

Judging the Quality of Your Use Cases

Advanced Use Case Course

Duration

1 day

Instructor

Steve Adolph

Class Limit

20 students

Prerequisite

None

Price

On-site:

Please contact SPC for pricing (contact information on page 2)

Public Training:

\$795 (1 day)

*Discount available for early registration

Materials Provided

- Student manual containing the course slides
- Student handouts with class exercises and class studies
- Copy of author's book "Patterns for Effective Use Cases"

"Why is it so hard to write good use cases?"

Use Cases are a wonderfully simple concept; describe a system's functional requirements by telling stories about how that system delivers value to its users. Yet, for such a simple concept, good Use Cases are really hard to write. Use Case authors frequently must deal with the difficult questions of:

- How many use cases do I need?
- How large should a use case be?
- How should I structure the Use Case description?
- How precise should I be?
- How much detail should I express in the use case?
- When should I create uses and extends relationships between Use Cases?
- Why am I doing this in the first place?

Many use case authors and reviewers have difficulty describing what's right and wrong about their use cases because there are few objective criteria for judging them. A use case pattern language provides the criteria by capturing and sharing the practical knowledge of experienced use case writers. Patterns are more effective than a simple set of guidelines because patterns capture the essential core of a problem and can be adapted to the nuances of the situation and organization.

Based on his recent Use Case book, that author will show you how the use case pattern language can be a practical criteria for judging the quality of your use cases.

Tutorial Benefits

- Receive a copy of the book "Patterns for Effective Use Cases".
- Learn a common vocabulary for expressing what is good or bad in your existing use cases.
- Obtain techniques for writing more effective use cases.
- Understand how the use case pattern language judge use case quality
- Learn how patterns are adapted for different environments.

TRAINING

Judging the Quality of Your Use Cases

Intended Audience

This topic is of benefit to anyone who has previous experience with Use Cases and has tried to write Use Cases and has found it difficult, frustrating, and has not been satisfied with the results. This includes: developers, technical managers, business analysts, product managers, requirements engineers and anyone else who has a need to prepare or understand Use Cases.

Instructor

Steve Adolph is senior consultant with WSA Consulting Inc. and has 20 years of software development experience. He has an excellent grasp of the technology issues facing today's companies and works with them as teacher, consultant, and mentor. His software development experience includes call-processing software for cellular telephone systems, railway-signaling software and direct to plate systems for the graphics art industry.

Steve knows firsthand the problems with creating Use Case models. He has been helping clients adopt Use Case modeling and has repeatedly witnessed the frustration that comes in creating what appears as a simple task and yet not so simple once you start.

As well as the co-author of *Patterns for Effective Use Cases* published by Addison Wesley, Steve is also a regular contributor for the *Software Development Magazine*. He can be reached at steve@wsaconsulting.com.

Outline

This tutorial presents the Use Case guidelines and how it can be used to create good quality Use Cases. The topics covered will include:

- Why is it so hard to write good Use Cases: Common Use Case Pitfalls
- Patterns and Pattern Languages
- Guidelines for determining the purpose and objective of a Use Case model
- Guidelines for discovering Actors and Use Cases
- Guidelines for structuring Use Cases
- Guidelines for writing Use Case contents
- Guidelines for Use Case style

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