

Requirements Analysis - Introduction

Requirements Analysis

- Most IT projects that fail do so because of unclear requirements definitions. The consequences are:
 - anxiety and frustration on the side of the users
 - loss of customer confidence
 - loss of revenue and reputation
- The term ‘requirements analysis’ is used to describe the activity of investigating and analyzing an initial set of requirements that have been gathered

Requirements Analysis

- ”A requirement is a statement about an intended product that specifies *what it should do* or *how it should perform*. One of the aims of the requirements activity is to make the requirements as specific, unambiguous, and clear as possible.”

Preece, Rogers & Sharp (2002): Interaction Design. Beyond Human-Computer Interaction. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons. 204

Requirements Analysis

- There are two kinds of requirements:
 - functional requirements, which say what the system should do or how it should work
 - non-functional requirements, which say what constraints there are on the system and its development

Requirements Analysis

- Non-functional requirements are:
 - data requirements, e.g. the amount of required data, persistence, accuracy, value of data
 - environmental requirements (context of use), e.g. physical, social, and organizational environment
 - user requirements: characteristics of the intended user group, a profile with typical characteristics of the user
 - usability requirements: goals and measures for a particular product

Requirements Analysis

- Data gathering is an important part of the requirements analysis
- Basic techniques for data gathering are
 - questionnaires
 - interviews (individuals)
 - focus groups (group interviews)
 - workshops with stakeholders
 - naturalistic observation
(with and without involvement of the observer)
 - studying documentation and marketing material