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Capturing Wild Requirements For Testing


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Who Needs Requirements?


- ❖ Requirements information is a primary input to the majority of stakeholders' project activities.
 - ❖ **Marketing:** Promotion of system capabilities, competitive comparisons
 - ❖ **Customer:** Scope definition, description of business needs and users / roles, definition of acceptance criteria
 - ❖ **Business Analysis:** Elicitation and capture of business logic and tasks from the customer and other stakeholders
 - ❖ **Project Management:** Scope management, risk planning, effort estimation, project goal setting, project and resource planning
 - ❖ **Development:** Design and coding
 - ❖ **Technical Writing:** Creation of user manuals and tutorials
 - ❖ **Testing:** Verification and validation

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Requirements Communication 

- ❖ *"The communication of functional requirements and specifications is the most difficult, critical, and error-prone task in IT projects."*
Bill Walton, A Systematic Approach for More Effective Communication of Functional Requirements and Specifications
- ❖ *"The criticality of correct, complete, testable requirements is a fundamental tenet of software engineering. The success of a project, both functionally and financially, is directly affected by the quality of the requirements."*
Theodore F. Hammer, Linda H. Rosenberg, et al., Doing Requirements Right the First Time!

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Wild Requirements 

- ❖ Can't slow development or testing to create detailed documentation
- ❖ Lacking many formal requirements because of the huge pressures to show tangible progress
- ❖ Requirements remain untamed:
 - ❖ Incomplete
 - ❖ Ambiguous
 - ❖ Missing
- ❖ Engage testing early in the project lifecycle to fill the gap

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W5 plus H



- ❖ Why is the system being built?
- ❖ Who are the end users of the system?
- ❖ What are the tasks to be performed?
- ❖ When are there interactions between modules?
- ❖ Where will the system be deployed?
- ❖ How is the system being built? (architecture)

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Draw Some Pictures

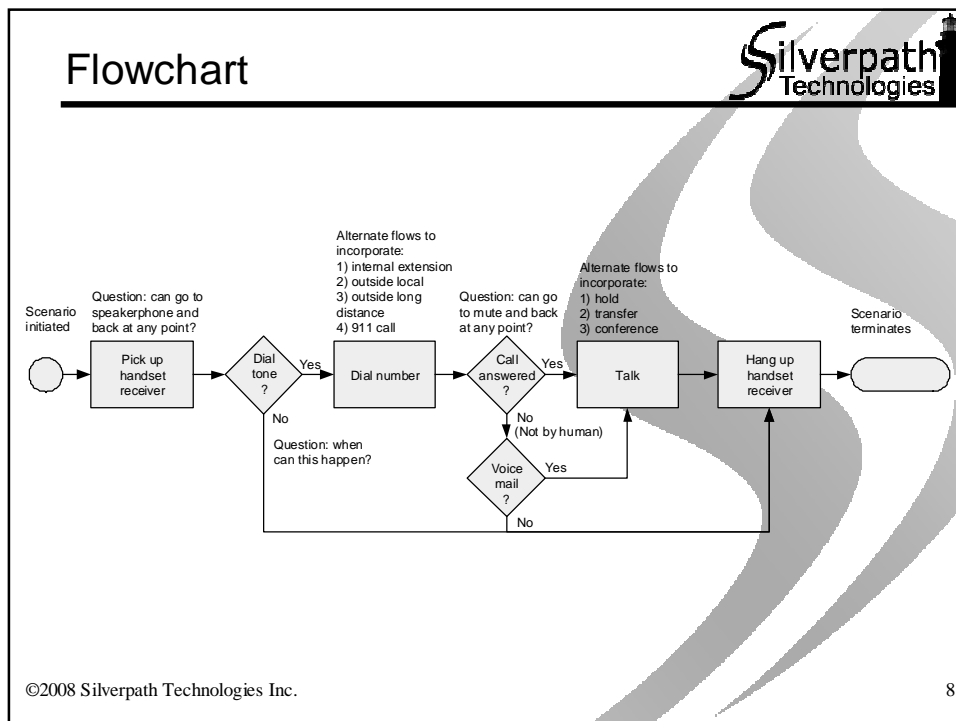
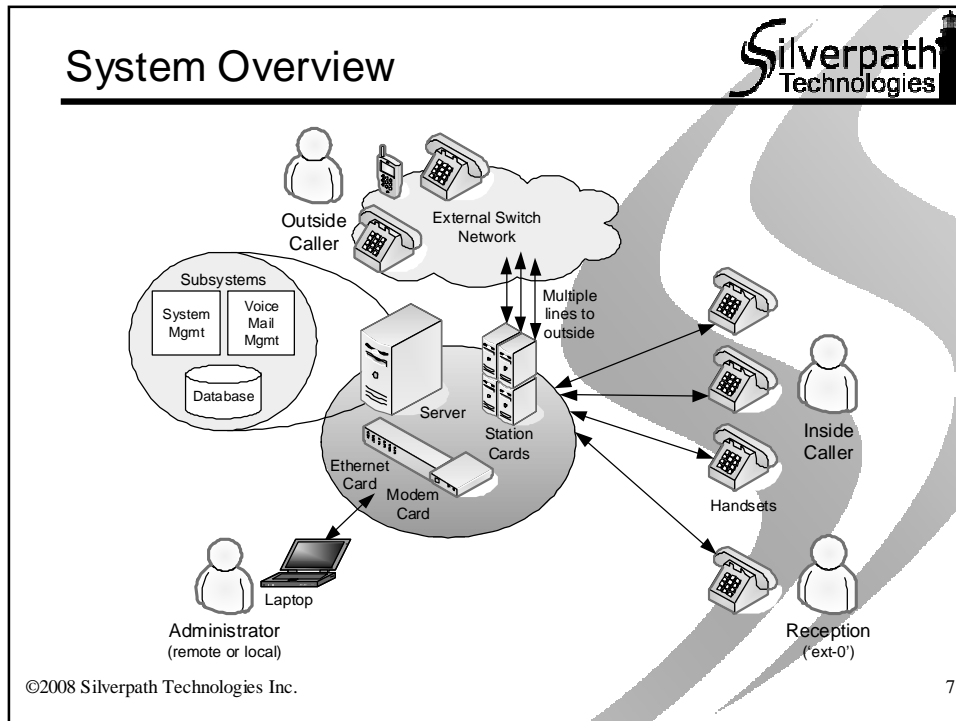


- ❖ A first step in capturing a useful understanding of the system to be tested is to think in pictures
 - ❖ Every picture helps tell a story and stories or scenarios form a basis for analysis and testing





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Requirements Taming Tips



- ❖ Flowcharts and state diagrams are powerful visualization tools
 - ❖ Capture the behaviours and functionality of a system
 - ❖ Establish path coverage and ideas for error path or negative testing
- ❖ Complement and expand upon the pictures with narrative user scenarios
- ❖ Add checklists and matrices to be able to remember test ideas and track the progress of that testing easily

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About Silverpath Technologies



- ❖ Silverpath Technologies is founded on the principle vision to provide high value to software companies by raising the quality of their software systems and teams while simultaneously driving down the total costs to achieve that quality.
- ❖ Within this vision, Silverpath seeks a highly collaborative relationship with each customer, providing results-centric consulting and training services, where each focus is driven by the emphasis on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of quality and testing activities across the software development lifecycle.
- ❖ Visit <http://www.silverpath.com> for more information.

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