

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Requirements Analysts

(with apologies to Stephen Covey)

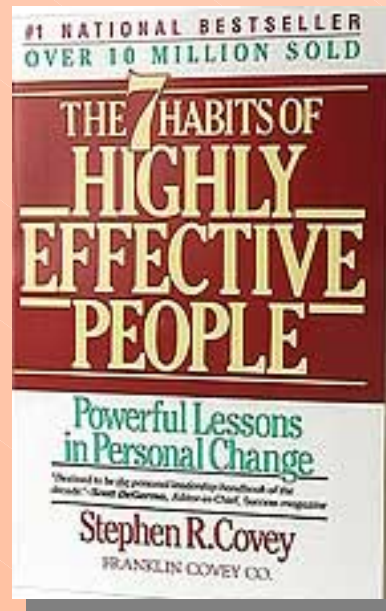
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The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Requirements Analysts

(with apologies to Stephen Covey)



7 Habits

- Be Proactive
- Begin with the End in Mind
- Put First Things First
- Think Win/Win
- Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood
- Synergize
- Sharpen the Saw

7 Habits (Interpreted)

Self

- Believe you can be who you want – attitude
- Decide who you want to be – plan
- Be who you want to be – act

Relationships

- Want everyone to be happy – attitude
- Seek to understand people's problems – plan
- Use others' ideas to create better ideas – act
- Take care of yourself

7 Habits of Highly Effective Requirements Analysts (RA)

Self

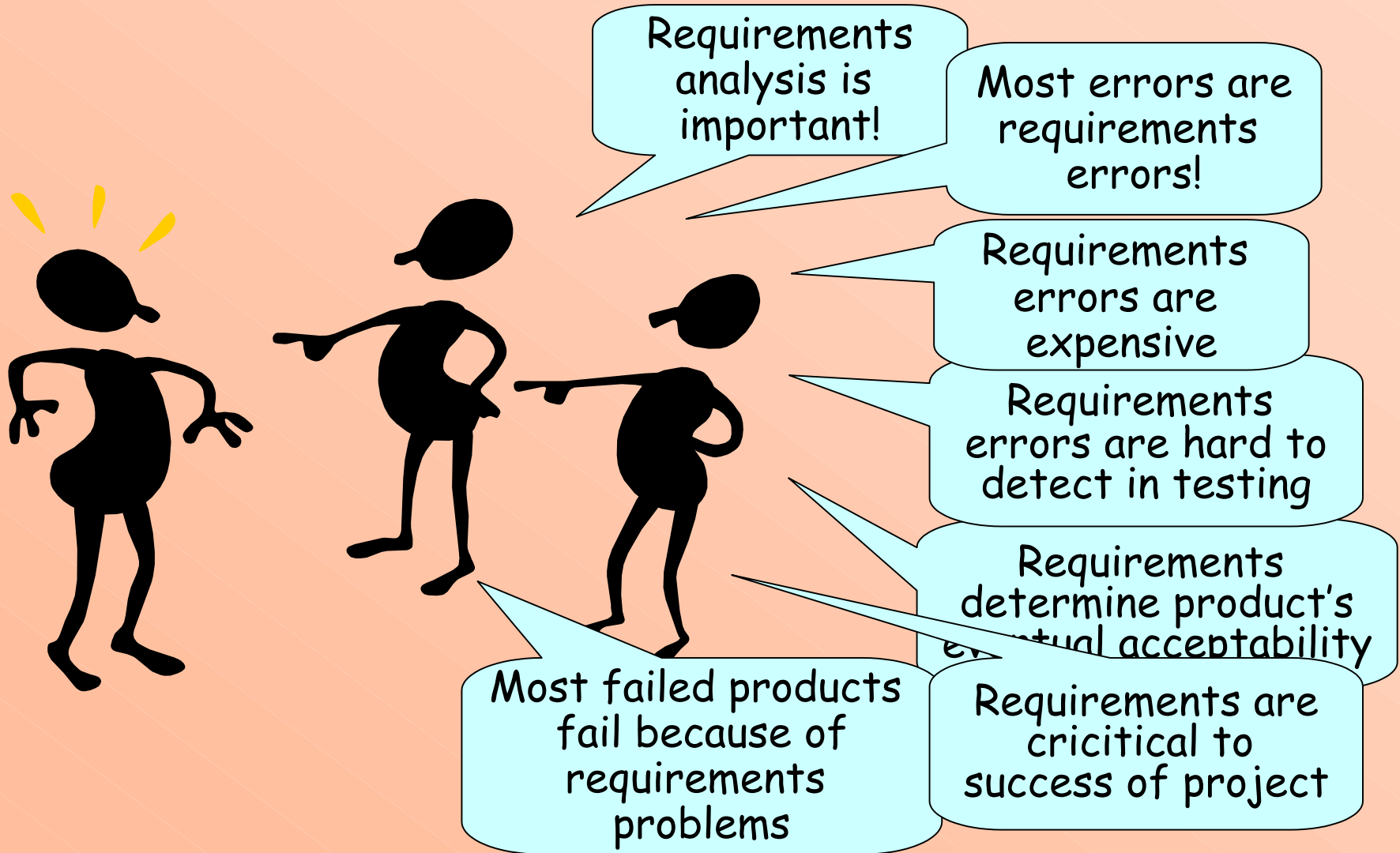
1. Believe you can be an effective RA – attitude
2. Decide what it means to be an effective RA – plan
3. Be an effective RA – act

Relationships

4. Want all stakeholders to be happy – attitude
5. Diagnose stakeholders' problems – plan
6. Use stakeholders' ideas to create better ideas – act

7. Keep up with the literature

Told often enough to be Effective RAs



What are characteristics of Effective RAs?



Theory: Requirements on requirements

- correct
- consistent
- complete
- unambiguous
- verifiable
- traceable

Quality
Requirements

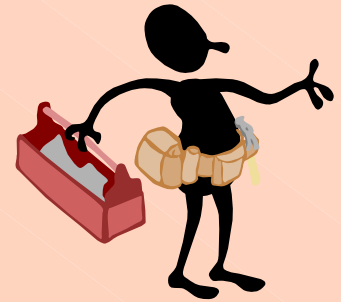
Axel's requirements on the requirements process

- goal-oriented
- incremental
- systematic
- multiple-models
- formal, when needed
- flexible
- seamless transition to arch

Practice: Level of detail depends on

- degree of shared knowledge between RA and customer
- degree of system criticality

Be an Effective RA



Perform activities, apply techniques, and adhere to principles that **lead** to requirements that are

- correct
- consistent
- complete
- unambiguous
- verifiable
- traceable

**Quality
Requirements**

Are there any?

Ethnomethodology?

Box-and-arrow modelling?

Goal, agent, object modelling?

Viewpoints?

Formal modelling? Multi-logic modelling?

Agile methods?

Why the Disconnect?

What is the main obstacle to our achieving Quality Requirements?

- A. Ignorance of Quality Requirements
- B. Lack of desire to aim for Quality Requirements
- C. Lack of methods or discipline to achieve Quality Requirements

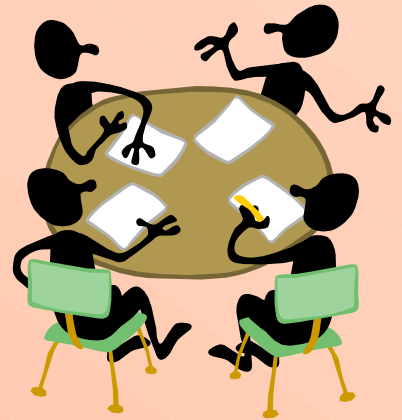
Insert your opinion here



7 Habits of Highly Effective Requirements Analysts (RA)

1. Believe you can be an effective RA
2. Decide what it means to be an effective RA
3. Be an effective RA
4. Want all stakeholders to be happy
5. Diagnose stakeholders' problems
6. Use stakeholders' ideas to create better ideas
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Relationships



Habits involving Stakeholders

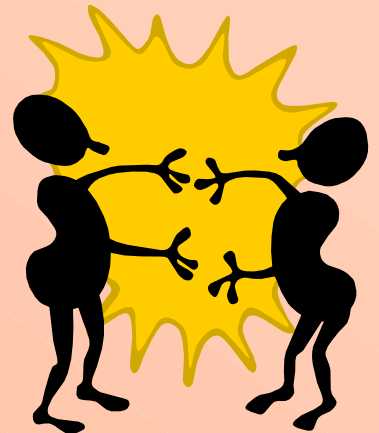
4. Want all stakeholders to be happy
 - Value stakeholders' opinions
5. Diagnose stakeholders' problems
 - Be problem-oriented rather than solution oriented
6. Use stakeholders' ideas to create better ideas
 - Create consensus solutions



Habits involving Stakeholders

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But 7 Habits are about establishing and maintaining long-term relationships



General Insights

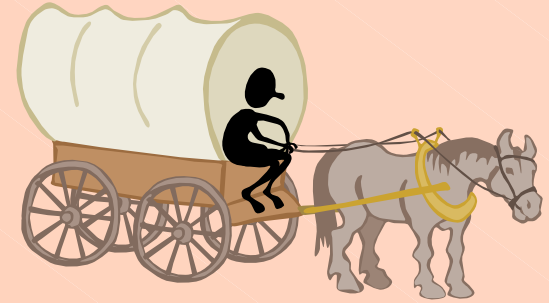
7 Habits

- Believe you can be who you want
- Decide who you want to be
 - Be who you want to be
- Want everyone to be happy
- Seek to understand people's problems
 - Use others' ideas to create better ideas
- Take care of yourself

For RAs

- Believe you can be an effective RA
- Decide what an effective RA is
 - Be an effective RA
- Want all stakeholders to be happy
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We're on the Right Track!



- The 7 Habits were distilled from a study of thousands years of wisdom literature
- Effective requirements analysis habits are analogous to the 7 Habits

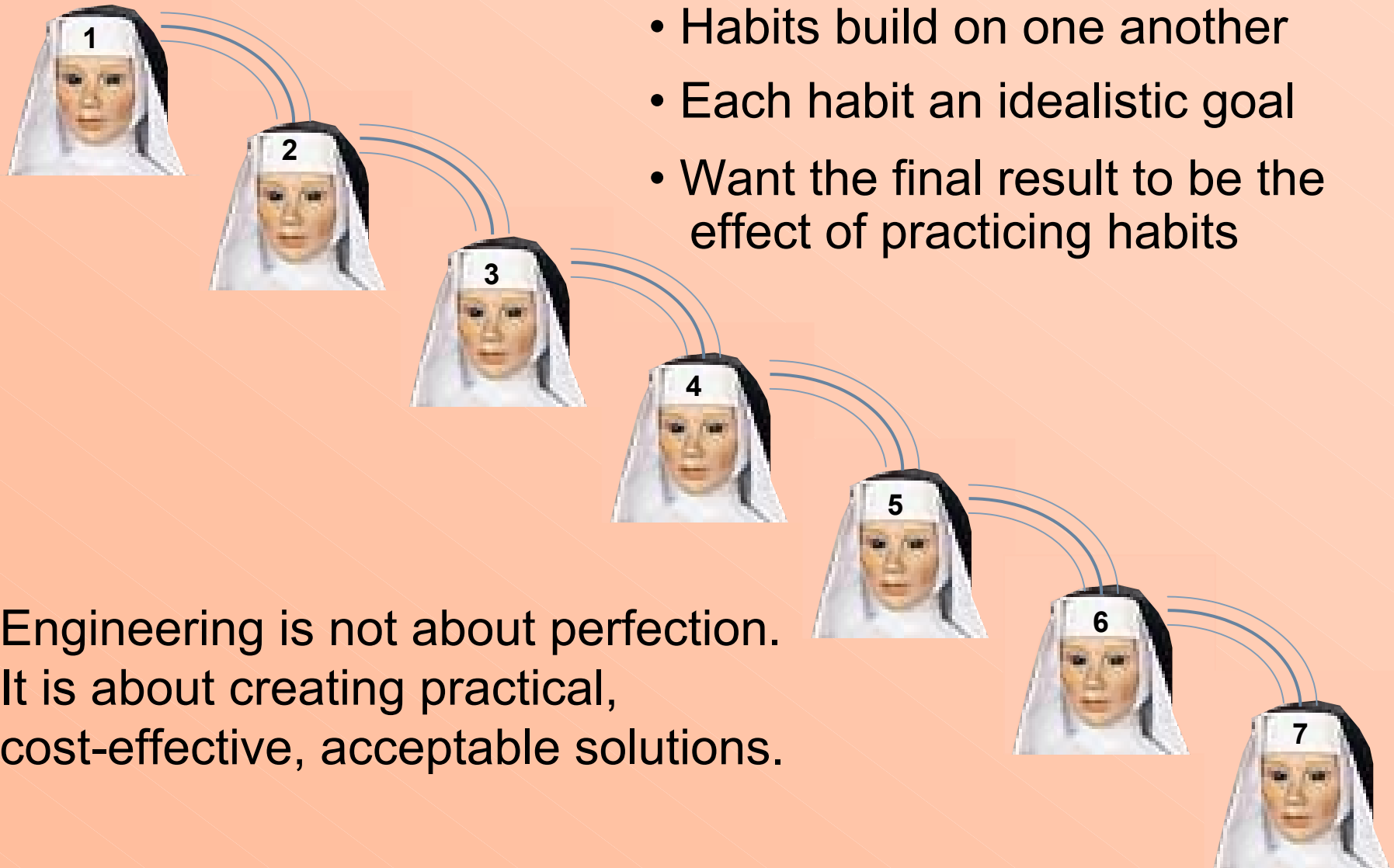
∴ Effective requirements analysis habits conform to advice given in wisdom literature

Could argue that requirements analysis is the oldest profession of computing.

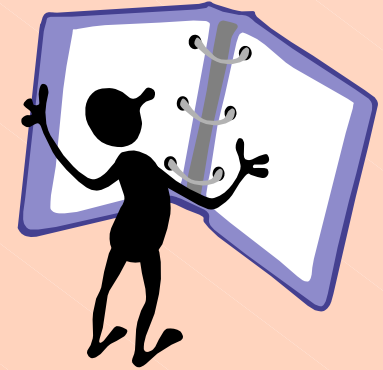
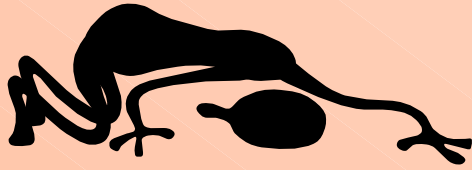
Basis for an RA Maturity Model?

Because the habits build on one another, we can have maturity levels RAM1...RAM7

Idealistic Model (a la the waterfall process model)



Engineering is not about perfection.
It is about creating practical,
cost-effective, acceptable solutions.



7. Take care of yourself

(eat well, exercise, sleep, learn, love, find peace of mind)



Questions?

