

What Decision Characteristics Influence Decision Making in Requirements Engineering

INTRODUCTION

This is a short survey about decision making in requirements engineering.

When managing requirements, often the decision has to be made whether or not to accept a certain requirement request. These possible requirements all have different characteristics such as the number of products they affect or the fact that they are requested by an important customer.

The purpose of this survey is to assess which characteristics of submitted requirements change requests may influence the decision outcome and the decision lead-time. We already performed a quantitative analysis on the decision logs of a large software products company and we want to validate our results using experiences from other companies.

After your participation in the survey we will get back to you with the analyzed results of the survey and you will also get access to the results of the quantitative analysis of decision logs.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

BACKGROUND

In order to compare your answers with our quantitative analysis results, we need to know some things about you, your company and your project context.

Question 1: What region are you most active in?

- The Netherlands
- Belgium
- Germany
- Sweden
- Worldwide
- Other (please specify)

Question 2: What is your current role within the company?

- Project Manager
- Product Manager
- Quality Expert

- Developer
- Senior Management
- Consultant
- Other (please specify)

Question 3: How many years of professional experience do you have in software engineering?

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Question 4: How many people are involved in the software engineering process in your company? Please consider all employees, including, but not limited to developers, testers and management.

- < 10
- 10 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- > 1000

Question 5: What kind of relationship does your company have with its customers?

- We create mostly custom bespoke software
- We create mostly off-the-shelf software
- Other (please specify)

Question 6: How many requirement requests does a project in your company have on average? Around 10

- Around 100
- Around 1.000
- Around 10.000
- Other (please specify)

Question 7: Does your company apply a software product line approach? (Does your company release a collection of similar software products from a shared set of software assets?)

- Yes
- No
- Other (please specify)

RATINGS

Please answer the questions below according to your own experiences.

Please indicate how the following decision characteristics influence the time needed to take the decision.

Question 8. Please indicate how the following decision characteristics influence the time needed to take the decision

	This makes the time to decide shorter	No influence	This makes the time to decide longer
There are a high number of products affected by the decision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The decision is late in the release cycle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The decision is filed by an important customer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 9. Please indicate how the following decision characteristics influence the decision outcome.

	This increase the probability of rejection	No influence	This decrease the probability of rejection
There are a high number of products affected by the decision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The decision is late in the release cycle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The decision is filed by an important customer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The decision took a long time to make	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

THANKS

Thank you for participating in this research about decision making in requirements engineering!