to meet some security requirements, there is typically a certification and accreditation (C&A) step before deployment. The report that comes out of the C&A step is used to determine the level of risk associated with turning the system on. Assuming risk for the company is an executive function, so the report generated by the security team is targeted for that audience. To generate that report, the security team needs information on how risks the executive cares about are technically addressed by the system. These details should be checked by a third party before the system goes live.

...A short list of security controls LOST needs to support with control descriptions would be provided. Further direction would be provided regarding the format the responses would be expected in...