

How to Write Effective Use Cases: The Key to Finding the Right Requirements

Duration

2 days

One of the hardest things to do when creating sophisticated software systems is to *build the right thing*. Too often requirements are gathered and systems are developed only to find that there is a poor fit between what the users actually need to do.

Instructor

Geoff Hewson

Use Cases are a proven method to effectively describe the functional behavior of a software system. The Use Case method builds a *shared vision* of the real problem at hand by aligning the system requirements with the goals the system needs to achieve.

Class Limit

20 students

How to Write Effective Use Cases: The Key to Finding The Right Requirements is a high energy, intensely hands-on course which introduces both the theory and practice of using Use Cases to define the functional requirements for software systems. Throughout this two-day course, participants will work together to identify, model, and document the Use Cases for a fun and entertaining example system, learning all the skills required for constructing highly effective Use Case Models and Specifications.

Prerequisite

None

Price

On-site

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

Public Training

\$1,095 (2 days)

*Discount available for early registration

Learning areas include:

- An introduction to Use Cases: More than stick men and ovals
- An iterative method for exploring, identifying, and specifying Use Cases
- How to write detailed Use Case descriptions
- How to determine the right level of Use Case detail
- Guidelines for structuring the Use Case Model
- Tips for improving Use Case quality: Common pitfalls to avoid
- How Use Cases fit into the broader requirements picture

Materials Provided

- Student manual containing the course slides
- Student handouts with class exercises

Participants will complete the seminar more confident in their ability to work with Use Cases to get the requirements right. You'll be more efficient in your work and be able to effectively describe what customers and users really want. Your deliverables will be easy to read and easy to manage so engineers, quality assurance professionals, and others stakeholders can create and manage the solutions you've specified.

TRAINING

Getting Use Cases Right: Your Key to Finding the Right Requirements

Instructor

Dr. Geoff Hewson is an industry-recognized expert and SPC's principal consultant on Use Cases and Use Case modeling. He regularly directs SPC's consulting projects for organizations worldwide to optimize development practices.

Geoff has been working with Use Cases and other scenario-based methods for defining software requirements since 1995. In this time he has made significant contributions to several development methodologies that are driven by Use Cases and Scenarios, including the Rational Unified Process and the Microsoft Solutions Framework.

Geoff is the co-author of this course, and is a frequent speaker at industry conferences such as the Better Software conference, Project World / Business Analyst World, and the Pacific Northwest Software Quality Conference.

Intended Audience

This course is ideally suited to software professionals involved in the development of software and user requirements, such as software analysts, software developers, programmers, system architects, software testers and software development managers. Software project managers, team leaders and business analysts will also benefit.

For more information on this or other SPC Springboard courses, please visit www.spcspringboard.com or e-mail SPC at info@spc.ca

Software Productivity Center Inc.
Suite 460 - 1122 Mainland Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5L1

Vancouver: 604.662.8181 Toll Free: 1.877.548.1948

Fax: 604.689.0141

Outline

Introducing Use Cases

- Origins of the Use Case Approach
- What Are Use Cases?
- The Parts of a Use Case
- UML and the Use Case Model
- The Surface and Dive Approach

Scoping the System - High Level Use Cases

- Describing the Actors and their Goals
- Finding the Use Cases
- Writing Use Case Briefs

Adding details – Main Success Scenarios

- Common Use Case templates
- Pre- and Post-conditions
- Use Cases Structured with Goals
- Writing Use Case Headers and Main Success Scenarios
- Guidelines for writing Use Case transactions.
- Iteratively Refine Project Scope

More details - Alternative Courses and Failures

- Finding the Extensions
- Recognizing an Alternative Course
- Recognizing a Failure
- Documenting Use Case extensions

Structuring the Use Case Model

- When to structure the Use Case Model
- Structuring with <<includes>>
- Structuring with <<extends>>
- Documenting sub-use cases
- Guidelines for using Includes & Extends

Improving Use Case quality

- Running Use Case elicitation workshops
- Guidelines to write high quality Use Cases
- Validating the Use Cases
- Writing Scenarios from Use Cases
- Use Case Review Guidelines
- Scenarios and Test Plans

Beyond the Use Cases

- Use Cases and Non-functional Requirements
 - Business Rules
 - Data Formats (Dictionary)
 - External Interfaces
 - Quality Attributes
 - Glossary
- Incorporating Use Cases in requirements documentation



TRAINING

