


SWE30003
Software Architectures and Design

Lecture 2
User Tasks, Goal-Design Scale

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Unit Teaching Staff

- **Convenor/Lecturer:**
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Phone: (03) 9214 5732
Consultation: 2.30pm~3.15pm Wed,
Canvas/Collaborate
- **Tutors:**
see Canvas under “Modules/Staff Details”

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Logistical matters



■ Announcements/reminders:

- ☐ Assignment 1 spec to be released this week (week 2) – watch for announcement

■ Weekly submissions – A & Q:

- ☐ Week 2: xxx and yyy out of zzz;
- ☐ Week 3: ...
- ☐ Note that this is a **hurdle requirement**
- ☐ No late submission

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Question to Answer from Week 1

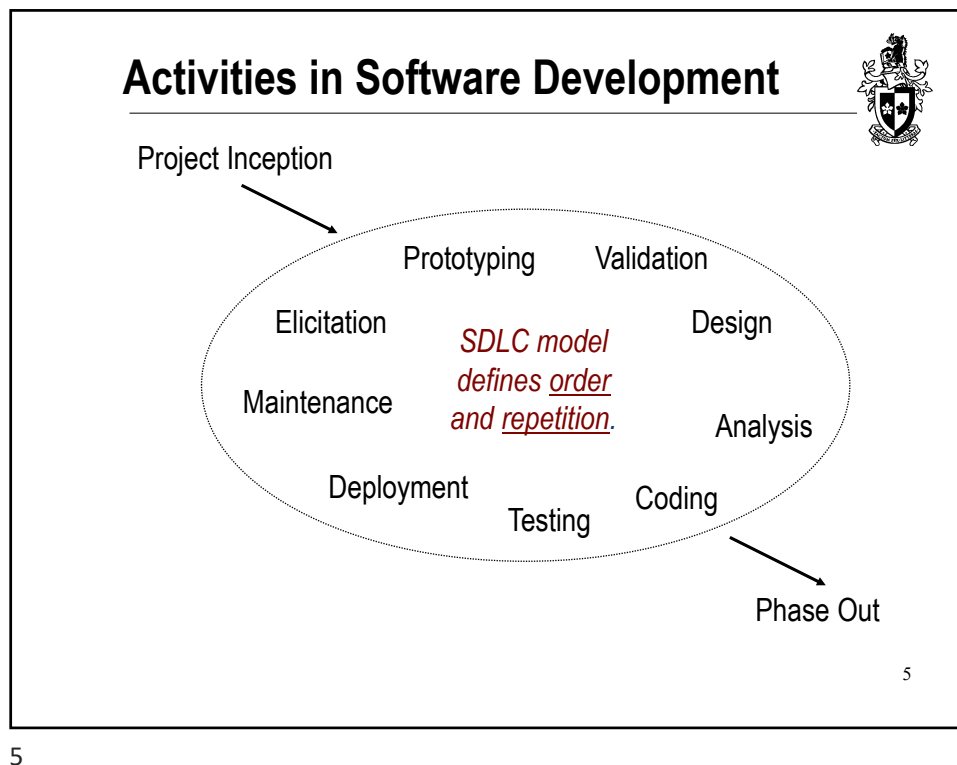


*In your own words, characterize the difference between **verification** and **validation** and discuss where in the software development lifecycle (SDLC) verification and validation activities should be conducted, respectively.*

Major SDLC activities: Requirements elicitation and analysis, design, implementation, testing, maintenance.

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Principal References

- Soren Lauesen, *Software Requirements: Styles and Techniques*, Addison-Wesley, 2002, Chapters 1 to 3.
- Soren Lauesen, *Task Descriptions as Functional Requirements*, IEEE Software, March 2003, (available as PDF from Canvas).

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Outline



■ Requirements

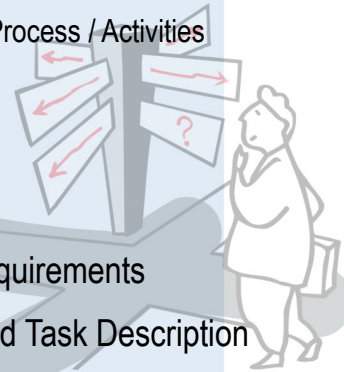
- Requirements Engineering Process / Activities
- Types of Requirements

■ Scenarios and Use Cases

■ Goal-Design Scale

■ Domain Model and Data Requirements

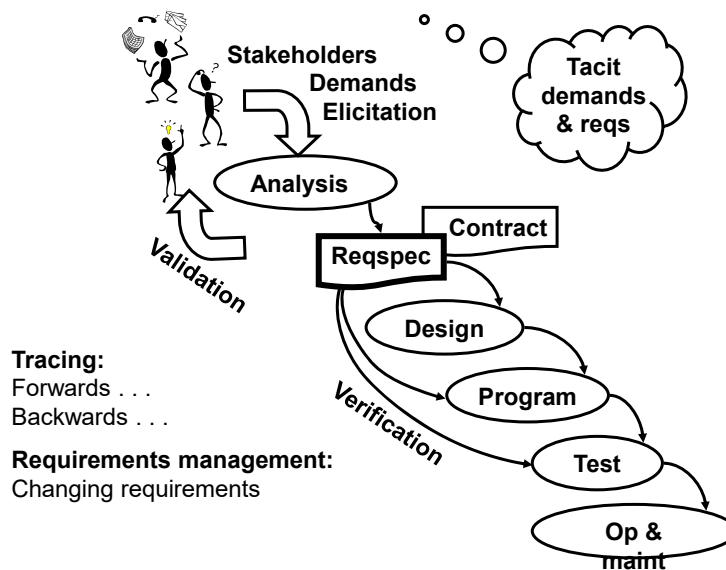
■ Functional Requirements and Task Description



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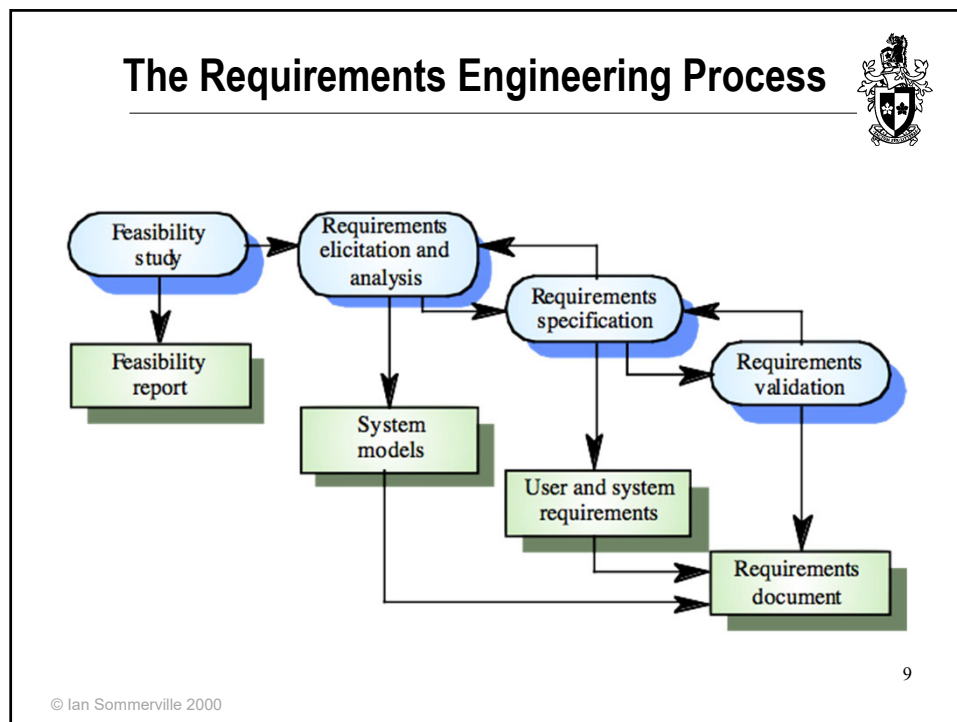
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The Role of Requirements



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Requirements Engineering Activities

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Feasibility study | Determine if the <i>user needs</i> can be <i>satisfied</i> with the <i>available technology</i> and <i>budget</i> . |
| Requirements elicitation | Find out <i>what system stakeholders require</i> from the system. |
| Requirements analysis | <i>Clarify/define/document the requirements</i> in a form understandable to the customer. |
| Requirements specification | Define the requirements in <i>detail</i> . (Written as a contract between client and contractor.) |

"Requirements are for users; specifications are for analysts and developers."

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Requirements Elicitation



Sometimes called *requirements discovery*.

Expert staff/developers work with customers to determine

- the application *domain*,
- the *services* (functionality *and* quality) that the system must provide, and
- the system's operational *constraints*.

Involves various *stakeholders*:

- e.g., end-users, managers, engineers involved in maintenance, domain experts, trade unions, etc.

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Requirements Analysis



- Requires *collaboration* of people with different backgrounds
 - ☐ Users with application domain knowledge
 - ☐ Developers with implementation domain knowledge
- Bridging the gap between users and developers:
 - ☐ *Scenarios*: Example of the use of the system in terms of a series of *interactions between the user and the system*
 - ☐ *Use cases*: Abstraction that describes a class of scenarios
 - ☐ *User tasks*: Generalizations of different kind of use cases
 - ☐ *Workflows*: Interdependencies between various user tasks
 - ☐ ...

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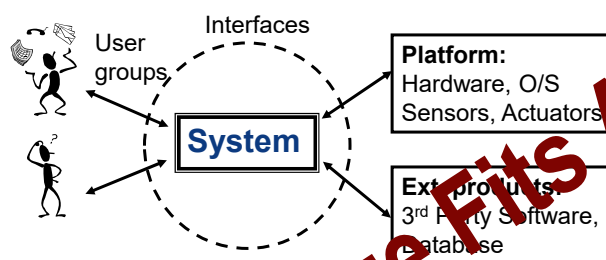
But what types of requirements do exist?

- Functional vs. non-functional is only one (coarse-grained) way to distinguish requirements.

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Types of Requirements



Data requirements:

System state: Comm. states,
Input/output formats, Persistent Data

Functional requirements, each interface:

Record, compute, transform, transmit
Theory: $F(\text{input, state}) \rightarrow (\text{output, state})$
Function list, pseudo code, activity diagrams
Screen prototypes, user tasks

Quality reqs:

Performance
Usability
Maintainability
...

Other deliverables:

Documentation
Install, convert,
train ...

Managerial reqs:

Delivery time
Legal
Development
process ...

Helping the reader:

Business goals
Definitions
Diagrams ... 14

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Traditional “feature” requirements



Roster planning, Midland Hospital

R47. It must be possible to attach a duty type code (first duty, end duty, etc.) to the individual employee.

R475. The system must be able to calculate the financial consequences of a given duty roster - in hours and in money terms.

R479. The system must give notice if a duty roster implies use of a temporary worker for more than three months.

R669. The system must give understandable messages in text form in the event of errors, and instruct the user on what to do.

What is “wrong” with these kinds of requirements?

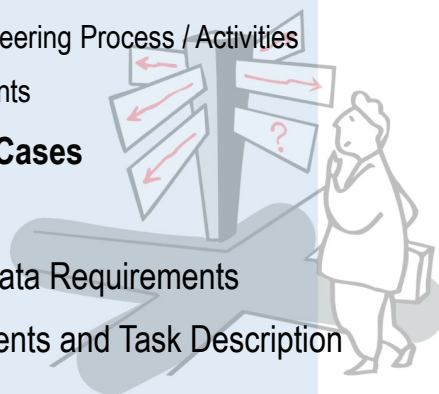
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Outline



- Requirements
 - Requirements Engineering Process / Activities
 - Types of Requirements
- **Scenarios and Use Cases**
- Goal-Design Scale
- Domain Model and Data Requirements
- Functional Requirements and Task Description



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Users Perspective



Users often tend to think about systems in terms of “*features*”

- E.g., “the system must provide a function to do X”
- Get users to tell you *stories* involving those features.
 - How do users anticipate these features to be used *in combination* with other features.
- Scenarios and Use cases can assist in order to get requirements *complete and consistent!*

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Scenarios



- Users *interact* with a computer systems to complete a “task” (or) achieve a “goal” (or have some fun...)
- These interactions can be captured as a set of *scenarios* (or) stories
- Example: “*Buy a product*” scenario for an online store:
 - ☞ *Mary browses the catalogue and adds desired items (chocolate) to the shopping basket. When she has finished shopping, Mary provides her address for delivery, credit card information and then confirms the transaction. The system confirms her payment and e-mails a transaction record.*

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Scenarios (cont.)



- In the “*Buy a product*” scenario we covered the normal *ideal interaction* between a *user* and “the *system*”. But
 - What happens if the credit-card payment fails?
 - What if the customer is a repeat customer, so shipping details are already in the system?
- The key scenario would hold, but to answer the above questions we have to add *alternative* scenarios.
- Scenarios can also be written down as a *series of steps*
- Identify different scenarios that can be written up

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Use Case



- If we structure scenarios, they can represent the behavioural requirements of the system – from a *user’s view point*.
- “A use case is a set of scenarios tied together by a common user *goal*” – Martin Fowler
 - Every use case must be tied to a *specific goal*
 - A use case is directly or indirectly invoked by an *actor*
- “A use case is the *specification* of a *sequence of actions*, including *variants*, that a system (or other entity) can perform, *interacting with actors* of the system.”

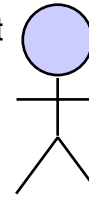
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Actors



- An actor is a *role* that a user plays when interacting with the system.
- An actor *performs* a Use Case.
 - ☐ A single actor may perform many use cases
 - ☐ A use case may have several actors performing it
- Actors do *not* need to be human
 - ☐ Can be an external system
 - ☐ Can be a device (e.g., temperature probe)



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But...



Use cases and scenarios are still too much focused on the “solution domain” instead of identifying the real problem to be addressed.

→ The “Tasks & Support” approach ...

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BREAK

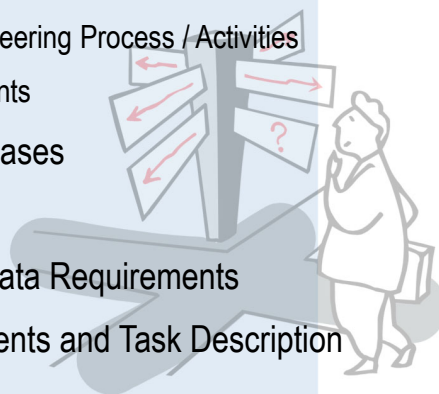
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Outline

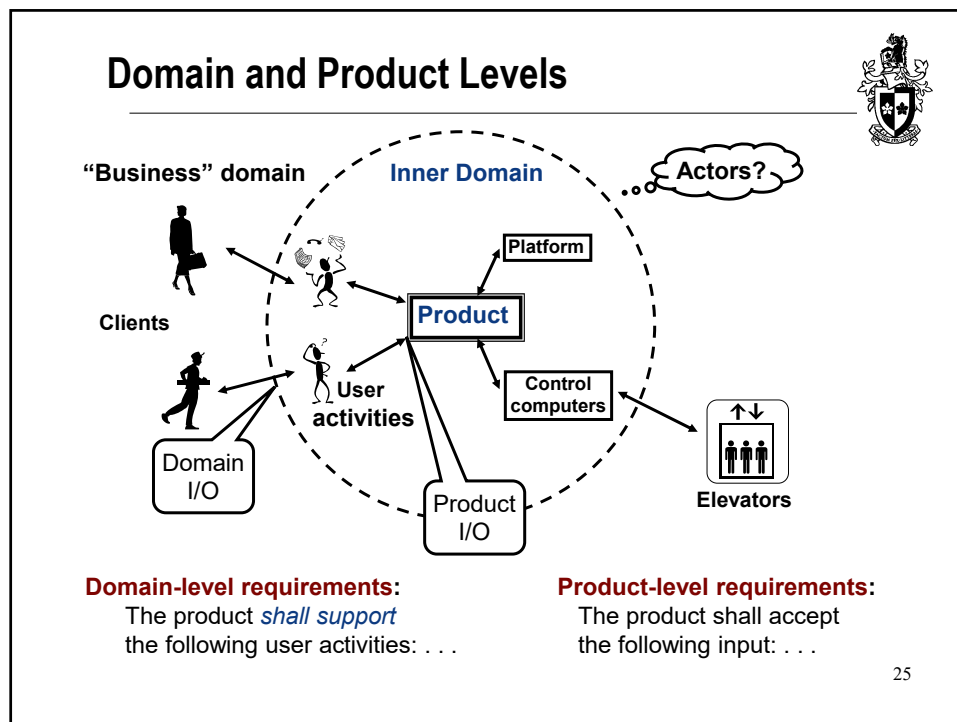


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 - Types of Requirements
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- **Goal-Design Scale**
- Domain Model and Data Requirements
- Functional Requirements and Task Description

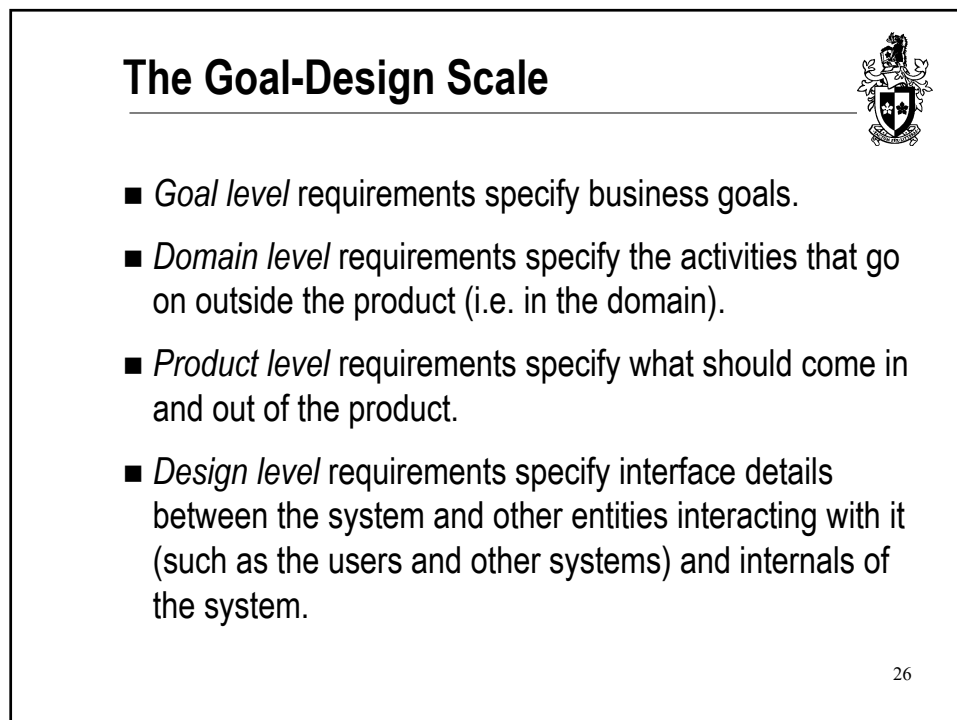


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The Goal-Design Scale (cont.)

(Ship repair quotation system)

R1. Our pre-calculations shall hit within 5%

R2. Product *shall support* cost recording and quotation with experience data

R3. Product shall have recording and retrieval functions for experience data

R4. System shall have screen pictures as shown in app. xx

Goal-level requirement

Domain-level requirement


Product-level requirement

Design-level requirement

Which requirement to choose?

If the supplier is

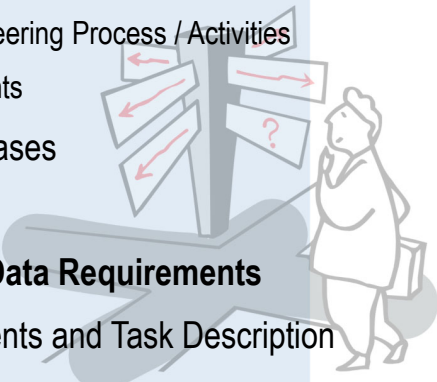
- A vendor of business applications?
- A software house - programmers?
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers?




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Outline

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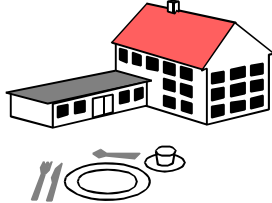
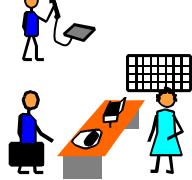




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Example: Hotel Information System

Data:

- Guests
- Rooms
- Services

Tasks:

- Book guest
- Check in
- Check out
- Change room
- Breakfast list & other services

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Recap - Domain Model Development

■ **Process**

- Step 1. Perform a *textual analysis* of the problem specification for understanding the problem domain
 - Circle all *nouns* and underline the *verbs*
- Step 2. Write down relevant *domain entities*. They are normally (some of) the nouns defined above.
- Step 3. Revisit the specification to extract the *associations*
- Step 4. Record associations with the corresponding domain entities.

☞ *Note: domain modeling is not design; it is merely a way to understand the abstract concepts relevant to the **problem!***



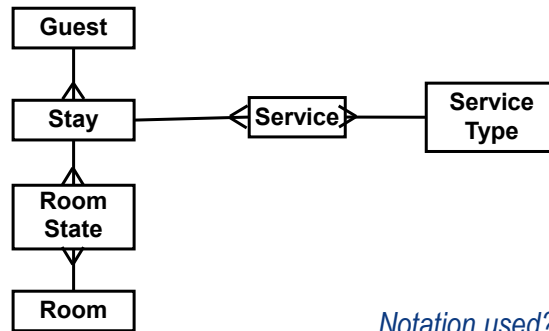
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Hotel Information System – Domain Model



The system shall store the following *domain entities* (*NOT database entities*):



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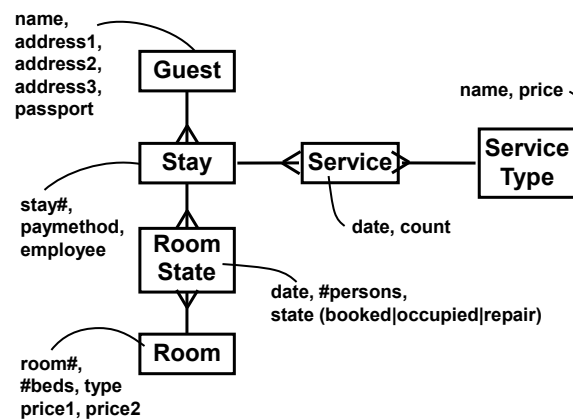
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Beware of solution specifications! ... too far



The system shall store the following *domain entities*:



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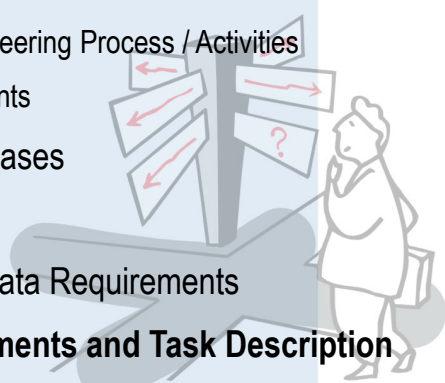
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Outline



- Requirements
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- **Functional Requirements and Task Description**



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Task Descriptions



Work area: 1. Reception
Service guests - small and large issues. Normally standing. Frequent interrupts. Often alone, e.g. during night.

Users: Reception experience, IT novice.

R1: The product shall support tasks 1.1 to 1.5

Missing sub-task?

Task: 1.1 Booking
Purpose: Reserve room for a guest.

Task: 1.2 Checkin
Purpose: Give guest a room. Mark it as occupied. Start account.

Trigger/Precondition: A guest arrives
Frequency: Average 0.5 checkins/room/day
Critical: Group tour with 50 guests.

Sub-tasks:

1. Find room
2. Record guest as checked in
3. Deliver key

Variants:

- 1a. Guest has booked in advance
- 1b. No suitable room
- 2a. Guest recorded at booking
- 2b. Regular customer

Task: 1.3 Checkout
Purpose: Release room, invoice guest.

...

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Tasks & Support

| | |
|---|---|
| Task: 1.2 Checkin Purpose: Give guest a room. Mark it . . . Frequency: . . . | |
| Sub-tasks: 1. Find room. Problem: Guest wants neighbour rooms; price bargain. 2. Record guest as checked in. 3. Deliver key. Problem: Guest forgets to return the key; guest wants two keys. Variants: 1a. Guest has booked in advance. Problem: Guest identification fuzzy. | Example solution: System shows free rooms on floor maps. System shows bargain prices, time and day dependent. (Standard data entry) System prints electronic keys. New key for each customer. System uses closest match algorithm. |

Past: Problems

Domain level

Future: Computer part

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Use Cases vs. User Tasks

UML use case diagram:

Human and computer separated:

Task descriptions. Split **postponed**:

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Postpone split whilst eliciting requirements!



Human and computer separated

Use case: Check in a booked guest

User action

Enter booking number

Edit details (optional)

Push checkin

Give guest key(s)

System action

Show guest and booking details

Store modifications

Allocate free room(s)

Display room number(s)

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Good vs. Bad Tasks



Good tasks:

- **Closed:** goal reached, pleasant feeling
- Session: Small, related tasks in one description
- Do not program!

Examples:

- 1 Manage rooms?
- 2 Book a guest?
- 3 Enter guest name?
- 4 Check in a bus of tourists
- 5 Stay at the hotel?
- 6 Change the guest's address etc?
- 7 Change booking?
- 8 Cancel entire booking?

Frequent
mistake

Got them all?

- All events covered?
- Critical tasks covered?
- At least as good as before?
- CRUD check

How to deal
with that?

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Workflows



- A workflow is a coherent representation of the (temporal) dependencies between the major steps of a process.
- It primarily focuses on:
 - ☐ Actor(s) of each step
 - ☐ Dependencies between steps
 - ☐ *Sequencing*
- Workflows assist in identifying high-level tasks and a sequence of “good” user tasks.
- (client perspective ..)

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High-level Tasks (workflows)



Task: 1. A stay at the hotel
Actor: The guest
Purpose: ...

| Sub-tasks: | Example solution: |
|---|--|
| 1. Select a hotel. Problem: We aren't visible enough. | ? |
| 2. Booking. Problem: Language and time zones. Guest wants two neighbor rooms | Web-booking. Choose rooms on web at a fee. |
| 3. Check in. Problem: Guests want two keys | Electronic keys. |
| 4. Receive service | |
| 5. Check out Problem: Long queue in the morning | Use electronic key for self-checkout. |
| 6. Reimburse expenses Problem: Private services on the bill | Split into two invoices, e.g. through room TV. |

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Some Questions for Review



1. What is a drawback of using Task Descriptions over other styles of functional requirements? How could this be managed?
2. What is the difference between subtasks and variants when designing a Task Description?
3. Within a Task Description, what is the difference between a Trigger and a Precondition?
4. Task descriptions don't cover quality requirements such as response time and usability, but they point out where quality is crucial. How does a task description point out quality requirements?
5. How do you relate the different task descriptions to different actors when using the Task and Support method? How is this relation shown when the same tasks are applicable to different users of the system?

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Question to Answer - Week 2 (for Week 3 submission)



See Canvas

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Exercise for Week 3



Roster planning, Midland Hospital

R47. It must be possible to attach a duty type code (first duty, end duty, etc.) to the individual employee.

R475. The system must be able to calculate the financial consequences of a given duty roster - in hours and in money terms.

R479. The system must give notice if a duty roster implies use of a temporary worker for more than three months.

R669. The system must give understandable messages in text form in the event of errors, and instruct the user on what to do.

Using your own words, write these requirements up in a verifiable way!

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Required Pre-Reading for Lecture 3



- Len Bass, Paul Clements, and Rick Kazman, *Software Architecture in Practice* (4th Edition), Addison-Wesley, 2021, Chapter 3 (Understanding Quality Attributes). (Chapter 4 in the 3rd or 2nd Edition is a suitable replacement)
- Ian Gorton, *Essential Software Architecture*, Springer, 2006, Chapter 3 (available from Canvas).

☞ *Note: the question to be submitted by next week are expected to come from one of these two chapters!*

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Assignment 1 SRS



- A business software/information system
- Things the client wants to achieve ... “not clear enough” – deliberate ...
- Requirements elicitation and specification: role play, analysis, reasonable assumptions
- Domain/data model: high level ER + explanation
- Functional requirements: Tasks&Support + explanation
- Non-functional (quality) requirements: next week
- Requirements validation: next week
- True collaboration ...
- Use discussion board ...
-

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