

What Should Go In A Requirement Specification (suggestions)

Consider the following items for inclusion in your requirements specifications.

Overview

A description of the requirement

Rationale

A description of why the requirement is here, and, for example, what purpose it fills and why it is formulated in the way it is.

Reference to the requirements definition

Cross reference to the very high level requirements definition. May include the requirements definition as an intro. to a section of requirements specifications.

Originator

Who came up with the requirements specification and who wrote it down?

Inputs

The inputs are needed to perform this required functionality.

Requirements Description

The required functionality. Make sure the requirement passes the checks and really is a requirement.

Outputs

The outputs generated by this requirement.

Persistent changes

The requirement may change internal data, for example, update a database. This should be recorded here.

Cross reference information

Information about the requirements that this one relies on and the requirements it effects. Some of this may be recorded in a special cross-reference section. Various cross-reference tables may be used here.

How to test the requirement

The test cases one should use to see if the system satisfies the requirements. The test cases must cover normal operation as well as abnormal conditions. The expected results must be recorded.

The following is an example of what an individual requirements specification could look like.

Requirement #: Unique # **Requirements Type:** **Use Case:**

Introduction: A short description about what this requirement is for

Rationale: Why is the requirement here?

Author: **Source:** Who came up with the requirement.

Inputs: The inputs needed to perform this user function.

Requirement Description: The actual requirement expressed in the user's language.

Outputs: The outputs generated as a result of this user function.

Persistent Changes: And database updates or other persistent changes.

User Satisfaction: **User Dissatisfaction:**

Related Requirements: Cross reference to other requirements on which this one relies.

Conflicts: There may be conflicts in the document. Which requirement can we not implement if we implement this one.

Support Materials: Any documents, graphs, etc., that are related to this requirement.

Test Cases: Test cases that can be used to verify that this requirement is implemented correctly. Must include both inputs and expected outputs.