SED (CITS2220) Practical Class 1
Week 3 (10th March 2010)
Using Requirements and Design Documents

Objectives
In this practical you will study the documentation from a real software engineering project. You will gain an overview of the constituent parts of a software development effort, and see how the large body of information can be organized using a structured documents and html navigation.

Task
In CS Lab 2.01 visit the SED download web page and click on the James project link for Practical 1 to bring up the James web page. Briefly familiarize yourself with the material on the page and then search it for answers to the following questions. Note that the James system was developed during a final year group project at CMU university – the author’s are students like yourself rather than experienced professionals, so don’t be surprised to find incomplete documentation or arguments and presentations which are not very polished.

James System Questions

1. What software life cycle model do the developers plan to use? (Hint: see the SPMP)
2. What sort of risks do the developers envisage and outline in the Software Project Management Plan? Do you think the contingency plans suggested are adequate?
3. What is the difference between functional requirements and non-functional requirements? Look at the Problem Statement and RAD documents for examples.
4. The Problem Statement describes what this system is required to do, and this is expanded in the various Requirements Analysis Documents. Browse the Problem Statement Document and also the RAD for the Travel Assistant and make notes of what type of information about the problem is added in the RAD.
5. Software Engineering involves modeling, creative problem solving, knowledge acquisition and is rationale driven. Find and make a note of evidence of each of these 4 activities in the documentation. (Hint: you should look at, for example, the Travel Assistant RAD)
6. Read Sections 9.2.2 and 9.3.3 in the Rationale section of the Software Design Document. Do you agree with the conclusions the groups reached? Can you think of any other arguments for or against these issues?
7. List some of the techniques that the developers use to manage change and complexity during software development.