

Tools for Requirements-Centered Collaboration

Group 2

Agenda

- Collaboration in Distributed Requirements Management
- Wikis
- RE-specific wikis
- Difference with traditional tools

Collaboration in Distributed Requirements Management

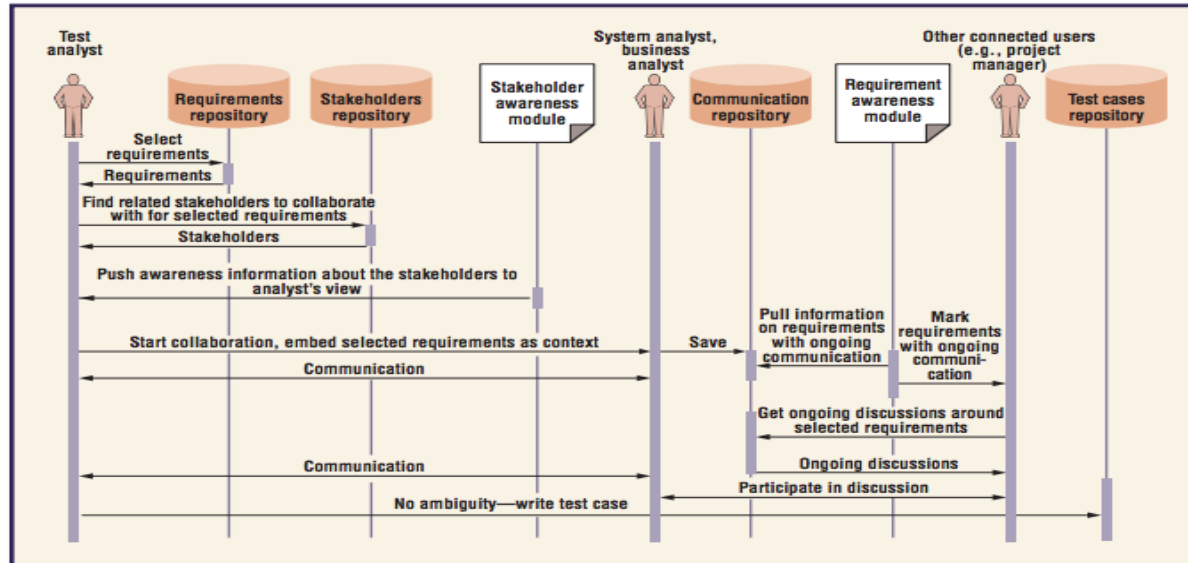
Problem: Requirements management can be difficult in situations where stakeholders are distributed.

Solution: “Egret” a new collaborative tool for distributed requirements management.

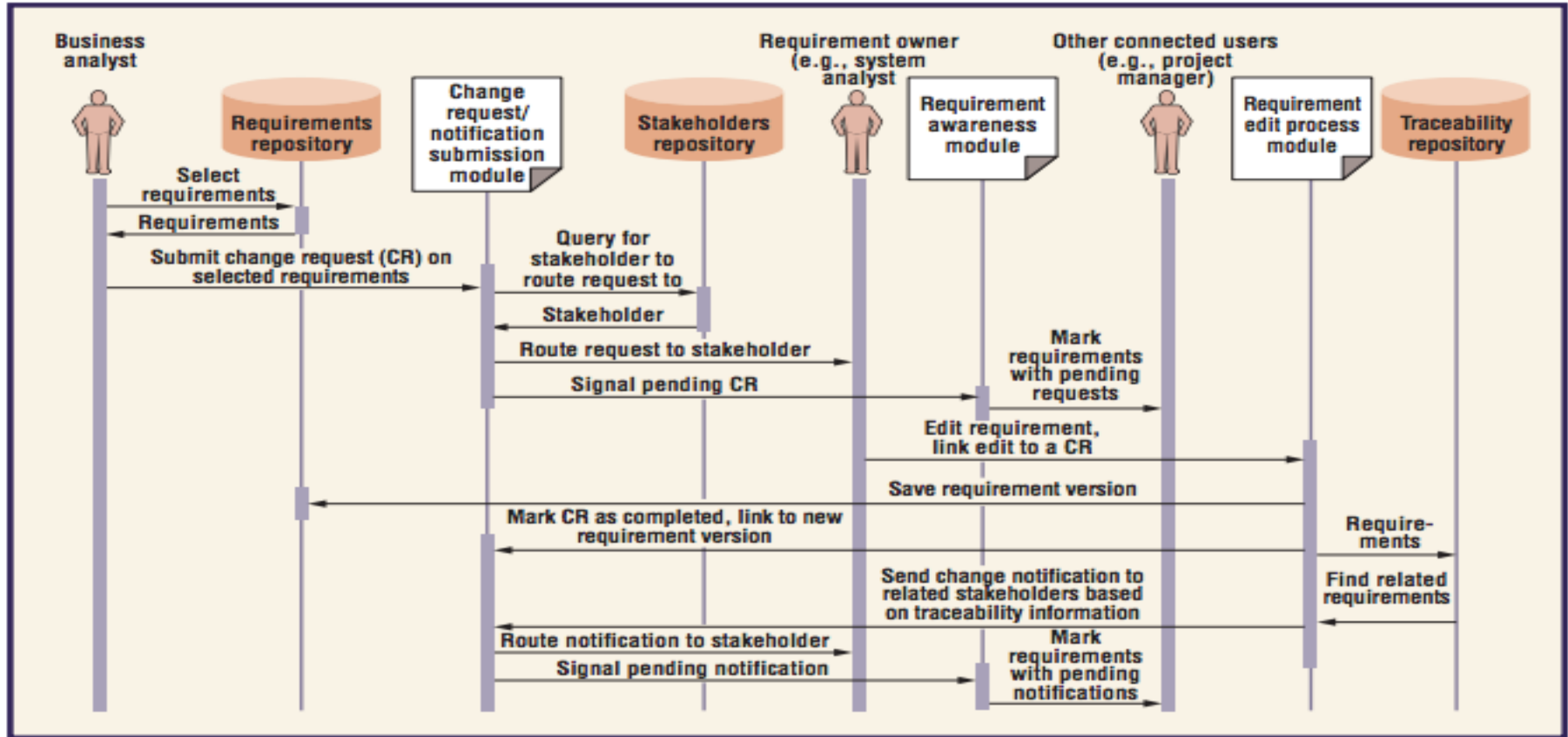


Outsourcing -> Geographic separation -> Bad communication -> Requirements defects

- Methods of communication: email, phone and chat
- Existing requirements management tools are primarily used for storing requirements
- An effective tool for requirements communication should combine a way to Document requirements as well as a place for discussion



Managing Requirements Changes



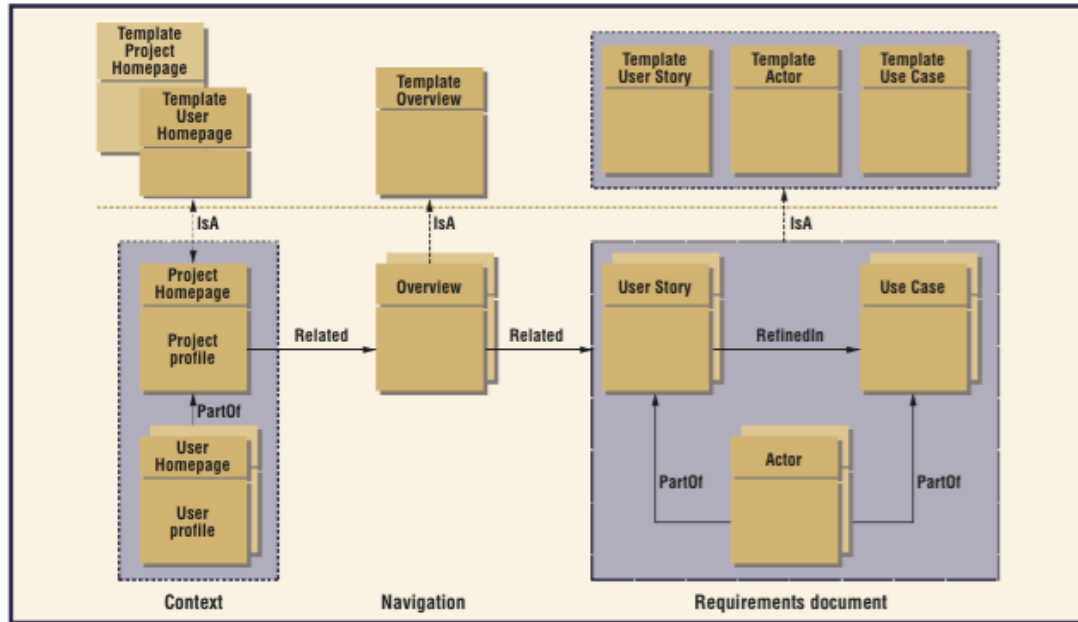
Egret case study reveals important design considerations:

- Compatibility with existing collaboration mechanisms
- Uniform access and user-authentication
- Interoperability with tools belonging to subsequent life-cycle stages
- Web interface for increased accessibility



Wikis

- Lightweight approach to documentation
- Structured based on templates



Wikis (cont'd)

- Easy page linking
 - Reduces redundancy by making it easier to link content
 - Provide indicators on
 - unfocused areas
 - not well-integrated requirements
 - conflicts
- Page-history capture
 - provides a foundation for requirements traceability on a per-document basis

RE-specific wikis

- Address the shortcoming of general purpose wikis
 - Provide linking support
 - Support for versioning across several pages and baselining
 - Exporting content of wiki pages
 - Use of metadata(page properties) to define relationship typed links

Difference with traditional tools

- More powerful than plain office suites or collaborative tools
 - Support versioning and baselining
 - Support typed links
- Easier to use and tailor than proprietary RE tools
 - Easier to learn
 - General-purpose documentation platform
 - Low cost (mostly open source software)
 - No tool license required

Questions

- What do you think about the disadvantage of using Wiki-based RE tool?