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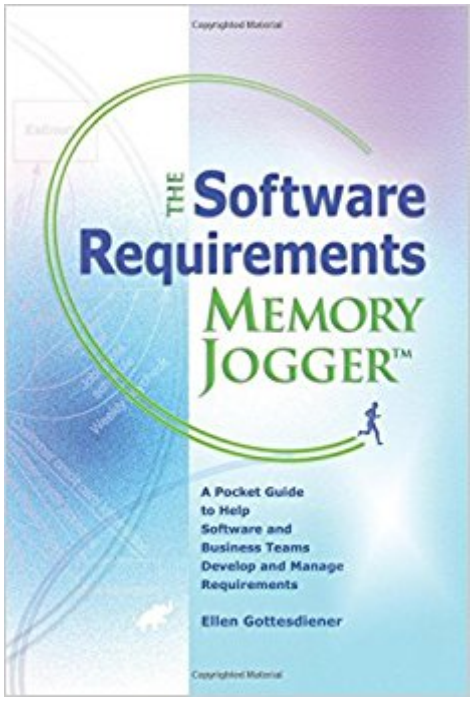
The Software Requirements Memory Jogger: A Pocket Guide To Help Software And Business Teams Develop And Manage Requirements (Memory Jogger)



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Synopsis

The Software Requirements Memory Jogger is an easy-to-use guide for developing and managing precise software requirements. The Software Requirements Memory Jogger provides every member of your project team with the tools and techniques to foster communication between business and technical teams on the necessary requirements for producing successful software. The Software Requirements Memory Jogger will benefit all stakeholders at any organizational level involved in software development projects management team, practitioners, QA/QC personnel. - Explore practical steps, tips, and examples to help you develop and manage requirements - Follow the User Requirements Roadmap a toolkit of techniques for discovering and analyzing user requirements - Streamline communications between all requirements stakeholders - Learn how to write clear, concise requirements documents

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book, although small in size, is large in scope; namely, to provide a comprehensive reference for requirements activities in all sizes of software development projects. This sounds a tall order but the reader is in safe hands as the author succeeds handsomely. The book assumes that the reader has some experience of requirements specification of software development: it would not be suitable for a complete novice as the information contained is not only densely packed but the sheer variety of techniques contained means that it would be inadvisable to apply them all on a single

project. To be fair, the author provides some excellent guidance on which techniques are best suited to which types of project. The book is split into the following sections: * Stage Setting; * Elicitation; * Analysis; * Specification; * Validation; * Management; * Adapting Practices to Project Types. Stage Setting gives a straightforward about aligning the project with the business's objectives and links to project governance areas such as risk management. Elicitation gives a summary of how to define the requirements - starting by ensuring that all the stakeholders are identified prior to the requirements-gathering activity; missing stakeholders are a major cause of requirements being missed. The case study is especially useful here as the list of stakeholders is very comprehensive and would be a good checklist for potential missed stakeholders in your current project. The author also describes a simple mechanism for ranking stakeholder influence/importance to give the appropriate level of involvement. The elicitation chapter contains a succinct set of interview questions and details on how to run a focus group - information seldom seen in the popular requirements literature. The chapter on Analysis is the meat of the book: this contains the techniques for creating requirements models such as use cases, context diagrams, process maps and state diagrams among others. Most importantly, the book suggests which are the most appropriate models to use, dependent on the project's circumstances; namely if you are: * modeling the business; * scoping the project; * fleshing out the user requirements; * negotiating requirements priorities. The best parts of the chapter contain information that is hard to obtain in a single volume: namely, what kind of questions to ask the business community in order to derive a data model; the structure and documentation of business rules; and the role of business policies in shaping the requirements. The last category has recently become more important because of increasing legislative and regulatory compliance requirements such as SOX and Basel II. In addition, there is a detailed section on how to engage the stakeholders in a requirements prioritization exercise. The chapter on Specification is interesting, especially for those from the Agile community who may be less familiar with the material. The author carefully distinguishes between business requirements, user requirements and software requirements, and then explains where these could be documented. She also gives a good rule of thumb for cross-referencing Use Cases with functional requirements statements. This is useful for those that prefer to start with a high-level Use Case approach but sometimes need to convert to a formal software requirements specification - something the current reviewer has had to do recently. Visit agilier.com to see the remainder of this review in full. --Marcus Price Agiler.com --This text refers to an alternate Spiral-bound edition.

Ellen Gottesdiener is Principal Consultant and founder of EBG Consulting, Inc. Ellen has authored

two books, numerous articles and contributed to several compilation books. She is a frequent speaker at national conferences and an industry advisor. Ellen develops all the training material used by EBG Consulting. Since 1991 Ellen has provided a broad range of services to EBG clients including consulting, mentoring, facilitation and training. Prior to founding EBG, Ellen spent 13 years as a manager, team leader, developer, and trainer with a major insurance and financial services organization. More on EllenÃ¢â ¬Â¦

I've had this book on my shelf for years now. Time after time, it's proven itself to be a useful and practical reference guide when dealing with just about any topic related to software requirements. What's more, unlike so many books in this space, it's immensely affordable. This makes it a great starter book for someone looking to get started in the business analysis profession or apply more formal software requirements practices on a project. You can't go wrong with the Software Requirements Memory Jogger!

"However, for reasons that are not entirely clear to me, aconfirmed requirements engineer, people seem to find hagglingover requirements a royal pain." Daniel M. Berry.For me, the pain begins with the first interview. It starts as a dull ache and migrains outward until the last Use Case falls to the floor. Requirements gathering was never high on my list of fun things to do. Offering a range of valuable information for the reader, Ellen Gottesdiener's book offers the aspirin I have long needed.This small handbook is a highly compressed package of knowledge. The Software Requirements Memory Jogger is full of excellent information for the novice as well as the expert. Gottesdiener gets a grade 'A' for thoughtful preparation and good organization. In the book, you'll get clear summaries and illustrations.

I just got my copy (so it is still available). There is little I can add to the other reviews, other than support them wholeheartedly.Writing style is very clear. Coverage is comprehensive. Standardized headers, icons, tables, and lists communicate ideas concisely.Examples, examples, examples ...One thing that makes this booklet more valuable than many other requirements texts is the wealth of examples. Everything is illustrated through its own realistic well-chosen example. The examples show you exactly what a particular output (model, diagram, text fragment, table, ...) should look like. Not just abstract, generic advice, but instantiated, concrete stuff to prove that you can actually follow the advice.

I’m a consultant for requirements and training and also teach a university extension program on the subject and this is a great book that describes the process from a-z. It uses a variety of sources and has selected what is a good best practices list. It also has some good examples and diagrams.The organization takes a little getting used to, mostly because there is a lot of information in a small package. I wish there also was a better linkage between the material and the references so I could go directly to the source for more info. Other than that, this is one of the better books to have on your shelf as an overall requirements reference.

I bought this book for a Mentoring training course that I’m taking through my company to get a good understanding of how to help new Business Analysts who are joining the company, and as the title says to also jog my memory about gathering software requirements. This book gives great basic steps and talks about many techniques that will help benefit someone starting their career, and even those who just want a refresher on certain techniques/topics. I highly recommend this book.

This is a good refresher for the material it covers, but unfortunately does not cover enough material to be a stand-alone review book on business analysis. I like how the author uses concise words and examples to explain the who, what and whys, and would recommend "Memory Jogger" as part of your BA arsenal.

Essential handy tool for anyone who works with software requirements

I think this is the best kept secret for BAs. I kinda don’t want to review it because I love this book so much, and have referenced it countless times for consulting engagements. I already have in-depth experience with much of it, but the memory jogging is just enough to help recall all the tools in the BA toolkit. Good stuff.

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