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Assignment - 7

1) In the beginning of Chapter 8, the author emphasizes on the importance of non-functional requirements by giving an example of how help desk staff rejected the software, as they were not comfortable with the look and feel of the product. My question in this scenario is that we requirement team does prepare mock ups/prototypes of the final product during the initial phases, then how did the requirement team land up into such situation as help desk staff had an idea of the final product? If the help desk staff was not very comfortable with the look and feel of the product, then they should have raised that issue during the initial phases?

2) As per the description given under the section "Non-Functional Requirements" in Chapter 8, I get an understanding that the non-functional requirements are equally important as functional requirements. If that is the case, then why are they not discussed with the client and stakeholders during project blast off and requirement gathering phase? Could non-functional requirements be one of the reasons of the failure of Microsoft's Bing with respect to Google Search?

3) Under the section "Look and Feel Requirements", author has mentioned few characteristics for this non-functional requirement. One of them is "Attractive to children or some other specific group" and the next one is ""Unobtrusive, so that people are not aware of it". Aren't these two contradicting? Even if we just consider the latter one alone, why the new features or the product should be unobtrusive? In fact it should attract the attention.

4) In Chapter 10, the author emphasizes on the art of writing requirement specifications. Since not everyone is good at writing skills, shouldn't we allocate this task to people who have good writing skills? I understand that Technical writers are hired for this job but as far as I know they are generally involved in writing user guides or handbooks. Do they also get involved in writing requirement specification?

5) After going through the Volere requirement specification template, I feel that it is quite comprehensive and I did not find any such section, which wasn't covered in it. My question is why can't we standardize the requirement specification template across the whole IT industry? I know every business is different but after looking at the template it covers almost everything that any business needs to have in their requirement specification. What is stopping the IT industry to use one such global template?