

TOOLS FOR REQUIREMENTS-CENTERED COLLABORATION

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Outline

- Problem
- Solutions - EGRET
- Solutions - Wiki
- iRequirePlus
- iRequirePlus - Feedback
- Q&A

The Problem

How do you manage requirements-centered collaboration in a distributed environment?

Problems

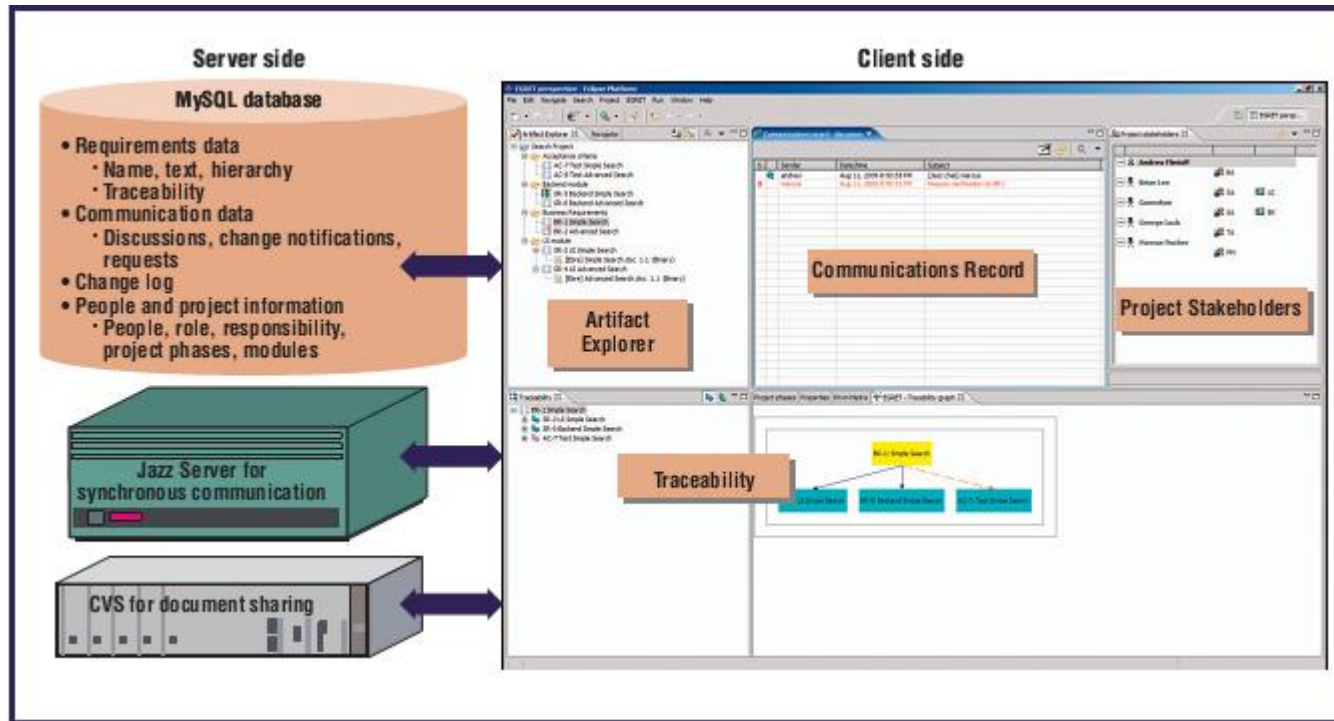
- Different culture
- Different time zone
- Data privacy
- Communication and Discussion
- Managing changes
- Knowledge transfer

Proposed Solution- EGRET

Sinha, Sengupta, Chandra describe the need for a system that addresses the problem in an integrated yet familiar way, EGRET.

- Integrates familiar email and chat software into the RM tool for informal collaboration
- Uses MySQL and CVS as repositories for requirements and design elements
- Assigns requirement ownership to a specific stakeholder and allows others to subscribe to requirement threads
- Communicates the project state through a series of views

EGRET – Infrastructure



EGRET Evaluation

- + Integration of email and chats with requirements
- + Subscription to requirements and notification
- + Very helpful in
 - Discussing on Requirements
 - Defining Project Plans
 - Requirement version
 - Change request management
- Limitation of linking only to CVS repo

Proposed Solution - Wiki

- Wiki as RE Collaboration tool
- Lightweight approach to documentation
 - Easy page linking
 - Page-history capture
- Managing Communication
- Managing Conflicts
- Document Structure for wiki-based RE
 - Project and User Hompages
 - User Stories, Actors, and Use Cases

Wiki - Pros and Cons in RE

Table 2

Pros and cons of wikis used in requirements engineering

	General wikis	RE-specific wiki (for example, Software Operations Platform wiki)
Description	■ Requirements are stored in general-purpose wiki systems	■ Requirements are stored in RE-specific semantic wikis such as SOP
Pros	■ Support for collaboration ■ Support for grouping requirements into individual documents (for example, for specific releases) ■ Support for requirements versioning ■ Low cost (mostly open source software) ■ No tool licenses required ■ Also applicable in other development phases, such as testing	■ Support for collaboration ■ Support for grouping requirements into individual documents ■ Support for requirements versioning and baselining ■ Low cost (mostly open source software) ■ No tool licenses required ■ Also applicable in other development phases, such as testing
Cons	■ Untyped links (because regular wikis can't capture the nature of a link between documents) ■ No explicit baselining of requirements; versioning content across several pages is difficult ■ Users must remember page names to be linked ■ Difficult to export page content ■ Missing features for restructuring content, particularly for classifying and reclassifying pages ■ Missing replication of wiki content	■ Increased complexity of wiki syntax to denominate metadata ■ Missing replication of wiki content

iRequire Plus and WeQuire

15 Elicited Requirements

Top Requirements/Loosely Prioritized

- Reciept Tracking
- Houseplant care
- Scouting Activities
- Prepaid copies
- Logoed Merchandise

iRequire Plus and WeQuire

Most requirements were for applications

- Broad
- Ideas were complete but most need decomposition

Good tool for capturing spontaneously elicited requirements

Experience with WeQuire

- More than 1 picture per requirement
- Location privacy?
- iRequirePlus + Winbook?

Q & A