Realizing the Dream

Building and Deploying a Re-Usable Requirements Library

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What do these people have in common?

10/27/2016

The Power of Documentation

2500 Years after Herodotus documented the Procedure for Mummification, 2 Scientists used that documentation to faithfully recreate a Mummy.

Ronn Wade (left), the Director of Anatomical Services at the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore.

Bob Brier (right), an Egyptologist at the C. W. Post Campus of Long Island University.

Some Facts

• Ancient Egyptian Culture was dominant for approximately 2500 years -- think about it...

• The Priest Class represented a successful, viable organization during most of this time - They documented and retained their most valuable organizational skill during the entire period.

• The Modern team successfully recreated a mummification process from source documentation published 2454 years ago.

• Could your company successfully recreate one of your processes from your source documentation published 2454 days ago? (about 6 years, 8 months).

A Question...

Hmm, Could I redesign a Printer from 2010 from our own company’s documentation?

What is “Re-Use”?

• This term means different things to different people
  -- Clarify the definition today

• Transfer of product requirements and designs across projects and product variants within an organization
  -- Leverage mature system designs over-and-over again in product lines, similar systems or variants
  -- Accommodate variations in design or application

• Transfer of common design information from one project to another or between product variants, for instance:
  -- Use or application
  -- Behavior
  -- Requirements
  -- Test descriptions
Two Types of Re-Use

• Re-use of “Common” requirements and design
  – Many organizations include “common” elements
  – Common requirements
  – Common architectures
  – Common processes
• Element Re-Use
  – Product Variants
  – Re-usable ‘components’
  – Product Lines

Where does re-usable content typically reside?

• Today’s focus

• Engineer knows where data resides
• Engineer knows how to read data
• Engineer can find “golden nuggets”
• Engineer’s brain:
  – Incorporates experience informing future decisions
  – Acts as a body of knowledge
  – Acts as a search engine
  – Acts as a repository of implications and rationale

Our History of Re-Use Libraries

• Foundational thinking in 1990s

• Developed Re-Usability approach - Mid 2000s
  – Commonality Assessment Process (CAP)
  – Started with Re-Usable Requirements (presented here)
  – Published/Presented first paper 2005

• Developed and deployed multiple libraries:
  – US Army
  – NASA
  – Commercial
  – Measured ROI
• Expanded re-usability approach to MBSE
  – Published/Presented Model-Based Re-Usable Elements (MBREs)
  – Incorporated Re-Use Libraries into MBSE Tool

Characteristics of a Re-Use Library

• A Re-use library transforms individual tribal knowledge into organizational knowledge
  – Corporate or Organizational Asset

• A Re-use library contains requirements, analysis, design, and verification information common to the organization’s products
  – Product Lines / Variants
  – Requirements / Verification Methods

• Searchable, Filtered sets
• Built-in Training / Use instructions
• Information is enabled by model-based systems engineering
  – Performing engineering from re-usable elements an/or
  – Platform for retaining re-use library
  – Design repository or product data management system.

Steps to Building Re-Usable Requirements

• Perform Commonality Assessment
• Assess Engineering Artifacts
  – System Requirements
  – System Design
  – Subsystem Requirements/Design
  – Verification Test Cases
  – Validation Test Scripts
• Choose Re-Use Library Repository
• Engineer Common Artifacts
• Build Re-Use Library Repository

Back to the Printer question...

• Printer Company:
  – Black and White Printers
  – Color Printers
  – Print 2-sided pages
  – Print Photos
  – Scale Pages
  – Faster Print Times
  – Hundred other Printer Features
• BUT, the engineers still spend all day designing printers.
**Bang for the Buck**

- Commonality among Product Lines.
- Universally Applicable Requirements.
- Selectively Applicable Requirements.
- Library User Interface and Instructions.
- ROI.

**Secret 1: Finding Commonality**

**Universally Applicable Requirements**

- Re-Use Library’s First Secret: Finding Commonality among Product Lines
  - 20%-70% of a product line’s requirements are common.
    - Non-Functional
    - Selective Function, Interface and Performance
- Universally Applicable Requirements
  - Standard Behavior
  - Standard Architecture
  - Standard Interfaces
  - Regulatory Requirements
  - Best Practices

**Secret 2: Ease of Use**

**Re-Usable Requirements Library**

- The harsh reality of any tool is that if it is not sufficiently easy to use, it will become shelfware.
- Re-Use Library’s second secret for a successful deployment: Assure the requirements:
  - Are easy to access
  - Are pertinent to the developer
  - Can generate requirements products (such as specifications) that the developers can use
  - Have impossible-to-miss, easily-accessible on-line training

**Secret 3: The Library Deserves Attention**

**Building the Re-Usable Database**

- Third and Final Secret: Building such an Organizational Asset cannot be done as a “sidebar” to a production development effort.
  - A Library must be built as a project in its own right.
  - The Organizational Knowledge needed to build a re-usable requirements database is different from building a point-solution RM Db during a Product development lifecycle.

**Re-Use Library: Deployment Insights**

- Generate baseline specifications from the library
- Support common templates to socialize use
- Traceability back to the source material used to generate the Common Requirements
- Include fields for storing requirements Analysis

**Return on Investment Calculations**

**Requirements Library**

- Extracted from other Author’s presentation
- Common Requirements Measurement

$3.28 project savings for every $1.00 invested
Benefits of Re-Use Libraries

Management Benefits
- Investment in Employees is not lost as they Retire
  - Saving and Re-Using Core Knowledge and Experience
  - Isolated experts no longer represent a bottleneck
- Replaces Tribal Knowledge with Organizational Knowledge
- Catapults Future Development Ahead of Schedule

Technical Benefits
- Assures Completeness and Consistency of Design
- Quicker, higher quality development of variants.
- Project Requirements, Design and Tests can be re-used on other Projects
- Traces and Documents Engineered Product Artifacts
- Specifications reflect collective knowledge

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