

Scalability of Methods for Managing Requirements Information – an interview study

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Introduction

Storing, updating and tracing changing large amount of requirements can be challenging and often overwhelming. For storing requirements information MS Word or Excel are, next to requirements databases, widely used tools. However, when the size of the project grows, the need for robust, coherent, extensible and flexible ways of structuring requirements information has been stressed by practitioners. The purpose of this exploratory interview study is to *investigate the experiences from using various methods for storing requirements as well as structuring the requirements information*. The second goal of this study is to *reflect on the scalability of used methods for storing requirements* (for example MS Excel or requirements databases) as well as the *scalability of the methods of partitioning requirements information*. Some example questions to be asked during the interviews:

- How do you store and manage requirements in your projects?
- How do you organize the requirements and associated information?
- Are non-functional requirements placed next to corresponding functional requirements or in a separated section/module?
- What is according to you the maximum/minimum amount of requirements that can be stored or managed using the current technique?
- What are the issues related to the current way of storing and managing requirements information?
- Does the current way of sorting and managing information make easy or hinders the following tasks: change impact analysis, scope management, traceability, reuse of requirements, requirements verification and validation and finding obsolete requirements.

Wanted from Industry

Experiences from all kind of industry projects (market-driven or contract) where requirements are actually written and stored are desirable. The direct access to the actual requirements artifacts is not as critical as the knowledge of the structure of the requirements information and methods used in managing them. Experienced requirements project managers, requirements engineering as well as software developers and architects are suitable and very welcome to participate in this study.