Business Processes and Requirements

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Overview and Ethos

- A major problem with many software products is that they do not satisfy the needs of the business or customer.
- This unit examines current and proposed requirements approaches;
- Themes include: the need to understand and describe the business process, and map this to the specification, to ensure that the resulting IT system will meet the business goals and needs.

- There is no programming
- However, some of the modelling can be quite technical (not all fluffy).
- Many (this year) projects used these skills.

Learning Outcomes for the Unit

1. Appraise critically approaches to the principal requirements engineering tasks; elicitation, analysis, specification and validation.

2. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of relationships among client business processes, requirements and software systems.

3. Evaluate, select, and produce appropriate models of business process scenarios or problem domains, and matching requirements and specifications.

4. Evaluate critically requirements methods and research.

5. Understand the impact of professionalism upon the requirements phase.

Current topics include

- Importance of requirements, and problems with requirements
- Where requirements sits within software development processes.
- Types of requirements
- Managing requirements
- Requirements Modelling - acquiring, validating and communicating requirements
- Specification (use case diagrams and descriptions)
- Issues with and improvements to use cases
- Business process modelling
- Aligning process models and specification
- Fitting requirements approaches within modern software development, e.g., embedding requirements within the Model Driven Architecture.

Assessment

- This unit is 100% coursework. However, do not think that this equates to an easier time.

- This year we had two parts to the coursework.

  - Production of Business Process Models, and reflections on moving from these to specification.

  - Production of a Requirements document (including use cases).

Questions?

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