

Introduction to the BaRE Method

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Goal

✦ The purpose of this presentation is to clarify
the BaRE method

- ◆ Boundaries
- ◆ Concepts
- ◆ Elements
- ◆ Adoption and usage
- ◆ Adaptation

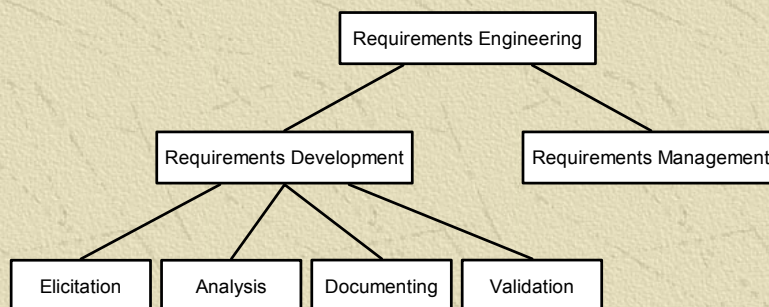
About Methods in Practice

- ✘ Abandon the mindset that a suitable single methodology is all that is required.
- ✘ Elements from different methods are picked up and used as and when necessary.
- ✘ Techniques and tools are used in unanticipated ways.
- ✘ Would-be systems developers should spend considerable time learning about the use of tools in the context of information systems development in stead of short training courses in particular method.
- ✘ Method engineers should focus on helping developers by creating methodologies, techniques and tools that enable systems developers to focus on their task and develop their understanding of what they are doing, and not end up focusing on the tools that they are using.

(Introna and Whitley 1997)

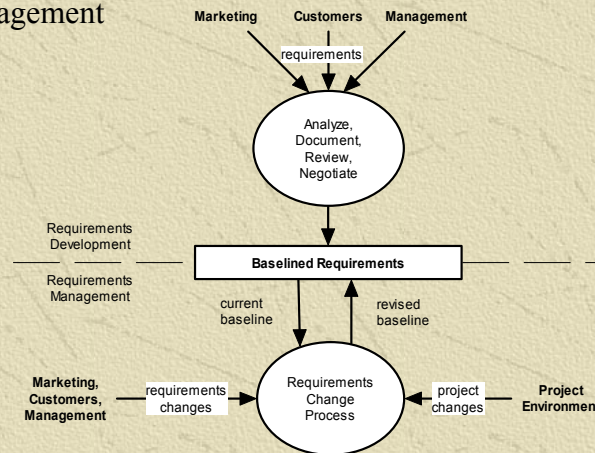
Basic Concepts 1/3

- ✘ Hierarchical decomposition of the RE domain



Basic Concepts 2/3

✦ The boundary between requirements development and management



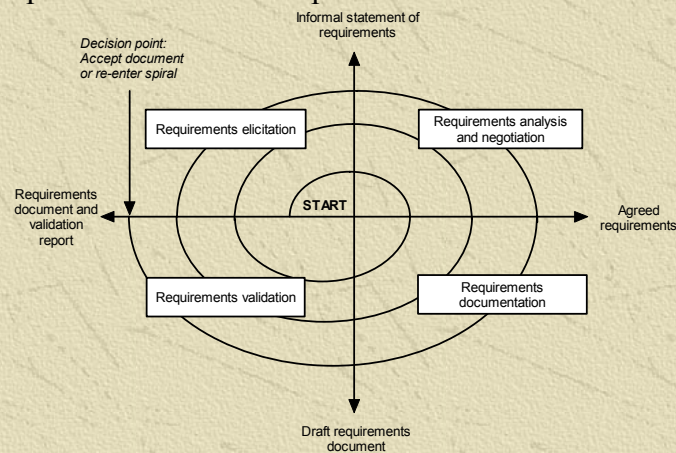
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Basic Concepts 3/3

✦ A spiral model of the RE process



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Key Requirements

1. Ready to use
2. Simple
3. Domain specific
4. Adaptable
5. Approaches RE in a systematic way

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Method Limitations 1/2

- ✦ Small projects developing administrative and business applications
- ✦ One requirements engineer is sufficient for the project
 - ◆ A duration of six to twelve months
 - ◆ Less than half a dozen workers
 - ◆ Less than a 100 kEUR budget
- ✦ Technically the method focuses on semi-formal methods

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Method Limitations 2/2

✦ The user expertise

- ◆ The first level of listening (following)
 - People who need one procedure that works – this is the primary user group for the BaRE method
- ◆ The second level of listening (detaching)
 - Characterized by people who are learning the limits of the method – supported to some extent
- ◆ The third level of listening (fluent)
 - May find some parts of the BaRE method interesting but in general is not designed for them

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Method Home Ground

✦ The home ground for BaRE lies between agile and plan driven methods

Home-ground area	Agile methods	Plan-driven methods
Developers	Agile, knowledgeable, collocated, and collaborative	Plan-oriented, adequate skills, access to external knowledge
Customers	Dedicated, knowledgeable, collocated, collaborative, representative, and empowered	Access to knowledgeable, collaborative, representative, and empowered customers
Requirements	Largely emergent, rapid change	Knowable early, largely stable
Architecture	Designed for current requirements	Designed for current and foreseeable requirements
Refactoring	Inexpensive	Expensive
Size	Smaller teams and products	Larger teams and products
Primary objective	Rapid value	High assurance

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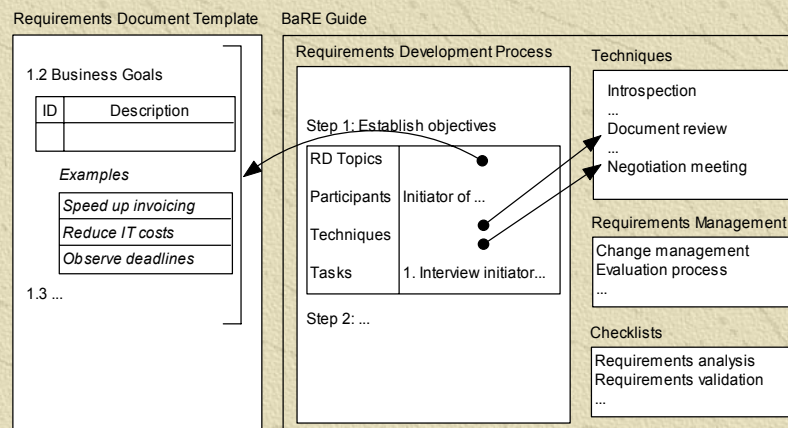
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Method Constructs

1. Requirements document template
2. Requirements development activity
3. Requirements management activity
4. Tool support for requirements management
5. Training

Method Overview 1/4

✦ The key elements of the BaRE method



Method Overview 2/4

✦ The BaRE requirements documents

Document template	Appendices
Requirements document	Glossary Typical computer configuration Use case descriptions Detailed requirements Rejected requirements
Interface specification	
User manual	

Method Overview 3/4

✦ The nine steps in the requirements development process

1. Establish objectives
2. Understand context
3. Organize knowledge
4. Elicit requirements
5. Prepare for problems
6. Prioritize requirements
7. Complete RD
8. Analyze RD
9. Validate RD

Method Overview 4/4

✧ Requirements development process Step 1: Establish Objectives

RD topics	1.1 Customer problem 1.2 Business goals 1.3 Stakeholders 1.4 Product purpose 1.5 Product position statement
Participants	Initiator of the development effort Stakeholders
Techniques	Introspection Document reviews Electronic requirements Interviews Negotiation meetings
Tasks	1. Interview the initiator to get started with the task and to identify initial stakeholders. 2. Review documents and introspect to get a good idea about the objectives. 3. Interview stakeholders for deeper understanding of the task, use email when appropriate. 4. Do web searches to help develop the product position statement. 5. Arrange meeting(s) with all stakeholders to negotiate about common understanding of the objectives.

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How to Start Using BaRE

1. Assign principal requirements engineer role to somebody
2. Skim the BaRE Guide and document templates
3. Review and validate requirements document (RD) template topics
4. Review requirements development process and synchronize it with RD template
5. Review and validate requirements development techniques
6. Review requirements management processes and techniques
7. Start using validated templates, processes, and techniques in a project

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A Principal Requirements Engineer

- ✦ Is responsible for keeping up-to-date in RE
 - ◆ Has rights and resources to do so
- ✦ Works as a coordinator in RE efforts
 - ◆ Is aware of RE activities both internally and externally
 - ◆ Works as an internal specialist in RE
 - ◆ Can find external help in problem situations

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How to Adapt the Method

- ✦ To inexperienced people (learning)
 - ◆ No adaptation – “Do everything as written.”
- ✦ To practicing people (detaching)
 - ◆ Minor changes one at a time – “After having done that, experiment with variations in the rules.”
- ✦ To experienced people (fluent)
 - ◆ Do what ever it takes the complete the task – “Eventually, don’t care if you are doing BaRE or not.”

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