



We Build Business Analysts™

Abstract for 3rd UT Dallas Project Management Symposium August 13-14, 2009

Topic: Manageable Requirements: What do Project Managers need to know about business system requirements to manage them?

The evolving role of the Business Systems Analyst, BA, is the Project Manager's, PM, best sidekick in the wild universe of requirements. The BA is the Tonto to the PM's Lone Ranger, the Wookiee to the PM's Han Solo.

In order to for a Project Manager to manage business system requirements, the requirements need to be manageable. Uh? This would seem to be true to the most casual observer. However, it is not that obvious. Creating manageable requirements is not entirely yet fully understood and certainly not trivial. Without help and a road map, most Project Managers will discover that the requirements are not manageable when it is too late to recover gracefully, if at all.

This paper and presentation is designed to give the Project Manager seven keys to help them recognize a manageable requirement by understanding theirs sidekick's language (Tonto's dialect and Wookiee's woofing).

Key topic: Evaluating requirements for Measurability and therefore, controllability

Track: New Ideas & Emerging Trends in PM

Key Words: Managing Requirements, Controlling Requirements, Business System Analysis

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Bio: DANIEL A. MYERS

Dan Myers, Managing Partner of Requirements Solutions Group, Ilc., is an international consultant in the field of system analysis and design. He has over 30 years experience in Information System Analysis/Design and System Development Methodologies. He has helped hundreds of companies* bring their information systems to new levels of efficiency and productivity through consulting, training and methodology implementation.

Mr. Myers specializes in the front end of the system development process, with an emphasis on business system analysis, requirements definition and system design. His work as an information systems professional, manager of an Information Systems Department, consultant for CIBAR, and twenty-two years with his own company, Myers and Associates, Inc, have given him extensive experience in designing, implementing and managing information systems. He has also worked with numerous software vendors to help develop both their products and courses for their products.

Dan has a special interest in accelerating (compressing) the analysis and design process and in using appropriate techniques and tools to support this process. Watching clients struggle with the early lifecycle processes requiring too much time led to his developing in 1982 a high-speed, time compressed version of system development called the ASAP, Accelerated Systems Analysis Process (later know as JAD from IBM). He performed his first "JAD" session in 1982 and has successfully completed over 200 additional sessions (without a single failure). In addition he has taught and coached other IT professionals in how to successfully perform these sessions.

Dan is an active practitioner and believes in the use of well-defined repeatable processes. He has been writing and improving system development methodologies since 1979. He was co-author of a commercially available system development methodology, THE Guide. Dan wrote The Guide imbedding Total Quality Management concepts and with his co-author created tailored multiple project size versions. In addition, Dan authored 2000-Won! a year 2000 date solution methodology in 1996. This methodology helped many companies successfully attack the Y2K problem. This methodology and its company were sold in 1998.

His work with methodologies and time compression has led to invitations to present at national and international conferences on tools, techniques and methodologies and their place in the industry.

Dan holds degrees in Chemistry and Physics, and taught at secondary and university levels in the early 70s. He has been delivering IT seminars and speeches since 1975. He was a recipient of AAPT's "the National Outstanding Physics Instructor" award for his ground breaking work in developing computer assisted instruction materials and lab experiments.