
Communication

Specifications are important to any system design. I have often used the criteria that an ideal specification can be handed to an engineer with no other documentation, and then that engineer can design the system/circuit/software. That is an ideal target, rarely realized in practice. However, even if your system specifications are that good, you cannot eliminate the need for face-to-face communication on any design that involves more than one person. These conversations and meetings are crucial to eliminating the little "gotchas" that extend the development time by keeping the pieces from working together.