

Requirements and Specification, ESOF 328, Spring 2021
“Establishing the business requirements” (Chapter 5, page 92-99)
“Finding the voice of the user” (Chapter 6)

Jan. 22

Establishing the business requirements, Chapter 5

Business objective – A financial or nonfinancial business benefit that an organization expects to receive from the project or some other initiative.

To get the business objectives ask question like:

- By how much?
- How will we assess whether the problem is solved?
- What is keeping this from happening already?
- Anything else?
- Why do we care?

The vision of the product needs to solve the business problem (see box on page 79)

Product vision– succinctly describes the ultimate product that will achieve the business objects; it describes what the product is about and what it ultimately could become (page 78)

Helpful for writing a vision statement:

For
Who
The
Is
That
Unlike
Our product

Scope

Ways to visualize scope:

- Context diagram (pg. 93)
- Ecosystem map (pg. 94)
- Feature tree (pg. 95)
- Event list (pg. 96)

Context-Diagram versus Use Case Diagram

- Context diagram can show inputs and outputs to the system, whereas the use case diagram shows what actors do what
- Context diagram shows system as a single element whereas the use case diagram divides the system somewhat.

In some cases agile systems use the user stories in the product backlog

Scope changing isn't always a bad thing however it must be done consciously, by the right people, for the right business reasons, and with understanding and acceptance of the tradeoffs. (pg. 97)

Finding the voice of the user, Chapter 6

User class – subset of product users (list page 102 to differentiate)

- Individual can be in multiple user classes
- Tasks of user classes can overlap
- User classes don't need to be people

Hierarchy of user classes (pg. 103)

- Favored – those whose satisfaction is most closely aligned with achieving the project's business objectives (not necessarily who is buying the system or has the most political power)
- Disfavored – groups who aren't supposed to use the product for legal, security, or safety reasons
- Ignored – those who might use the product but the system isn't being built to suit them
- Other – users class not in the previous groups

Persona – Imaginary person who can serve as a placeholder when there isn't an actual user representative

Study showed the more kinds of communication links and the more direct links between the user and the developers the more successful the project (page 108)

Product champion – designated representation of a user class who supplies user requirements for the class

Good champions:

- Clear vision of the new system
- Enthusiastic because they see the benefits of the new system
- Effective communicators so they can promote the final system

Separate business requirements from user requirements (pg. 113)

- Management often provide business requirements
- Product champions can provide user requirements