

# **Farm Management System Requirements Specification**

**Version 1.0**

**April 19, 2021**

To regenerate the TOC, select all (CTL-A) and press F9.

## Table of Contents

<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW .....	3
1.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS SPECIFICATION .....	3
<b>2. PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 PRODUCT CONTEXT .....	3
2.2 USER CHARACTERISTICS .....	3
2.3 ASSUMPTIONS .....	4
2.4 CONSTRAINTS .....	4
2.5 DEPENDENCIES.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
<b>3. REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS .....	5
3.2 NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS .....	7
3.2.1 User Interface Requirements.....	7
3.2.2 Usability .....	8
3.2.3 Performance.....	8
3.2.4 Manageability/Maintainability .....	8
3.2.5 System Interface/Integration .....	8
3.2.6 Security .....	10
3.2.7 Data Management .....	10
3.2.8 Standards Compliance .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3.2.9 Portability .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3.2.10 Other Non-Functional Requirements .....	10
3.3 DOMAIN REQUIREMENTS.....	10
<b>4. USER SCENARIOS/USE CASES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>APPENDIX .....</b>	<b>11</b>
APPENDIX A. DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS .....	12
APPENDIX B. REFERENCES.....	12
APPENDIX C. REQUIREMENTS TRACEABILITY MATRIX .....	12
APPENDIX D. ORGANIZING THE REQUIREMENTS .....	14

# 1. Executive Summary

## 1.1 Project Overview

In the last 10 years farms in Albania had a noticeable development after years of forced collectivization of agricultural cooperatives. According to official statistics, today in Albania, more than 90% of farms are mainly based on family farms that have an economic and social dimension; that is around 300 000 farms. Our goal is to provide the local farmers with an efficient solution based on their needs. Our project is centered on providing a management system for farmers in order to ease the management of their daily activity.

The Farming Management System will help to plan, monitor and analyze all activities on the farm easily. Tillage, planting, crop protection, fertilization, irrigation, harvesting and all other activities are managed with a few clicks. Plus, you can track input usage quantities, costs and work hours for every activity. The system will be also centered around livestock management: that include buying livestock, selling, and observing or calculating profit. Whether you are a cattleman or an agriculturist our product will provide useful facilities for you to control your business.

## 1.2 Purpose and Scope of this Specification

The purpose of this project is to implement technology in order to improve and facilitate the everyday operations of farms. This document will explain the purpose and features of the system, the interfaces of the system, what the system will do, the constraints under which it must operate and how the system will react to external actions.

This document is intended for both the stakeholders and the developers of the system.

This software system will be a Farming Management System for local farm owners. This system will be designed to support production management and to comply with actual farming standards. By maximizing the farmer's work efficiency and production, the system will meet the farmer's needs while remaining easy to understand and use.

# 2. Product/Service Description

According to INSTAT, in Albania, as of 2011 there were 353'341 farms. Out of these farms, 299'077 were farms that practiced both livestock farming and agriculture, 54'086 were farms that practiced only agriculture, and 178 practiced only livestock breeding and farming.

## 2.1 Product Context

This product is independent and self-contained.

## 2.2 User Characteristics

Users that will use the program are:

- Farmers/Owners: the main users for which this program is built, they are often inexperienced with use of such software so we must make it easy for them
- Farm economists: these users will use the system heavily in calculating the profit and the spending of a farm. They expertise in the economic aspect of the product and to them will come in handy graphs that we will provide
- System maintainer: or superuser, will check the system for liabilities and will make sure the system communicates correctly with the database and all its related components
- Farm managers: in big farms the role of the owner and the role of farm manager may be done by different people. Farm managers are concerned with the economic aspect as well as with the organizational aspect of a farm.

## 2.3 Assumptions

Assumptions that affect the requirements are:

- 1) The system must be available at all times
- 2) The user must be able to change and manipulate the data they enter in real time
- 3) There will be multiple users
- 4) There are 3 different scenarios in which the system may be used: a farm that practices both livestock farming and agriculture, a farm that only practices agriculture and a farm that practices only livestock breeding and farming.

## 2.4 Constraints

User constraints

One user will only be able to see its own data and not other users' data.

Framework constraints

Laravel is easy to learn and fast to develop but some features are clearly better-suited for rapid prototyping and should be replaced as an application grows.

Symfony on the other hand seems to be a better option.

## 3. Requirements

- Describe all system requirements in enough detail for designers to design a system satisfying the requirements and testers to verify that the system satisfies requirements.
- Organize these requirements in a way that works best for your project. See [Appendix D, Organizing the Requirements](#) for different ways to organize these requirements.
- Describe every input into the system, every output from the system, and every function performed by the system in response to an input or in support of an output. (Specify what functions are to be performed on what data to produce what results at what location for whom.)
- Each requirement should be numbered (or uniquely identifiable) and prioritized. See the sample requirements in Functional Requirements, and System Interface/Integration, as well as these example priority definitions:

### Priority Definitions

The following definitions are intended as a guideline to prioritize requirements.

- Priority 1 – The requirement is a “must have” as outlined by policy/law
  - Priority 2 – The requirement is needed for improved processing, and the fulfillment of the requirement will create immediate benefits
  - Priority 3 – The requirement is a “nice to have” which may include new functionality
- It may be helpful to phrase the requirement in terms of its priority, e.g., "The value of the employee status sent to DIS **must be** either A or I" or "It **would be nice** if the application warned the user that the expiration date was 3 business days away". Another approach would be to group requirements by priority category.
- A good requirement is:
    - Correct
    - Unambiguous (all statements have exactly one interpretation)
    - Complete (where TBDs are absolutely necessary, document why the information is unknown, who is responsible for resolution, and the deadline)
    - Consistent
    - Ranked for importance and/or stability

### ***Farm Management System Requirements Specification***

- Verifiable (avoid soft descriptions like “works well”, “is user friendly”; use concrete terms and specify measurable quantities)
- Modifiable (evolve the Requirements Specification only via a formal change process, preserving a complete audit trail of changes)
- Does not specify any particular design
- Traceable (cross-reference with source documents and spawned documents).

#### **3.1 Functional Requirements**

BR => Business Requirement

BR\_A => Agriculture only farm

BR\_L => Livestock only farm

BR\_AL => Agriculture and Livestock

Note: BR\_A and BR\_L apply to BR\_AL as well and

Req#	Requirement	Comments	Priority	Date Rvwd	SME Reviewed / Approved
BR_L_01	The system should store and show the data in an organized and consistent way.	Users must have access at all data at all time (include in non-functional)	1	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_L_02	The system must prompt the user for registering its data as soon as they log in for the first time.	This should be handled with care and must be a multistep process so the user will not get bored and tired.	2	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_L_03	The system must notify the user for upcoming vaccines or medical treatments the calves will have during their lifetime.	This is important to the certification of the institution and must be handled professionally.	1	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_L_04	The system must keep a list of all buyers and sellers of calves.	This list will help with requirements BR_05 and BR_06	2	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_L_05	The system must show best buyers; this will be calculated as a weighted average of the amount they buy, the cost they are willing to buy and the frequency.	We can make use of machine learning concepts to calculate “the weights”.	3	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_L_06	The system must show the most profitable sellers; this will be calculated as a weighted average of the price they are willing to sell, the distance from the farm and the prosperity of the calves bought.	This is a tricky requirement: we have to decide if we will work with a google maps technology or if we will prompt the user to enter the distance in km from the seller.	3	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi

### **Farm Management System Requirements Specification**

<b>Req#</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Date Rvwd</b>	<b>SME Reviewed / Approved</b>
BR_L_07	The system should provide a reminders service where users can remind themselves about anything at any time in the near or far future (such as due payments or medication for calves)	It is important the notifications are visible and shown upfront when the user logs in.	2	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_L_08	The system must have a comprehensive and organized display of the suppliers, so the user will know where and when to buy wheat, or other food for the calves.	This can be extended further. Must be thoroughly thought.	3	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_L_09	The system must provide a comprehensive and detailed description of the legal requirements a farm must have to function properly in Albania.	We must learn and get used to all the legislation concerning farms in our country.	1	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_L_10	Connected to requirements BR_03, BR_07, the system must provide information such as availability and phone number, email or any other form of communication with the veterinarian together with the reminder.	Possibly, a farm may have more then one vets, so we should account for that too.	3	14-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_A_01	At the start of every month show the schedule of plants a user can plant indoors that month.		2	18-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_A_02	Show a tracking page for plants that the user planted in form of a loading bar which will show the user the right time for seed planting/transplant and the right time for harvest	The loading bar should have a gradient to it from green to red	3	18-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_A_03	Create an inventory tab where the price and quantity of plants is saved and later referenced	This is similar to an electronic bill	1	19-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_A_04	Show a table of suppliers and their relative (in kilometers or hours to be decided) and absolute (address) position.	Table will have: name, phone, affiliation, address, how far they are, and a price index from 1-5 with 5 being the most expensive	2	18-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi

### **Farm Management System Requirements Specification**

Req#	Requirement	Comments	Priority	Date Rvwd	SME Reviewed / Approved
BR_A_05	Show a table of buyers that is similar to table of suppliers.		2	18-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_A_06	Create a database separate from the whole project where we will store all data necessary for the growth and maintenance of different plants **	This requirement is very important and needs further specifications. It will be divided into other requirements that will need their own research.	1*	19-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_A_07	Suggestions about other uses for the crops the user is harvesting should be shown on loading screens and on the bottom of the homepage.	For example, the user might be selling grapes our system should be able to identify that the user is selling grapes (entered by the user) and suggest that the user sell also wine that comes from grapes.	3	19-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_AL_01	Create a tab where the user can create, manage, and view the space it needs to store the crops harvested. The user can add warehouses, haystacks, and barrels.	For example, the user will add a haystack to his/her farm, we will prompt him to enter a value signaling the capacity of the haystack and after this another value that will tell how much of the haystack is occupied/free in percentage.	2	19-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_AL_02	On startup (once every month) and on loading pages, suggest crops (like soy) that livestock eats or curiosities around the world related to livestock farms which can improve the performance of the farm.	A little touch to detail	3	19-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi
BR_AL_03	Alert the user for the best time to invest in new livestock which will be correlated with the time that the crops are ready for harvest, and the time when there are more weddings.	If you are buying bred cows, the period from about May 15 to August 1 might be a good time, although the volume of sales is typically low.	2	19-Apr-21	Kejdi Domi

## **3.2 Non-Functional Requirements**

### **3.2.1 User Interface Requirements**

- The system must be able to run full screen on a screen no smaller than 800-600 px
- Menus should be divided into logical sections and we are to use Hierarchical Menus.
- Error messages are to be shown as popups above the current screen, except when there are errors connected to form completion, in that case the cursor must move to the entity which caused the error and a simple red highlight should be applied to the text area.

### **3.2.2 Usability**

- The system should be easy to learn and explain
- The users must be prompted with messages displaying and explaining how to use the system
- The system should be intuitive

### **3.2.3 Performance**

#### **3.2.3.1 Capacity**

The solution should be capable of serving 1000 concurrent users for 70% of the time and up to 3000 concurrent users during the peak times. The solution should be capable of handling a load of 30,000 queries per minute.

#### **3.2.3.2 Availability**

- Maximum permitted number of failures per hour = 2
- The maintenance should be scheduled and we must notify the user 1 week prior
- The system should be available 95% of the time

#### **3.2.3.3 Latency**

Response Time: For 90% for user interactions the application response times should be <2 seconds. For any transaction having a response time greater than 0.5 sec a suitable progress indicator should be shown to the user. Any user interaction response time should not exceed 10 seconds. In cases of unforeseen delays in responses due to network latency etc. a timeout message should be shown after 15 seconds.

## **\*TO BE DECIDED\***

### **3.2.4 Manageability/Maintainability**

#### **3.2.4.1 Monitoring**

Include any requirements for product or service health monitoring, failure conditions, error detection, logging, and correction.

#### **3.2.4.2 Maintenance**

Specify attributes of the system that relate to ease of maintenance. These requirements may relate to modularity, complexity, or interface design. Requirements should not be placed here simply because they are thought to be good design practices.

#### **3.2.4.3 Operations**

Specify any normal and special operations required by the user, including:

- periods of interactive operations and periods of unattended operations
- data processing support functions
- backup and recovery operations
- safety considerations and requirements
- disaster recovery and business resumption

### **3.2.5 System Interface/Integration**

Specify the use of other required products (e.g., a database or operating system), and interfaces with other systems (e.g., UWHires package interfaces with PubCookie and ODS, HEPPS system interfaces



## ***Farm Management System Requirements Specification***

with Budget system). For each interface, define the interface in terms of message format and content. For well-documented interfaces, simply provide a reference to the documentation.

Outline each interface between the product and the hardware or network components of the system. This includes configuration characteristics (e.g., number of ports, instruction sets), what devices are to be supported, and protocols (e.g., signal handshake protocols).

### **3.2.5.1 Network and Hardware Interfaces**

Specify the logical characteristics of each interface between the product and the hardware or network components of the system. This includes configuration characteristics (e.g., number of ports, instruction sets), what devices are to be supported, and protocols (e.g., signal handshake protocols).

### **3.2.5.2 Systems Interfaces**

Example systems interface requirements:

#### ***A. System1-to-System2 Interface***

The <external party> will create and send a fixed length text file as an email attachment to [System2mail@u.washington.edu](mailto:System2mail@u.washington.edu) to be imported into the System2 system for payroll calculation. This file must be received on EDIT day by 4:00 PM in order to be processed in the EDIT night run. The requirements below document the file specifications, data transfer process, and specific schedule. This file is referred to as "FileName" in this document.

#### ***File Structure and Format***

A1. The FileName file is a fixed length text file.

A2. The FileName file is an unformatted ASCII file (text-only).

A3. The FileName file contains a batch totals record and several detail records.

#### ***File Description: Batch Totals Record***

A4. The batch totals record can be placed at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of the file.

A5. The batch totals record contains the following:

- Record Type (value: XA)
- Process Type (value: A)
- Batch Number (3 digit number assigned by Payroll Dept)
- Origin Code (AIG)
- Total number of detail records
- Total deduction amount

#### ***File Description: Detail Records***

A6. The FileName file contains a row for each record meeting xxx criteria.

A7. Each row in the FileName file contains the following fields, comma-delimited and encased in double-quotes where the data includes commas or spaces:

- Employee Id
- Record Type
- Process Date (MMDDYY)
- XYG Number
- Element Code
- Amount
- Amount Sign
- Year Flag
- Total Amount
- Total Amt Sign

### **3.2.6 Security**

#### **3.2.6.1 Protection**

Specify the factors that will protect the system from malicious or accidental access, modification, disclosure, destruction, or misuse. For example:

- encryption
- activity logging, historical data sets
- restrictions on intermodule communications
- data integrity checks

#### **3.2.6.2 Authorization and Authentication**

Specify the Authorization and Authentication factors. Consider using standard tools such as PubCookie.

### **3.2.7 Data Management**

Specify the requirements for any information that is to be placed into a database, including

- types of information used by various functions
- frequency of use
- data access rules
- data entities and relationships
- integrity constraints
- data retention
- valid range, accuracy, and/or tolerance
- units of measure
- data formats
- default or initial values

### **3.2.8 Other Non-Functional Requirements**

Please provide all necessary non-functional requirements, similar to the requirements explained in the lesson slides or in the textbook.

## **3.3 Domain Requirements**

Everything related to the domain that might be needed in the project shall be mentioned in here. Sometimes the domain Requirements might be thought as part of either functional or non-functional requirements.

## **4. User Scenarios/Use Cases**

<b>No.</b>	<b>User Case</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Successful login	User provides correct email and password and logs in the system.
2	Failed login	User provides incorrect or incomplete credentials.
3	Create account	User provides email and password, retypes password and chooses its role. User is redirected to Login page to log in the system.
4	Incorrect password	User retypes incorrect password or tries to register with incomplete credentials.
5	User reads information about the system	There is detailed information in the Home page about the functionalities that the system offers.

### ***Farm Management System Requirements Specification***

6	User enters the dashboard	User can check information about crops and livestock, manage the inventory, check the market and weather updated in real-time and the profile.
7	Crops	User can access a table with detailed information for tracking plants; seed planting/transplant and harvesting.
8	Managing crops information	User can insert, edit, and delete data about space needed to store harvested crops.
9	Livestock	User can access detailed information about the livestock available in the database in a tabular format.
10	User registers livestock	User inserts information of a new livestock in the database.
11	User deletes livestock	User deletes livestock information from the database.
12	Crops inventory	User inserts and manages data about price and quantity of plants, profits and expenses.
13	Livestock inventory	User has access to profits and expenses from the livestock management.
14	Market	Users can access a list of all sellers of calves along with detailed information about livestock being sold and a list of most profitable sellers. User can access information for the best and most frequent buyers.
15	Search livestock	User can optionally search livestock by filtering the full list.
16	List of suppliers	User can access a full list of suppliers and buyers together with their addresses.
17	Weather	User is notified in real-time about climate changes.
18	User reminder	User is provided with a reminder functionality which can be used for anything.
19	Notifications	User is notified for upcoming vaccines or medical treatments that should be provided to the calves, as well as for best timing to invest in new livestock or planting/harvesting crops.
20	User profile	User can enter personal details or edit existing credentials.
21	User logout	User logs out of the system and is redirected to the login page.
22	User contacts the veterinarian	Any form of communication (e.g. phone, email) with the veterinarian must be provided to the user.

## **APPENDIX**

The appendixes are not always considered part of the actual Requirements Specification and are not always necessary. They may include

- Sample input/output formats, descriptions of cost analysis studies, or results of user surveys;
- Supporting or background information that can help the readers of the Requirements Specification;
- A description of the problems to be solved by the system;
- Special packaging instructions for the code and the media to meet security, export, initial loading, or other requirements.

When appendixes are included, the Requirements Specification should explicitly state whether or not the appendixes are to be considered part of the requirements.

## **Appendix A. Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations**

Define all terms, acronyms, and abbreviations used in this document.

## **Appendix B. References**

List all the documents and other materials referenced in this document.

## **Appendix C. Requirements Traceability Matrix**

The following trace matrix examples show one possible use of naming standards for deliverables (FunctionalArea-DocType-NN). The number has no other meaning than to keep the documents unique. For example, the Bargaining Unit Assignment Process Flow would be BUA-PF-01.

For example (1):

<b>Business Requirement</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Status</b>
BR_LR_01 The system should validate the relationship between Bargaining Unit/Location and Job Class.---Comments: Business Process = "Assigning a Bargaining Unit to an Appointment" (Priority 1)	BUA	BUA-CD-01 Assign BU Conceptual Design	Accepted
		BUA-PF-01 Derive Bargaining Unit-Process Flow Diagram	Accepted
		BUA-PF-01 Derive Bargaining Unit-Process Flow Diagram	Accepted
BR_LR_09 The system should provide the capability for the Labor Relations Office to maintain the job class/union relationship.---Comments: Business Process = "Maintenance" (Priority 1)	BUA	BUA-CD-01 Assign BU Conceptual Design	Accepted
		BUA-PF-02 BU Assignment Rules Maint Process Flow Diagram	ReadyForReview

For example (2):

<b>BizReqID</b>	<b>Pri</b>	<b>Major Area</b>	<b>DevTstItems DelivID</b>	<b>Deliv Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
BR_LR_01	1	BUA	BUA-CD-01	Assign BU Conceptual Design	Accepted
BR_LR_01	1	BUA	BUA-DS-02	Bargaining Unit Assignment DB Modification Description	Accepted
BR_LR_01	1	BUA	BUA-PF-01	Derive Bargaining Unit-Process Flow Diagram	Accepted
BR_LR_01	1	BUA	BUA-UCD-01	BU Assign LR UseCase Diagram	ReadyForReview
BR_LR_01	1	BUA	BUA-UCT-001	BU Assignment by PC UseCase - Add Appointment and Derive UBU	Reviewed
BR_LR_01	1	BUA	BUA-UCT-002	BU Assignment by PC UseCase - Add Appointment (UBU Not Found)	Reviewed
BR_LR_01	1	BUA	BUA-UCT-006	BU Assignment by PC UseCase - Modify Appointment (Removed UBU)	Reviewed
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-CD-01	Assign BU Conceptual Design	Accepted
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-DS-02	Bargaining Unit Assignment DB Modification Description	Accepted

### Farm Management System Requirements Specification

BizReqID	Pri	Major Area	DevTstItems DelivID	Deliv Name	Status
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-PF-02	BU Assignment Rules Maint Process Flow Diagram	Accepted
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-UCD-03	BU Assign Rules Maint UseCase Diagram	Reviewed
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-UCT-045	BU Assignment Rules Maint: Successfully Add New Assignment Rule	Reviewed
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-UCT-051	BU Assignment Rules MaintUseCase: Modify Rule	Reviewed
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-UCT-053	BU Assignment Rules MaintUseCase - Review Assignment Rules	Reviewed
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-UCT-057	BU Assignment Rules MaintUseCase: Inactivate Last Rule for a BU	Reviewed
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-UI-02	BU AssignRules Maint UI Mockups	ReadyForReview
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-TC-021	BU Assignment Rules Maint TestCase: Add New Rule (Associated Job Class Does Not Exist) - Success	ReadyForReview
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-TC-027	BU Assignment Rules Maint TestCase: Modify Rule - Success	ReadyForReview
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-TC-035	BU Assignment Rules Maint TestCase: Add New Rule (Associated Job Class Does Not Exist) - Error Condition	ReadyForReview
BR_LR_09	1	BUA	BUA-TC-049	BU Assignment Rules Maint TestCase: Modify Rule - Error Condition	ReadyForReview

For example (3):

BizReqID	CD01	CD02	CD03	CD04	UI01	UI02	UCT01	UCT02	UCT03	TC01	TC02	TC03	TC04
BR_LR_01			X		X		X			X		X	
BR_LR_09	X			X		X			X		X		X
BR_LR_10	X			X					X		X		
BR_LR_11		X											

## **Appendix D. Organizing the Requirements**

This section is for information only as an aid in preparing the requirements document.

Detailed requirements tend to be extensive. Give careful consideration to your organization scheme. Some examples of organization schemes are described below:

### **By System Mode**

Some systems behave quite differently depending on the mode of operation. For example, a control system may have different sets of functions depending on its mode: training, normal, or emergency.

### **By User Class**

Some systems provide different sets of functions to different classes of users. For example, an elevator control system presents different capabilities to passengers, maintenance workers, and fire fighters.

### **By Objects**

Objects are real-world entities that have a counterpart within the system. For example, in a patient monitoring system, objects include patients, sensors, nurses, rooms, physicians, medicines, etc. Associated with each object is a set of attributes (of that object) and functions (performed by that object). These functions are also called services, methods, or processes. Note that sets of objects may share attributes and services. These are grouped together as classes.

### **By Feature**

A feature is an externally desired service by the system that may require a sequence of inputs to affect the desired result. For example, in a telephone system, features include local call, call forwarding, and conference call. Each feature is generally described in a sequence of stimulus-response pairs, and may include validity checks on inputs, exact sequencing of operations, responses to abnormal situations, including error handling and recovery, effects of parameters, relationships of inputs to outputs, including input/output sequences and formulas for input to output.

### **By Stimulus**

Some systems can be best organized by describing their functions in terms of stimuli. For example, the functions of an automatic aircraft landing system may be organized into sections for loss of power, wind shear, sudden change in roll, vertical velocity excessive, etc.

### **By Response**

Some systems can be best organized by describing all the functions in support of the generation of a response. For example, the functions of a personnel system may be organized into sections corresponding to all functions associated with generating paychecks, all functions associated with generating a current list of employees, etc.

### **By Functional Hierarchy**

When none of the above organizational schemes prove helpful, the overall functionality can be organized into a hierarchy of functions organized by common inputs, common outputs, or common internal data access. Data flow diagrams and data dictionaries can be used to show the relationships between and among the functions and data.

### **Additional Comments**

Whenever a new Requirements Specification is contemplated, more than one of the organizational techniques given above may be appropriate. In such cases, organize the specific requirements for multiple hierarchies tailored to the specific needs of the system under specification.

There are many notations, methods, and automated support tools available to aid in the documentation of requirements. For the most part, their usefulness is a function of organization. For example, when organizing by mode, finite state machines or state charts may prove helpful; when organizing by object, object-oriented analysis may prove helpful; when organizing by feature, stimulus-response sequences may prove helpful; and when organizing by functional hierarchy, data flow diagrams and data dictionaries may prove helpful.