Nonfunctional Requirements of a System

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Nonfunctional requirements is defined in the course textbook as “the characteristics of a system other than activities it must perform or support” (Satzinger, Jackson, & Burd, 2009) (page 123). The textbook goes on to list some nonfunctional requirements: Technical requirements, Performance requirements, Usability requirements, Reliability requirements, and Security requirements. I understand why the authors want to use that term: 1) they are citing content from the global standard ANSI/PMI 99-001-2013, authored by the Project Management Institute (PMI), called the PMBOK (PMI, 2013); and 2) it clarifies what are all other requirements from “Functional requirements.” Arguably, I think the term ‘nonfunctional’ is a misnomer that discredits the importance of these ‘other requirements.’ These other requirements should not hold lower importance because they also, must be performed or supported to the extent of mitigating huge risks.

**Technical requirements**

“Operational characteristics related to the environment, hardware, and software of the organization” (Satzinger, Jackson, & Burd, 2009). Computer and information systems managers, often called information technology (IT) managers or IT project managers, plan, coordinate, and direct computer-related activities in an organization. They help determine the information technology goals of an organization and are responsible for implementing computer systems to meet those goals (Labor, 2015).

**Performance requirements**

“Operational characteristics related to measures of workload, such as throughput and response time” (Satzinger, Jackson, & Burd, 2009). Benchmarking provides a basis for measuring performance. “A ‘control account’ is a management control point where scope, budget, actual cost, and schedule are integrated. Control accounts are placed at selected points in the WBS and performance is measured by comparing the control account to the ‘earned value.’ ” (PMI, 2013).

**Usability requirements**

“Operational characteristics related to users, such as the user-interface, related work-procedures, online help, and documentation” (Satzinger, Jackson, & Burd, 2009).

**Reliability requirements**

This is the dependability of the system, how often it experiences incorrect processing and how well it recovers from these errors or results service outages (Satzinger, Jackson, & Burd, 2009). This is an ongoing maintenance function throughout the system development life cycle.

**Security requirements**

Many believe that security takes a more important role the system and in society Security requirements are usually directed by objectives and tasks outlined in an organization’s Security Plan. The organization’s Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) or comparable authority, establishes, maintains, and implements the Security Plan.

**Thesis Peer Review**

This thesis paper was reviewed by a peer. The review was acknowledged with the following comment: Wenona Fetick says, “This is good point about the significance of nonfunctional requirements and maybe the term should be reworded to be ancillary requirements.”

# References

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