- **Understanding Requirements**

Requirements Engineering-I

- Inception—ask a set of questions that establish …
  - basic understanding of the problem
  - the people who want a solution
  - the nature of the solution that is desired, and
  - the effectiveness of preliminary communication and collaboration between the customer and the developer
- Elicitation—elicit requirements from all stakeholders
- Elaboration—create an analysis model that identifies data, function and behavioral requirements
- Negotiation—agree on a deliverable system that is realistic for developers and customers

Requirements Engineering-II

- Specification—can be any one (or more) of the following:
  - A written document
  - A set of models
  - A formal mathematical
  - A collection of user scenarios (use-cases)
  - A prototype
- Validation—a review mechanism that looks for
  - errors in content or interpretation
  - areas where clarification may be required
  - missing information
  - inconsistencies (a major problem when large products or systems are engineered)
  - conflicting or unrealistic (unachievable) requirements.
- Requirements management

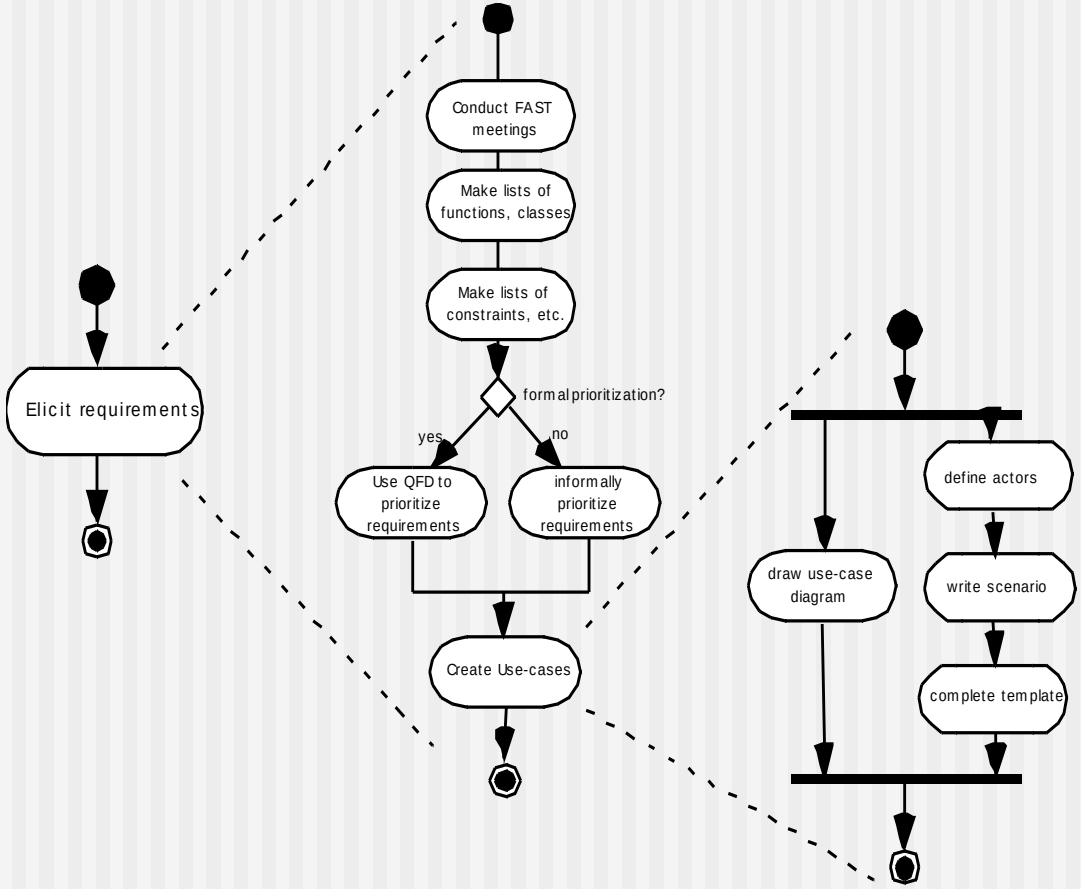
Inception

- Identify stakeholders
  - “who else do you think I should talk to?”
- Recognize multiple points of view
- Work toward collaboration
- The first questions
  - Who is behind the request for this work?
  - Who will use the solution?
  - What will be the economic benefit of a successful solution
  - Is there another source for the solution that you need?

Eliciting Requirements

- meetings are conducted and attended by both software engineers and customers
- rules for preparation and participation are established
- an agenda is suggested
- a "facilitator" (can be a customer, a developer, or an outsider) controls the meeting
- a "definition mechanism" (can be work sheets, flip charts, or wall stickers or an electronic bulletin board, chat room or virtual forum) is used
- the goal is
  - to identify the problem
  - propose elements of the solution
  - negotiate different approaches, and
  - specify a preliminary set of solution requirements

Eliciting Requirements



Elicitation Work Products

- a statement of need and feasibility.
- a bounded statement of scope for the system or product.
- a list of customers, users, and other stakeholders who participated in requirements elicitation
- a description of the system's technical environment.
- a list of requirements (preferably organized by function) and the domain constraints that apply to each.
- a set of usage scenarios that provide insight into the use of the system or product under different operating conditions.
- any prototypes developed to better define requirements.

Use-Cases

- a scenario that describes a “thread of usage” for a system
- *actors* represent roles people or devices play as the system functions
- *users* can play a number of different roles for a given scenario

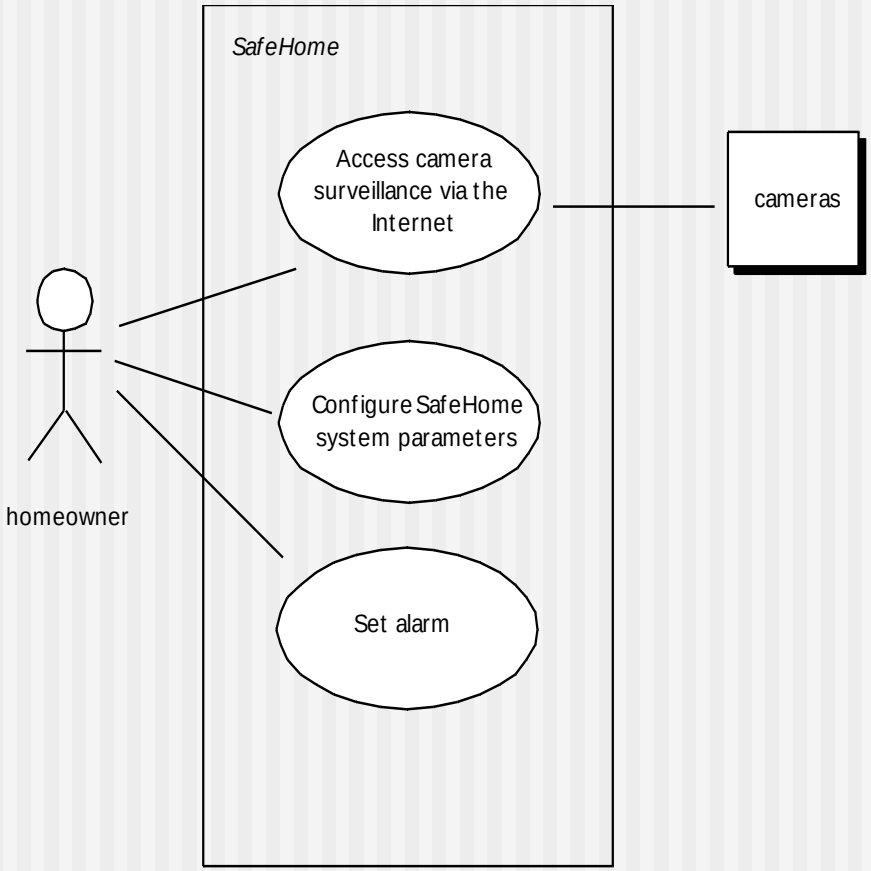
Use-Cases

- A collection of user scenarios that describe the thread of usage of a system
- Each scenario is described from the point-of-view of an “actor”—a person or device that interacts with the software in some way
- Each scenario answers the following questions:
  - Who is the primary actor, the secondary actor (s)?
  - What are the actor’s goals?
  - What preconditions should exist before the story begins?
  - What main tasks or functions are performed by the actor?
  - What extensions might be considered as the story is described?
  - What variations in the actor’s interaction are possible?
  - What system information will the actor acquire, produce, or change?
  - Will the actor have to inform the system about changes in the external environment?
  - What information does the actor desire from the system?
  - Does the actor wish to be informed about unexpected changes?

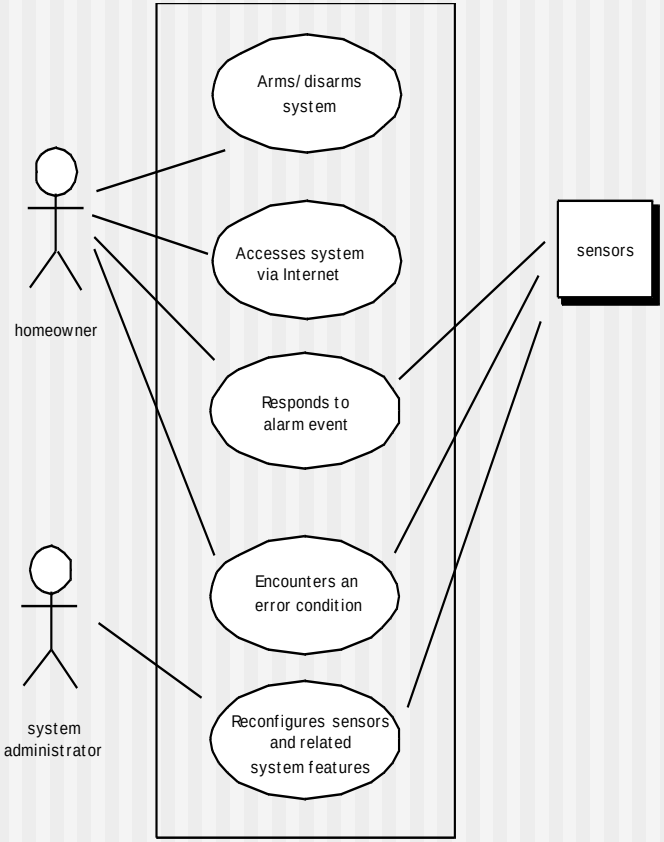
Developing a Use-Case

- What are the main tasks or functions that are performed by the actor?
- What system information will the the actor acquire, produce or change?
- Will the actor have to inform the system about changes in the external environment?
- What information does the actor desire from the system?
- Does the actor wish to be informed about unexpected changes?

Use-Case Diagram

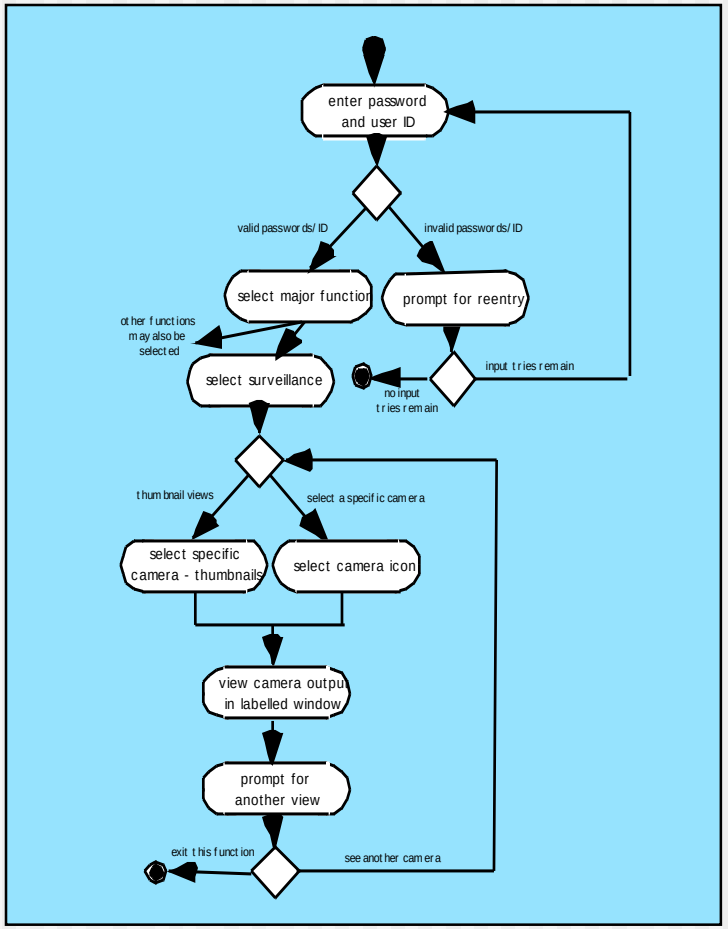


Use-Case Diagram



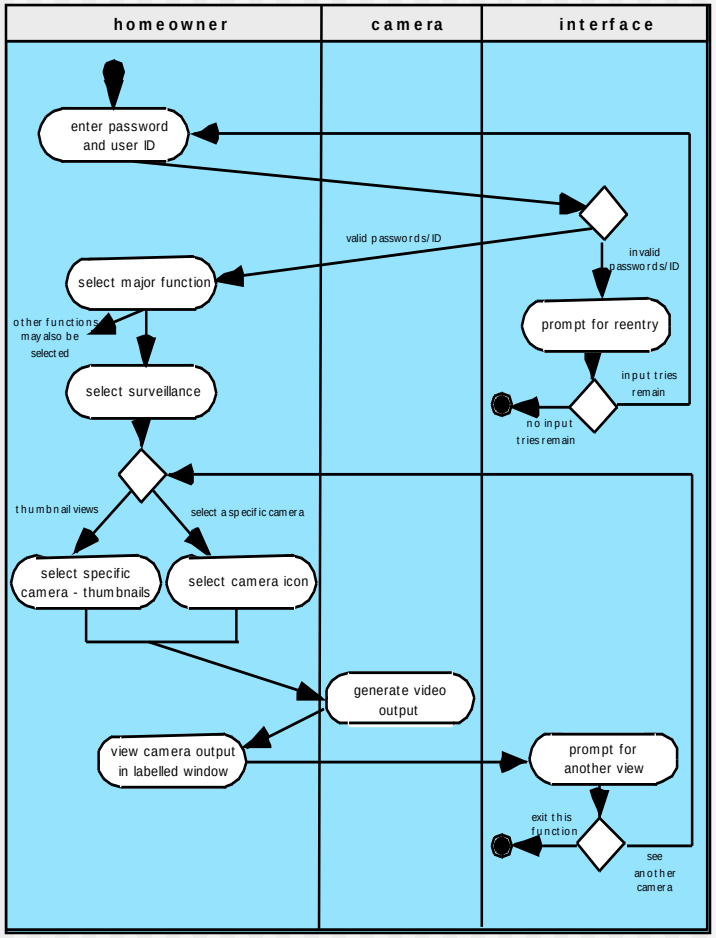
Activity Diagram

Supplements the use case by providing a graphical representation of the flow of interaction within a specific scenario



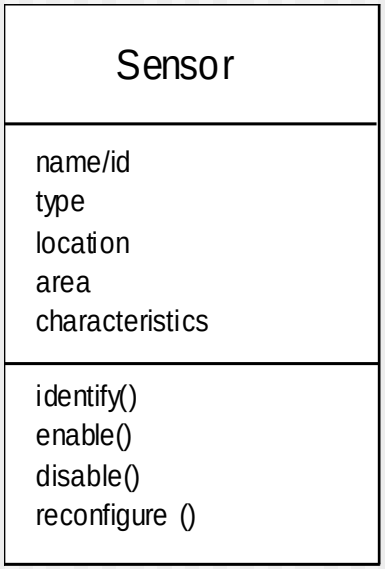
Swimlane Diagrams

Allows the modeler to represent the flow of activities described by the use-case and at the same time indicate which actor (if there are multiple actors involved in a specific use-case) or analysis class has responsibility for the action described by an activity rectangle



Class Diagram

From the *SafeHome* system …



Validating Requirements - I

- Is each requirement consistent with the overall objective for the system/product?
- Have all requirements been specified at the proper level of abstraction? That is, do some requirements provide a level of technical detail that is inappropriate at this stage?
- Is the requirement really necessary or does it represent an add-on feature that may not be essential to the objective of the system?
- Is each requirement bounded and unambiguous?
- Does each requirement have attribution? That is, is a source (generally, a specific individual) noted for each requirement?
- Do any requirements conflict with other requirements?

Validating Requirements - II

- Is each requirement achievable in the technical environment that will house the system or product?
- Is each requirement testable, once implemented?
- Does the requirements model properly reflect the information, function and behavior of the system to be built.
- Has the requirements model been “partitioned” in a way that exposes progressively more detailed information about the system.
- Have requirements patterns been used to simplify the requirements model. Have all patterns been properly validated? Are all patterns consistent with customer requirements?