

CECS-343 S/W Engr'g Intro — VCS Project — User Scenario Discussions

VCS User Scenarios

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Summary of discussions with some users:

The point is to take snapshots of each author's writings, so that they, or others, can quickly find an earlier snapshot and maybe compare that with the current writings. We usually have several authors working on the same large writing project. They work on their own laptops, so each of them has a folder with all their writings. Each author has their writings in a folder with specific subjects, or parts, of the whole project in specific sub-folders (and maybe sub-sub-folders, etc.).

It all starts with one of our authors coming up with an idea, writing it down in one or a few files, in a folder somewhere, maybe with sub-folders. The author needs to be sure that if any of the writings, editings mess things up that a good working copy of an earlier version of the writings can be recovered -- a rollback to that version. So we need a snapshot ability. With that the author can get an earlier copy of the project and compare it with the messed up version, or even replace the current version. Each of those versions need to be in separate folders so that they can be compared by the author. Also, each author should be able to create as many snapshots as they want -- but we'd also not want to use up a large pile of storage in doing it.

Also, sometimes an author can try something out, a sort of experiment. They need to be able to snapshot these weird versions also, even though they may not end up in the final work. And, sometimes we need a junior editor to go in and do some editing cleanup for an author, and so they'll need to grab the author's snapshot that needs cleaning. Plus, every so often, we need to make changes for a different audience, like altering some of the English idioms for our UK or Australian audiences, or even including different endings or such.

And once an author's initial idea is given the green light, then other authors are going to need to get a copy of the author's work, or at least a particular version of it -- that version should have already been snapshotted by the author.

Later on, when several authors have been adding new parts on their own versions of the project, as well as making local (ie, in their own folder) mods to their version of some of the other authors' writings, in addition to taking occasional snapshots of their project folder, they will also want to somehow merge another author's snapshotted version of the project work into their own project folder. Yes, and just before merging, the author who wants the merge should also take a snapshot of the project folder just before the merge is started -- in case the merge into the project folder goes horribly wrong.

So, I'd say, the snapshots are both for recovering from mistakes and messups, and also for merging one author's work (a snapshot) into another author's project folder.

Oh, and we want all the snapshots to be kept in one place so that we can easily create duplicates (or maybe they're called backups) offsite, just for insurance. The duplicates aren't as important as just having a single place where all the authors' snapshots go. The authors can get their initial snapshots of

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the preliminary project writings from their. One of the project leaders can create the initial snapshot.

Some authors sometimes work more than one project at a time, but we want to keep the snapshots for each different project in its own folder location.

Oh, and when an author takes a snapshot of their current project work, they sometimes want to give it a cute and short label to more easily remember what it was about. Usually, being forgetful, they may want to label a snapshot days after it was taken.

Yeah, it makes sense to call the folder containing the pile of snapshots as a repository.

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Commentary:

Questions

- o- What are the user roles involved?
 - o- What are the major actions a user (in a role) can perform?
- Why do we care?
- > Each role + action pair should result in a Use Case (UC).

For authors, think S/W developers

For writings, think source code files (and maybe other kinds of files)

For project folder of writings, think project folder tree (projtree)

For snapshot, think a developer's current state of their own projtree