

Writing Software Requirements Specifications (SRS)

What Kind of Information Should an SRS Include?

You probably will be a member of the SRS team (if not, ask to be), which means SRS development will be a collaborative effort for a particular project. In these cases, your company will have developed SRSs before, so you should have examples (and, likely, the company's SRS template) to use. But, let's assume you'll be starting from scratch. Several standards organizations (including the IEEE) have identified nine topics that must be addressed when designing and writing an SRS:

1. Interfaces
2. Functional Capabilities
3. Performance Levels
4. Data Structures/Elements
5. Safety
6. Reliability
7. Security/Privacy
8. Quality
9. Constraints and Limitations

Try to address the following:

- A. Identify tasks the system is required to accomplish.
- B. Type of data files to be maintained now and in the future.
- C. Elements of each data file to be maintained
- D. Approximate number of records within each type of data file.
- E. Any other internal or external systems with which the system should interface , integrate or operate.
- F. Who will be using the system and their location?
- G. Any user access requirements and constraints.
- H. Any problems faced at present.
- I. Total number of users (Maximum allowed on system simultaneously)
- J. Where the system is to be located and any hardware/ environment constraint's
- K. Level of technical resources available in-house.
- L. Security/ health and safety issues including performance requirements and constraints.