

BUS 362

Assignment 03 - Use Cases

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Use Cases

Purpose

- Defines how the system carries out tasks
- Clarifies the information required for each step in each process
- No standard format, we're using the textbook's format
- Does not always describe an IT process, can be used for physical systems too (with physical rather than digital sources and destinations)

Components

- Use case name
- ID Number / Priority
- Use case description
- Trigger (temporal or external)
- Inputs (including source)
- Outputs (including destination)
- Description of steps performed
- Information required for each step (**this matches the major inputs and outputs exactly**)

Use Case Choices

- Think about how you interact with the system, what major goals do you have?
- Also think about system maintenance (to identify temporal tasks)
- The use cases should be clear in the case and likely won't differ much between groups
- Don't model anything that isn't in the case (excepting external parties that are necessary for some transactions)
- Think about individual tasks that have breaks of undefined length in-between them

Overview Information

- **Name:** Verb phrase describing what is happening.
- **ID Number:** Order your use cases numerically.
- **Priority:** Generally, how important is this process?
- **Description:** Similar to the name, but includes the actor and a deeper description of the outcomes.
- **Trigger:** What is the trigger for the use case to start?
What happens directly before the action described in the name?
 - **Temporal:** Happens on a scheduled basis - the trigger is a specific time being reached.
 - **External:** An event triggers the use case. This is more common.

Inputs and Outputs

- List the information that you used for your steps
- Add the destination or source of that information
- If you are unsure where to store information required by the system, create a database for it
- This will make more sense next week
- Each input or output is a piece of information, you should be able to print it out and hold it in your hand
- No information should have the same name (in the entire system!)
- Bundle your information so that you can expand on it here
- Do this step last

Steps

- What is the system doing to push the task forward?
- At least one information flow associated with each step
- Don't model information requests, simply model the input of that information (mention the request in the step, not the information for that step)
- Don't model information transformation, simply model the output of that transformation (receipt generation, etc)
- Having subroutines and sub-steps is fine, but usually unnecessary

Common Mistakes

- Missing use cases
- Arrow directions
- Missing major pieces of information
- Poor descriptions - not breaking down what each information flow includes
- Repetitive information flows
- Not balancing the inputs and outputs with the steps section

Textbook Pages

- 5th Edition: Chapter 4 - Use Case Analysis (pages 147-180)
- 6th Edition: Chapter 4 - Use Case Analysis (pages 120-152)

Example

Example 1

- School registration system
- Use cases:
 - Register for a class
 - Drop a class
 - Register from waitlist

Example 2

- Restaurant with no computers
- Prepare recipes
- Prepare dishes
- Take orders

Assignment

Instructions

- Prepare a set of use cases for Brenda's Tailoring