Abstract

The design of documentation is discussed, with emphasis on the requirements, the need for decomposition, the measures needed to maintain overview and criteria for granularity.
Requirements for the Entire Documentation Structure

- Accessibility for the readers
- Low threshold for the readers
- Low threshold for the authors
- Completeness
- Consistency
- Maintainability
- Scalability
- Evolvability
- Process to ensure the quality of the information
Requirements from Reader Point of View

Convenient viewing
Convenient printing
Convenient searching

easy
fast
Requirements per Document

- High cohesion (within the unit)
- Low coupling (outside of the unit)
- Accessibility for the readers
- Low threshold for the reader
- Low threshold for the author
- Manageable steps to create, review, and change
- Clear responsibilities
- Clear position and relation with the context
- Well-defined status of the information
- Timely availability
Ease of reading, “juiciness”

High signal-to-noise ratio: information should not be hidden in a sea of words.

Understandability

Reachability in different ways, e.g., by hierarchical or full search

Reachability in a limited number of steps
Responsibility Requirements

- single author
- limited amount of reviewers
Scalability Requirements

well defined documentation structure

overview specifications at higher aggregation levels

recursive application of structure and overview

delegation of review process
The Stakeholders of a Single Document

- **Project leader** is responsible for time, budget, result.
- **Architect or editor** is responsible for technical interactions.
- **Author** writes the specification.
- The specification describes the implementation.
- **Consumer** uses the implementation.
- **Producer** realizes the stakeholder.

Legend:
- **Relation**
- **Artifact**
- **Stakeholder**

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Decomposition of Large Documents

compound document

document structure

overview

document
document
document
document
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DGdocumentRecursion
Payload: the Ratio between Content and Overhead

Granularity of Documentation

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and ca 50% text

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DGpayload