Documents

- Proposal
- Requirements
- Architecture
- Schedule
- Design Documentation
- Test and Deployment Plan
- User Documentation
- Web Site
Proposal

• Short: Only a few paragraphs.
• Group membership. Contact information.
• Describe the nature, scope, and purpose of the project. High level overview.
• Answers question, “Why this project?”
• Audience: Management, potential users. potential investors.
• Include comparisons with similar products.
Requirements

• Detailed description of what the project must do.
• Ideally prepared in consultation with users.
• Don’t include any design. *Easy to do this accidentally.*
• Include absolute requirements and “nice to have” requirements… but keep them separate.
Architecture

- Overall structure of the system. Hardware and software blocks + interactions.


- User Interface. Not necessarily GUI, but every product has some sort of interface.
Schedule

• Partitioning
  – Define milestones
  – Parts not necessary same as blocks

• Schedule
  – When will component tasks be complete?

• Budget
  – How much will things cost?

• Resource allocation (especially personnel)
  – Who is doing what?
Design Documentation

- Audience: Other developers.
- Elaboration of the architecture.
- Hardware blocks, schematics, etc.
- Software structure, pseudo-code, UML, etc. Raw source code for “critical” sections
- Discussion of design trade-offs.
- Future directions.
Test and Deployment Plan

• Describes how testing is done.
• Describes how the system is deployed.
• Audience:
  – Quality assurance personnel.
  – System administrators (who will setup the system).
• Here is where you can present special features of interest only to administrators.
User Documentation

- **Audience**: People using the product.
- Quick Start and Installation.
- Tutorial.
- Reference.
- Troubleshooting information.
- User docs can be on web site.
Quick Start

• As short as possible
• Designed for users who don’t read documentation
• Contains essential facts and warnings only
• Contains installation procedure if appropriate
Tutorial

• Can be long or short, depending on product
• Provide conceptual model
• Organize to allow jumping around… yet also support orderly development
• Include exercises with solutions
• Include material for both basic and advanced users
Reference

- All features discussed *exhaustively*
- Organize so that specific topics can be found easily
- Okay to assume reader already has significant knowledge of the system
- *Not* a tutorial!
Web Site, Part 1

- **Audience:** Potential users and User support.
- **Motivation for product.**
- **Comparison with other products.**
- **Features**
- **Pricing and ordering information.**
- **Contact information.**
Web Site, Part 2

- FAQ
- Link to user documentation.
- Detailed troubleshooting guide.
- Updates/patches.
- User support forum.