

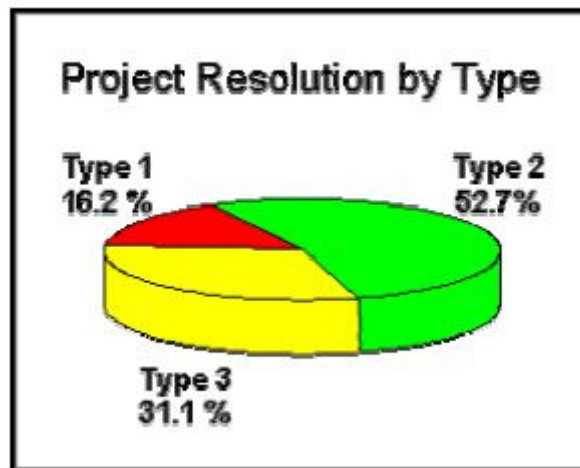
First phase of the ITKS452 Diary (part 1)

1. Using CHAOS report's findings (or similar), explain why requirements are important. Also explain how requirements help to increase the chances of having a successful project.

The Standish Group conducted four focus groups and numerous personal interviews to provide qualitative context for the survey results of software failures. For purposes of the study, projects were classified into three resolution types:

- Resolution Type 1, or project success: The project is completed on-time and on-budget, with all features and functions as initially specified.
- Resolution Type 2, or project challenged: The project is completed and operational but over-budget, over the time estimate, and offers fewer features and functions than originally specified.
- Resolution Type 3, or project impaired: The project is cancelled at some point during the development cycle.

Overall, the success rate was only 16.2%, while challenged projects accounted for 52.7%, and impaired (cancelled) for 31.1%.



That's why requirements are important to finish project on time, on budget and with all features and function that are initially specified.

Requirements help to increase the chances of having a successful project as it is the process of establishing the services that the customer requires from a system and the constraints under which it operates and is developed. The major reasons that a project will succeed are user involvement, proper planning, executive management support and a clear vision and clear statement of requirements.

2. What beliefs are often hindering good requirements practices? Why they are actually misbeliefs?

Misconceptions about requirements engineering can strongly influence a company's processes. Many companies and organizations have a solid understanding of requirements processes, but some do not. Some of the more common misconceptions are listed under the headings that follow.

- **Misconception 1: Any Subject Matter Expert Can Become a Requirements Engineer after a Week or Two of Training** Requirements engineers need strong communication and knowledge of engineering skills, the ability to organize and manage a data set of requirements, high-quality written and visual presentation skills, and the ability to extract and model business processes using both text and graphical (e.g., Integration DEfinition [IDEF], Unified Modelling Language [UML]) techniques. First and foremost, to elicit requirements from stakeholders requires the ability to interact with a variety of roles and skill levels, from subject matter experts (detailed product requirements) to corporate officers (elicitation of business goals). Moreover, people have to be trained to write good specifications.
- ***Misconception 2: Non-functional and Functional Requirements Can Be Elicited Using Separate Teams and Processes*** The subject domains for non-functional and functional requirements are related, may impact each other, and may result in iterative changes as work progresses. Team isolation may do more harm than good.
- **Misconception 3: Processes That Work for a Small Number of Requirements Will Scale** Requirements engineering processes do not scale well unless crafted carefully.

For example, a trace matrix is an $N \times N$ matrix, where N is the number of requirements of interest. In each cell, a mark or arrow indicates that there is a trace from requirement R_i (row i) to requirement R_j (column j). It is relatively easy to inspect, say, a 50-requirement matrix, but what happens when five to ten thousand requirements are needed to define a product? Filtering and prioritization become important in order to retrieve results that can be better understood, but the requirement annotations necessary to provide such filtering are often neglected up front because the database is initially small

3. Provide some definitions for and explain such concepts as “requirements”, “requirements engineering”, “requirements development”, “requirements management”, “stakeholders”.

Requirement

A requirement is a singular documented physical and functional need that a particular design, product or process must be able to perform. It is most commonly used in a formal sense in system engineering, software engineering or enterprise engineering. It is a statement that identifies a necessary attribute, capability, characteristic or quality of a system for it to have value and utility to a customer, organization, internal user, or other stakeholder.

It may range from a high-level abstract statement of a service or of a system constraint to a detailed mathematical functional specification. This is inevitable as requirements may serve a dual function

- May be the basis for a bid for a contract -therefore must be open to interpretation
- May be the basis for the contract itself - therefore must be defined in detail
- Both these statements may be called requirements

Requirement Engineering

Requirements engineering is a systematic way of developing requirements through an iterative process of analyzing a problem, documenting the resulting observations, and

checking the accuracy of the understanding gained.

- Requirements engineering is comprised of two major tasks: analysis and modeling
- The requirements themselves are the descriptions of the system services and constraints that are generated during the requirements engineering process.

Requirement Development

Requirement development (RD) is the part of the project during which the needs of the customer are gathered and translated into a specification of what the system must do. RD can further subdivide requirements development into elicitation, analysis, specification and validation. These sub disciplines encompass all the activities involved with gathering, evaluating and documenting the requirements for a software including the following:

- Identifying the product's expected user classes
- Eliciting needs from individuals who represent each user class
- Understanding user tasks and goals and the business objective with which those tasks align.
- Analyzing the information received from users to distinguish their task goals from functional requirements, non functional requirements, business rules, suggested solutions and extraneous information.
- Understanding the relative importance of quality attributes
- Translating the collected user needs into written requirements specifications and models.

Requirement Management

Requirements management is the process of documenting, analyzing, tracing, prioritizing and agreeing on requirements and then controlling change and communicating to relevant stakeholders. It is a continuous process throughout a project.

Stakeholder

A stakeholder is a person or organization who influences a system's requirements or who is impacted by that system. Stakeholders can affect or be affected by the organization's actions, objectives and policies. Some examples of key stakeholders :

- Customers who fund a project or acquire a product to satisfy their organization's business objectives
- Users who interact directly or indirectly with the product
- Requirements analysts who write the requirements and communicate them to the development community
- Developers who design, implement and maintain the product
- Tester who determine whether the product behaves as intended.
- Documentation writers who produce user manuals, training materials and help systems.
- Project managers who plan the project and guide the development team to a successful delivery
- Sales, marketing, field support, help desk and other people who will have to work with the product and its customer

4. Describe the machine-environment model (so called Jackson model).

Jackson system development model is a linear software development methodology developed by Michael A. Jackson. Three basic principles of operation of Jackson model is that:

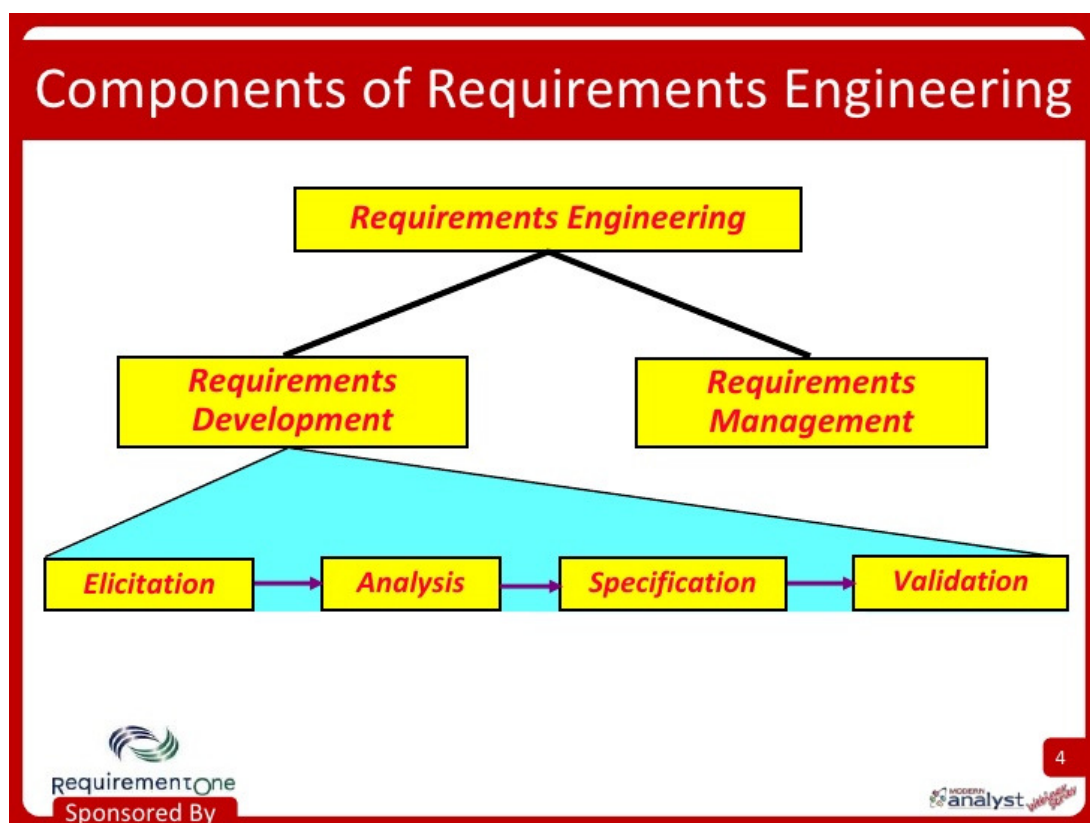
- Development must start with describing and modelling the real world, rather than specifying or structuring the function performed by the system. A system made using Jackson model method performs the simulation of the real world before any direct attention is paid to function or purpose of the system.
- An adequate model of a time-ordered world must itself be time-ordered. Main aim is to map progress in the real world on progress in the system that models it.
- The way of implementing the system is based on transformation of specification into efficient set of processes. These processes should be designed in such a manner that it would be possible to run them on available software and hardware

5. Starting with Jackson's machine-environment model, explain why RE is in fact a problem solving process (in addition to being problem-stating).

Jackson's model is a method of system development that covers the software life cycle either directly or, by providing a framework into which more specialized techniques can fit. Jackson System Development can start from the stage in a project when there is only a general statement of requirements.

6. Describe all the different requirements engineering components.

Requirements Engineering has two component requirements development and requirements management.



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can further subdivide requirements development into elicitation, analysis, specification and validation.

- Elicitation: It is the process of gathering and documenting needs from stakeholders, identifying other requirements sources and applying techniques specified in the RMP to gather the information and document the needs
- Analysis: It is the process of analyzing the data gathered during elicitation, resolving conflicts, analyzing business rules, documenting assumptions, constraints and dependencies, and working with stakeholders to establish initial priorities.
- Specification: It is the process of defining functional and supplemental text based requirements and supporting them with various visualization techniques such as process models, UML diagrams, wireframes, white boarding etc
- Validation: It is the process of reviewing the requirement specifications and associated visualizations with the stakeholders for quality characteristics such as completeness, correctness, clarity, practicality, value etc.

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7. What is system's quality attributes? Describe some of them.

System quality attributes are non-functional requirements used to evaluate the performance of a system. Some of system's qualities are:

- Availability: It is a measure of the planned up time during which the system is actually available for use and fully operational.
- Efficiency: It is a measure of how well the system utilizes processor capacity, disk space, memory or communication bandwidth.

- Flexibility: It measures how easy it is to add new capabilities to the product.
- Reliability: The probability of the software executing without failure for a specific period of time is known as reliability.
- Maintainability: It indicates how easy it is to correct a defect or modify the software. Maintainability depends on how easily the software can be understood, changed and tested.
- Portability: The effort required to migrate a piece of software from one operating environment to another is measure of portability.
- Testability: It is also known as verifiability, testability refers to the ease with which software components or the integrated product can be tested to look for defects

8. Discuss the place of requirements in the whole system engineering practice, according to different models, compare them.

Systems engineering is an interdisciplinary field of engineering that focuses on how to design and manage complex engineering systems over their life cycles. Issues such as reliability, logistics, coordination of different teams (requirements management), evaluation measurements, and other disciplines become more difficult when dealing with large or complex projects. Systems engineering deals with work-processes, optimization methods, and risk management tools in such projects. It overlaps technical and human-centered disciplines such as control engineering, industrial engineering, organizational studies, and project management. Systems Engineering ensures that all likely aspects of a project or system are considered, and integrated into a whole.

9. What is the difference between RD and RM? What activities constitute both?

- The purpose of Requirement Development "RD" is to produce customer, product and product component requirements whereas Requirement Management "RM" is to manage the requirements of the project's products and product components.

- RD analyzes the customer, product and product component requirements whereas RM identifies inconsistencies between requirements and project's plans/work products.
- RD deals with communication between PM, domain and functional architect, designer and his team whereas RM deals with communication between requirements analysts and customer.
- RD is about the transformation of customer needs into requirements that can then evolve into design and/or code. This includes eliciting the customer needs(JAD sessions, interviews), transforming those needs into requirements, evolving them into product requirements, allocating the requirements across releases, teams, developers or modules, validating them, and ensuring that they fit within the customer constraints and assumptions whereas RM is all about maintaining the set of requirements that you have, and the process of accepting new ones.

10. Who is the requirements analyst? What skills this person should have, what are the specifics of her/his job?

The requirement analyst is the individual who has the primary responsibility to elicit, analyze, validate, specify, verify, and manage the real needs of the project stakeholders, including customers and end users. The requirement analyst serves as the conduit between the customer community and the software development team through which requirements flow.

Skills of requirement analyst are:

- Interviewing skills: to talk with individuals and groups about their needs and ask the right questions to surface essential requirements information
- Listening skills: to understand what people say and to detect what they might be hesitant to say

- Analytical skills: to critically evaluate the information gathered from multiple sources, reconcile conflicts, decompose high-level information into details, abstract up from low-level information to a more general understanding, distinguish presented user requests from the underlying true needs, and distinguish solution ideas from requirements
- Facilitation skills: to lead requirements elicitation workshops
- Observational skills: to validate data obtained via other techniques and expose new areas from requirements
- Writing skills: to communicate information effectively to customers, marketing, managers and technical staff
- Organizational skills: to work with the vast array of information gathered during elicitation and analysis and to cope with rapidly changing information
- Interpersonal skills: to help negotiate priorities and to resolve conflicts among project stakeholders(such as customers, product management and engineering)
- Modelling skills: to represent requirements information in graphical forms that augment textual representations in natural language, including using modeling languages already established in the development organization

Job of requirement analyst are:

- Work with the project manager, product manager and project sponsor to document the product's vision and the project's scope.
- Identify project stakeholders and user classes. Document user class characteristics. Identify appropriate representatives for each user class and negotiate their responsibilities.
- Elicit requirements using interviews, document analysis, requirement workshop, storyboards, surveys, site visits.

- Write requirements specifications according to standard templates using natural language simply, clearly, unambiguously and concisely.
- Decompose high-level business and user requirements into functional requirements and quality
- Represent requirements using alternative views such as analysis models(diagrams), prototypes or scenarios where appropriate.

11. What do we mean when speaking of “requirements’ quality”? What constitutes it? Explain some of important attributes of it.-

Requirements quality is constituted from different requirements attributes. These are classified as external and internal factors. External attributes are more important to users for example performance. Internal attributes indirectly contribute to customer satisfaction by making product easier to maintain e.g. Scalability .

12. What are the basic means of achieving the quality in general? How do they are used in RE?

Different projects demand different set of quality attributes to success. Common practical approach is to do following:

1. Begin by choosing rich set of quality attributes
2. Reduce attributes by thinking which attributes are likely to be important for project
3. Prioritize attributes. Attribute importance depends on project. Thats why one needs to compare chosen quality attributes what is more important.
4. Pin down concretely what these quality attributes mean and make sure customers understand what quality attributes mean
5. Specify quality requirements well. Too vague explanations aren’t useful. Also make sure requirements are measurable. If requirement haven’t been specified well enough its not good enough

13. Explain why completeness of requirements is a risky factor. How can we deal with it?

In practice no one can document every single requirement for any system. You always have some assumed or implied requirement there. There isn't any way to be certain that you have found all requirements of some system, but there are ways to find out that you have all requirements.

To elicit all requirements of system one can interview stakeholders, create workshops, observe users or do Questionnaires. These are only few way to ensure you have found all requirements. And no project team should expect to use only one technique

14. Explain the stakeholders' classification framework.

Stakeholders are people, group or organizations that are actively involved in project are affected by its outcome or are able to influence its outcome. Framework is for identify, manage and classify these stakeholders.

Identification happens by detecting stakeholders power, legitimacy and urgency. If stakeholders has none of these, they cannot be counted as project stakeholder.

When stakeholders are identified, they are classified based on these attributes.

15. Explain such concepts as "business requirements", "vision", "features", and "scope".

- "business requirements" specify primary benefits system will give to its sponsors, users and buyers. Business requirements directly influences what user requirements to implement
- "vision" describes ultimate product that will achieve the business objectives. It describes what the product is about and what will it become
- "features" system capability that provide value to user and its defined by functional requirements
- "scope" boundary of the system you are developing and everything else in universe

16. Explain different levels and types of requirements.

Because there are so many different types of requirements information we need set of adjectives to overload term “requirement”

Software requirements include three distinct levels:

- Business requirement, a high-level business objective of the organization that builds a product.
- User requirement, a goal or a task that specific class of users must be able to perform.
- Functional requirement, description of a behaviour that system will exhibit under specific conditions

17. What are project's scope management and scope creep? What techniques we may use when defining and managing the scope?

Scope management is controlling new requirements of project. When new requirements appear they need to be approved.

Scope creep means uncontrolled changes of features in project. This can happen if project scope is poorly defined, underestimating complexity or lack of change control.

18. What is requirements elicitation? What techniques are available for that?

It is a process of identifying needs and constraints of the various stakeholders for a software project. Elicitation does not mean same thing as gathering. It is analytical process that includes activities to collect, discover extract and define requirements.

There are several elicitation techniques like:

- Interviews are the most simple way to elicit requirements. Just ask users.
- Workshops encourage stakeholders to define requirements together. Workshops may be time consuming and has to be well planned.

- Focus groups are representative group of users who gather to generate input and ideas on product functional and quality requirements.
- Observation, may sometimes be easier way to understand users job details than to ask them if the job is complex or users are too familiar of the job.
- Questionnaires are inexpensive way to survey large group of users to understand their needs across geographical boundaries
- System Interface analysis independent elicitation to examine systems that you system connect. This may reveal functional requirements regarding to exchange of data and services between systems.
- User Interface analysis studying existing UI systems to discover user and functional requirements.
- Document analysis is examining any existing documentation for potential software requirements

19. What did you learn?

Software requirements process is complicated ongoing process that requires constant managing and supervising. Requirements may easily grow too big and therefore ruin software project there are many practices to ensure requirement process succeeds.

20. Reflect your learning to your working experience/project experience or hobby related to software engineering. How can you apply your learning?

In real life software projects people who interact with customer are sometimes solely responsible for defining requirements. These requirements should be discussed with whole project team and with stakeholders. Also project team and stakeholders usually change during project lifecycle and because of that requirement process may change.