

COMP 10066

Assignment Project Exam Help

Week 2 Lecture

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What is a Software Specification?

- A Software Specification is a description of the correct operation of an application

- Can be provided as a list of requirements

- The specification is used to inform the design of the product.

- How can requirements be written to make them testable?

- [http://
www.cqaa.org/Resources/Documents/Presentations%202010/
Writing%20Testable%20Requirements.pdf](http://www.cqaa.org/Resources/Documents/Presentations%202010/Writing%20Testable%20Requirements.pdf)

Specification and Documentation Testing

- Why does a specification need to be tested?
 - First chance for review
 - TEST before CODING - Finding bugs at this stage is the most cost effective.
 - Used to reveal gaps in understanding
 - Good time to verify against that both the client and the developer understand the scope and requirements of the application.
- This is referred to as Static black-box testing
 - No code exists at this point in the development
 - It is good practice to have clients provide the review.

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Specification and Documentation Testing

- Three ways to evaluate the specification in order to provide a high-level review.
 - Put yourself in the place of the customer
 - Research existing standards & guidelines with respect to the platform being used
 - Review and test similar software.
 - Not always possible, but often applications in similar domains can be used to clarify functionality.

What to ask during Specification Review?

- Is it Complete and Accurate?
- Is it Consistent?
 - Are the terms and nomenclature the same throughout the document
- Is the information relevant?
 - Is the information presented important to the development of THIS application.
 - Extra information can be a distraction. Keep the specification focused.

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What to ask during Specification Review?

- Is it Feasible?
 - Can it be built with current hardware / software
- Is the specification code/technology free?
 - Should not specify technology in the list of requirements.
- Can the Specification be tested?
 - Is it complete and specific enough to be able to generate use cases. The use cases can be used to generate specific test cases.

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How does this help?

- Detect more bugs.
 - You will find more bugs than you expect in the Software and the documentation.
- Find more meaningful bugs / defects.
 - When a bug is found by following instructions it is more credible.
 - Either the documentation is incorrect or the software is at fault.

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Types of Documentation

- Documentation that is often supplied with Software
 - Manual
 - Based on Specification (the expected results) and the correct operation (observed results)
 - Supplied less frequently than in the past
 - Often now takes the form of online help or a forum
 - Completed Examples
 - Tutorials that describe program operation
 - Video Tutorials
 - Often supplied as the quick way to get started with application.
 - Becoming a preference for many users.
 - Sometimes used as training for new users.

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How to test these types of documentation?

- Printed / Electronic Manuals

- Read manual for correctness

- Expert user review – Domain Knowledge

- Novice user review – Determines ease of use.

- Completed Examples / Tutorials / Video

- Test Examples / Tutorials / Video

- Best done by a novice, experts will tend to gloss over "obvious" items.

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What are the challenges?

- Printed / Electronic Manuals
 - Users don't read them.
 - Printed manuals can be expensive
 - Can quickly become out of date.
- Completed Examples / Tutorials / Video
 - Based on previous versions.
 - Need version control to keep in check.
 - Video is starting to suffer from the same problems as printed manuals.
 - More difficult to update when significant UI changes occur.

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