CHAPTER V

OTHER NONFUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In this chapter, the developers discuss the different sections of the nonfunctional requirements or the software quality attributes of the application. The following nonfunctional requirements to be discussed in this chapter are performance requirements, safety and security requirements, and the testing requirements.

1. Performance Requirements

Performance requirements refer to how well the system can do the tasks that is intended or required to do (Halligan, 2016). These requirements have lots of measures being used like response time, throughput, and the likes. The general features of the application are also considered in terms of how it affects the entirety of the application. Identifying these requirements is important because it would help the developers in identifying their improvements or changes to be made in the application overtime.

ASEAN Aid Map has four general features which are adaptive user interface, informative content, user-friendly environment, and up-to-date information. Adaptive refers to the traits of the application to adjust to new specifications or operating environment (SQA, 2016). ASEAN Aid map user interface is developed with a responsive design which can adapt to changes in screen resolution. Also, the adaptive feature of the application would mean that it is capable of running in different browsers. In the informative content feature, it refers to the ability of the application to provide information about the NGO and their projects occurring in particular places in Southeast Asia. There are also features which give information to NGO on what projects they can join in or what NGO they can partner with, and these suggestions are generated by the application itself. User-friendly pertains to the application environment which is easy to navigate. The design was organize in a way that the users do not experience menu lostness. With this feature, it ensures the users that they can obtain the results that they expect the application to give them. The up-to-date information indicates that the application shows recent updates or the newest information about the projects or their profile straight from the organizations themselves. The updated information is also delivered to other users of the application via notifications.

Table 14 shows the general features of the application together with the corresponding software quality attributes. These attributes would surely certify that the application is of quality with the features presented. The four general features of the application must be met in order to achieve the aimed quality of the developed application with the consequent software attributes. These attributes were derived using different software quality models like Boehm’s and McCall’s Software Quality Model, The Test Eye’s, ISO 9126, and from the research paper entitled “Website Quality Assessment Criteria” by Moustakis. The software quality attribute of adaptive user interface was derived from the ISO 9126. In terms of the user-friendly environment and up-to-date information features, the attributes were identified with the help of Boehm and McCall’s model and The Test Eye’s. The research paper by Moustakis became the basis of the software quality attribute of informative content feature.

Table 15 also shows the computed values derived from the general features and their software quality attributes counterparts. The ASEAN Aid Map has a total of eight software quality attributes which signifies the whole performance of the application including its functions. With the general features, it can be determined which software quality attribute got the lowest and the highest mean value. The software quality attribute that got the lowest mean value is adaptability with 87.5% while authorization got the highest value with 100%. Understandability got the highest feature mean value which is 95%, while portability got the lowest feature mean value which is 87.5%. Portability getting the lowest feature mean value signifies that the application needs to improve its ability to transfer from one environment to another. Understandability or the completeness of content getting the highest value means that the information that the application presents is comprehensive.

1. Software Quality Attributes and Metrics

In this section, the developers discussed the software quality attributes with its criteria for designing a system on how to meet its functional requirements. These criteria were identified based from the general features of the system that the developers have considered. The following metrics are listed to provide proper and efficient way in measuring the features of the system.

1. Adaptability

Adaptability is a software quality attribute which refers to the level of how the system easily supports changes in environment and platform. If a system is able to easily adapt to the changes of the user’s environment without further hassle like working from a pc to a tablet, then it is considered to have high adaptability. With this attribute, the developers can test the environment and content of the system if it can adapt to changes. Adaptability is solved by the following formula that is being shown in Formula 1.

The application has a total of 32 interfaces where repeating interfaces are counted as one, and 27 of it are responsive to different screen resolutions of the user. This indicates that the system is able to adapt to changes in resolution easily without affecting its functionalities. In solving the adaptability, the developers divided 25 which is the number of interfaces that adapted to changes in resolution by 32 which is the total number of interfaces and multiplied by 100%, resulting to 84.4%.

1. Consistency

This type of software quality attribute is denoted as the level of how the environment and behavior stay the same throughout the system. It shows that there is one look and feel that the user would not feel lost in using the system when transitioning from one function to another. This attribute shows that the system has uniformity in its data and content which displays the up-to-date information. The developers will use this attribute to measure the consistency of content and data of the system. Consistency is solved by the following formula that is being show in Formula 2.

The application has a total of 30 different users who used the system for evaluation. Out of 30 users, there are 3 users who cannot finish a task after performing the other. The other 27 users said that the process flows and data content of system are consistent making it easy to follow. In solving the consistency, we deducted the three over 30 from one and multiplied it by 100%, resulting to 90%.

1. Operability

Operability is a software quality attribute that refers to how well the software system works when functioning. It is also an attribute that evaluates if the interfaces and functionalities of the system are functioning well. The developers used this attribute to identify which modules of the system is functioning and which is not. This attribute can help the developers locate the modules that need more improvement or fixes with regarding to operability. Operability is solved by the following formula that is being shown in Formula 3.

The application has a total of 56 functions for the whole system based from its function point analysis. The developers gathered different users to evaluate and test the functionalities of the system. Out of 56 functions, there were 2 functions that have been found inconsistent. These functions were beyond the control of the developers but they would still makeup to fix the inconsistent functions. The result is 96% which is derived by deducting two which is the number of functions that are inconsistent over 56 which is the total number of functions from one and multiplying it by 100%. This indicates that the system has high operability and would provide correct and proper outputs to the intended users.

1. Learnability

This type of software quality attribute indicates the level of how fast the users can learn the operations of the system. It refers to the different effort of the different users in learning the application. If there is improvement in the time to finish a task means that the system has high learnability to the users. The developers used this attribute to know how understandable the flow of processes in the system. This attribute can contribute by helping the developers identifying improvements in terms of user engineering and aesthetics. Learnability is solved by the following formula that is being shown in Formula 4.

The developers gathered 30 different users to test and use the application. The users should perform a specific task for three times and the proponents track their task time in each try. At the end of the evaluation, the developers have acquired that out of 30 users, there were 28 users that have improve task time. The learnability of the system is then solved by dividing the total number of users which is 30 to the number of users that have improved task time which is 28 and multiplied it by 100% giving a result of 93%. This means that the learnability of the system is high and users can easily lean the processes of the system.

1. Assurance

This type of software quality attribute is referred as the level of how correct and timely the data and content of the system. It is also an attribute that ensures that the functionalities of the system match with its specifications. Assurance makes sure that the system performs in accordance to its specifications and fulfills the purpose of the user. This attribute helps improve the system to output accurate and precise data based on the features and functions. Assurance is solved by the following formula that is being shown in Formula 5.

The developers gathered 30 different users to test and evaluate the different functionalities of the system. They test them with an authorized account and tried different modules and processes. This evaluation is for the purpose of knowing which functions are not operating or functional. After the evaluation of the users, the developers found that two functions are not functioning out of all the functions. The assurance of the system is solved by dividing the number of functional functions which is 36 by the total number of functions which is 38 and multiplied by 100%. The result is 94.7% which means that the system has high assurance rate.

1. Authorization

Authorization is denoted as the level of how the system handle what the user can do and see based on their authentication. It is a software quality attribute that measures the reliability of the system to provide proper modules to the authorized users. This attribute makes sure that unauthorized users will not be granted with the same permission, access, and capabilities as the authorized user. Through this attribute, the proponents can identify the modules that are not present on authorized users and further improve the system. Authorization is solved by the following formula that is being shown in Formula 6.

The Asean Aid Map is a web application that allows users to register for them to unlock and use the other modules and functions of the system. Aside from the modules that are present in the public, there are 16 modules that are given only to authenticated users. The developers gathered different users to register and test the system. After the evaluation and testing, the team got 16 out of 16 modules were given to authenticated users. With this test, authorization is solved by dividing 16 which is the number of present modules by 16 which is the expected number of modules in the system, and got a result of 100% providing a result of 100%.

1. Completeness of Information

This type of software quality attribute refers to the level how the system captures the explanatory profile of the system with respect to the information contained within it. It also assures that the information should be presented in a directly usable format that the user need not require to decode, interpret, or calculate it. This attribute also expresses that the information provided must be correct and understandable. The developers would make use of this attribute to measure the wholeness of the content with the information gathered and provided. Completeness of Information is solved by the following formula that is being shown in Formula 7.

The Asean Aid Map is a web application that has a mission which is to provide useful and understandable information to its intended users. The proponents gathered different users to evaluate and test the completeness of information of the system. The users should have a registered account and test if the content of each placeholders in different views are displaying the correct information. After the evaluation and testing, the proponents found that 2 out of 40 placeholders are not displaying proper information. The problem is beyond the control of the developers but they are trying their best in fixing it. The completeness of information is solved by dividing 2 which is the number of incorrect placeholders by 40 which is the total number of placeholders and deducting it to one, and multiplied by 100% providing a result of 95%.

1. Function Point Analysis

Function point refers to the size of the application based on the internal and external characteristics and performance of the system. It was solved using its formula by multiplying the unadjusted function value and value adjustment factor. The unadjusted faction value is computed by multiplying the number of inputs, outputs, inquiries, files, and external interface to its weighting factor. A weighting factor is a series of system characteristics which is scaled from zero to five. The Asean Aid Map system has a total count of 48.3. It is the value used in computing the response score summary and value augmented function points.

There are 14 questions raised after computing the total function point. The developers need to answer those questions using the rating scale from 0 to 5, where zero is the lowest or no influence, and five is the highest or essential characteristic. The total count is very significant in identifying the function point of the system. The total complexity adjustment response is the total value adjustment factor which is 1.13 that resulted in the total measurement of the function point of 288.15.

The cost of the project amounted to P144,075 which is composed of the hardware and software cost in the development stage. The duration of the system development of the Asean Aid Map is 36 weeks. The total development cost of the proposed project is P104, 000 but due to the computation of the function point, the cost increased by P40,075. The developers would finish the development in 38 weeks and the project would have an estimated total augmented cost for the project is P144,075.

1. Safety and Security Requirements

The Asean Aid Map is a web application that can run on any browser and on any screen resolutions. Users can access the web application through its website using any browser on any operating system. Users have to make sure that essential requirements are there for the web application to perform its functions well. The Asean Aid Map requires registration for organization to make us of all its modules and features. It is recommended that the users must complete their profile after registering to the system.

1. Testing Requirements

It is the requirements to assess the system in different ways to determine the consistency and efficiency of the said system. Testing is performed to provide users the reliability of the functions and attributes of the system. Different types of testing include unit testing, integration testing, and validation testing. This section discusses the use and application of these testing.

1. Unit Testing

Unit testing is usually done through the use of automated software, but it can also be executed manually. It is often intended to test modules and codes which the developers have made and goes through hand in hand testing. The proponents used black-box testing to know if the different components meet their specifications. They tested the functionalities one at a time to know if it functions or not. After execution, the developers verified the results whether it outputs a correct data. The developers were able to track functions that require optimization and improvement in both processing speed and efficiency. Through these testing, the developers were able to merge codes to minimize execution time and were able to modify other parts of the code to improve performance and increase the efficiency of the system.

Table 16 shows the web application criteria table of the developed system. Asean Aid Map has different website criteria that need to be completed to output correct results that the application can yield. The developers must follow the listed criteria so that it would be easier for them to develop the system on a given time with its attributes and quality that can reach the expected standard.

1. Integration Testing

Integration testing is a software development process where program units are combined together and tested as groups in multiple ways. It also tests integration or interfaces between components, interaction between different parts of the system such as an operating system, file system and hardware interfaces between systems.

The proponents identify hardware and software requirements for the user to meet and for them to experience maximum performance when accessing and using the said web application. Users can avoid lag and not responding scenarios from the browser if they are able to meet these requirements. The system integrates authorization and authentication which means that the users need to register an account to maximize the potential of the application. The Asean Aid Map requires an internet connection for it to be accessed.

1. Understandability

In understandability standard, the proponents make sure that the text, colors, images, and other multimedia element would go in harmony and blends with the background and could not cause hassle to the users. The texts are also readable and do not require any decoding to read the text. The information provided are also correct and gathered from the users.

1. Response Time

In response time standard, the proponents optimized the code that it will take less processing time in executing a function. With the improvements implemented, the response time of the system is faster because of less processes. Even though there is optimization with the system, internet speed on the part of the users is still a factor that is out of the control of the developers.

1. Validation Testing

Validation testing refers to the process of assessing the software during or at the end of the development phase in order to determine if it meets the needs of the clients or business (TutorialsPoint.com). This testing is also used in order to know if the application works or fulfills its intended use. The following shows the formula for validation testing.

Table 17 shows the validation testing scale and the interpretation of each computed scale. It displays the range of the possible results of the validation testing with its corresponding interpretation or assessment.

Table 17 is used as a guide in scoring the different software quality attributes if they are very good, good, average, fair, or poor. Very good rating ranges from 4.21 to 5.00 and is the highest rating. This signifies that the application is working excellently in relation to its software attributes. Meanwhile, poor rating ranges from 1.00 to 1.80 and this indicates that there are a lot of improvements or changes to be made in the application with the specified software attributes.

Table 18 shows the validation testing result with the criteria, mean score, and interpretation. Modularity got the highest mean score of 4.67. It signifies that the functions or prewritten codes of the application can be used by the developers in the other modules, making it easier to be managed whenever there are changes or improvements to be made. Simplicity, execution efficiency, and error tolerance got the lowest mean scores. Simplicity getting a low score signifies that the application design needs to be further improved but in terms of the development process, the application is considered complex. As for execution efficiency in the application, the performing of tasks must be further improved in the sense that it can get done in a short amount of time, and less effort. Having a low error tolerance also indicates that the application needs to further develop its capability to handle errors and be able to respond to the needs of the users with accuracy despite it. Furthermore, there are other criterion with high mean scores and matches with the software quality attributes that the team has identified.

In conclusion, this chapter presented and explained the nonfunctional requirements of the developed application. The discussion also includes the different formula of the software quality attributes, how it was derived and solved. All data and values used in the evaluation and validation of the different software attributes were gathered from different NGO who were able to use the application first hand. The results of the testing were computed and generated using the given formula and this helped the developers in identifying which got the highest or the lowest scores.