Gregory Williams

GW4975

Topic Exercise #3 – Reasons for Text-Based Requirements

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Reasons to have text based requirements

1. Short – concise language can be used.
2. Expressive – if correctly written, ambiguity can be minimized.
3. Quick – most all engineers know how to write, even if graphics creation tools aren’t familiar.
4. Detailed – can be arbitrarily detailed (this must be weighed against Short/Quick).
5. Revision – text revisions are easier to track than other forms of requirements representation.

Reasons NOT to have text based requirements

1. Verbose - can be too “wordy”.
2. Tiring – a picture is easy quickly to look at; ten pages of text isn’t.
3. Opaque – can be hard to keep track of big picture as document size grows.
4. Conflict – As document size grows, pieces of the text may contradict each other.
5. Interpretive – unless the collaborators are of The Borg persuasion, most text can have more than one meaning.