

Tools for Requirement-Centred Collaboration

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Topics:

- Problems in distributed environment
- Solution offered by EGRET
- Solution offered by Wiki
- Question & Answer



Problems in a distributed requirement management system

- Geographic separation of teams
- Multiple development teams with interlinked requirements
- Multiple stakeholders affected by change in requirements
- Clear accountability and authority attribution
- Knowledge management
- Cross platform interaction
- Disparate databases and systems handling bits and pieces of the information

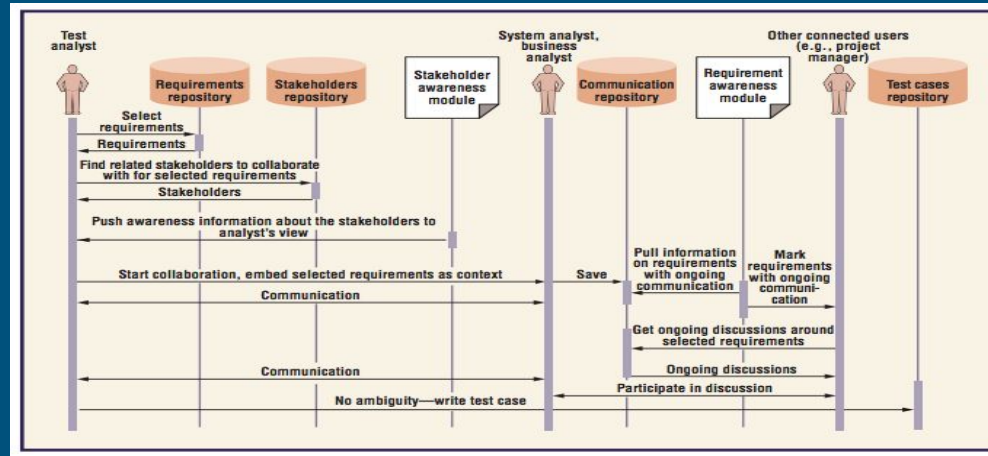
Functions to focus on

- Communication and discussions
- Managing changes
- knowledge management
- Promoting awareness



The authors have described their tool 'EGRET' in the context of these functions

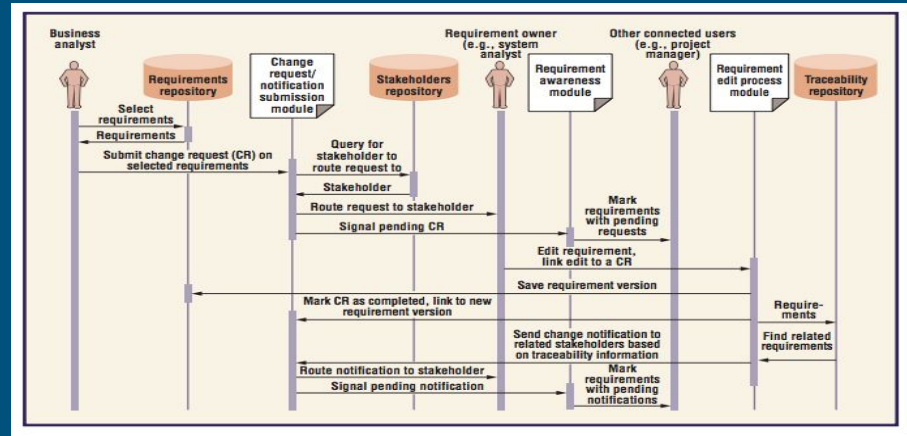
Communication & Discussions



- Requirement and communication environments are not integrated
- Context switching leads to fragmented information
- Necessity to initiate discussions from existing context
- Synchronous and asynchronous communications to be linked to databases with a common reference

Managing changes

- All stakeholders to be identified
- Change management would involve information only along with approval requests
- Primary approval from requirement authority (owner) but supportive approval from colocated projects with interrelated requirements
- Ownership and subscription model of EGRET



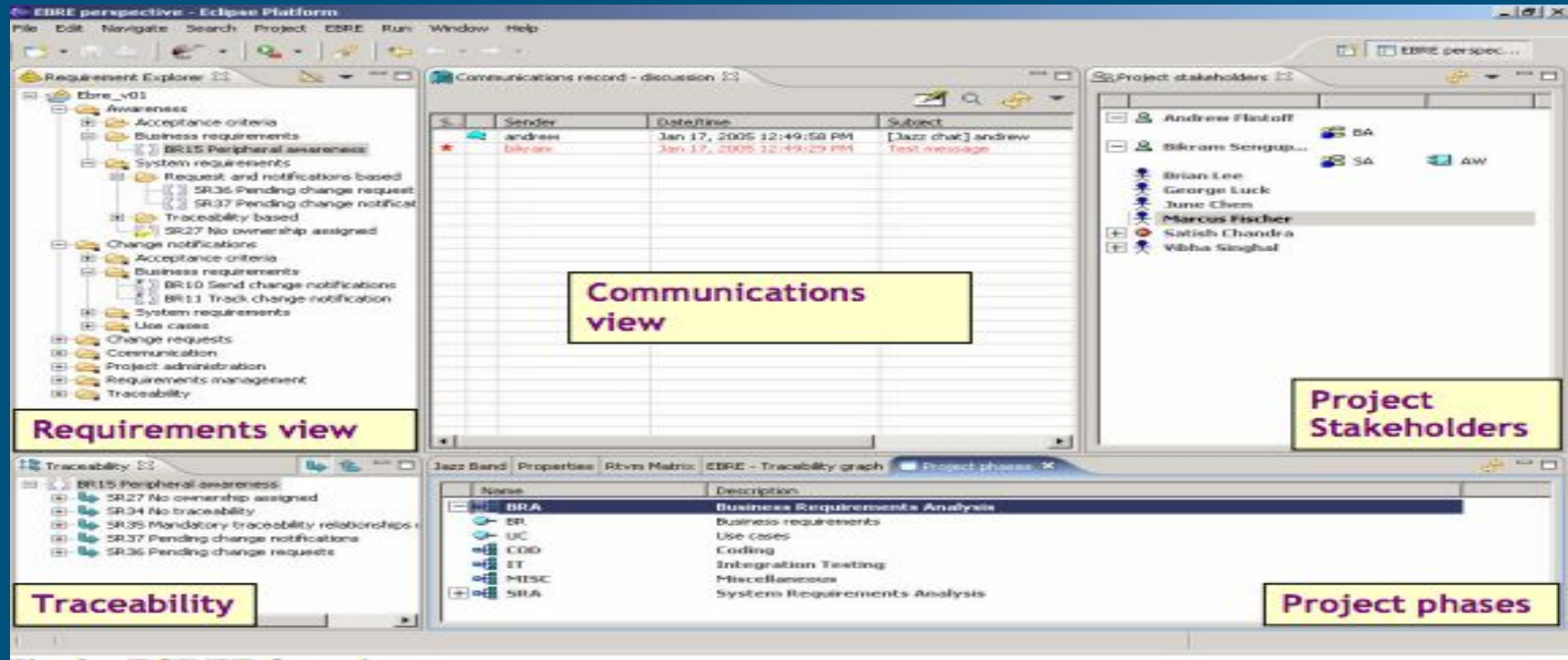
Knowledge Management

- Building a referenced repository of information
- Query and retrieve feature
- Visualisations of traceability data
- Potentially discovering hidden traceability links

Promoting Awareness

- Opportunity to enhance peripheral awareness
- Forums and colour codes can improve awareness
- Log in status of team members enhances feeling of colocation

A Snapshot of Egret



What is Wiki?

Wikis offer a flexible platform for asynchronous collaborative support of active stakeholder participation in requirements engineering.

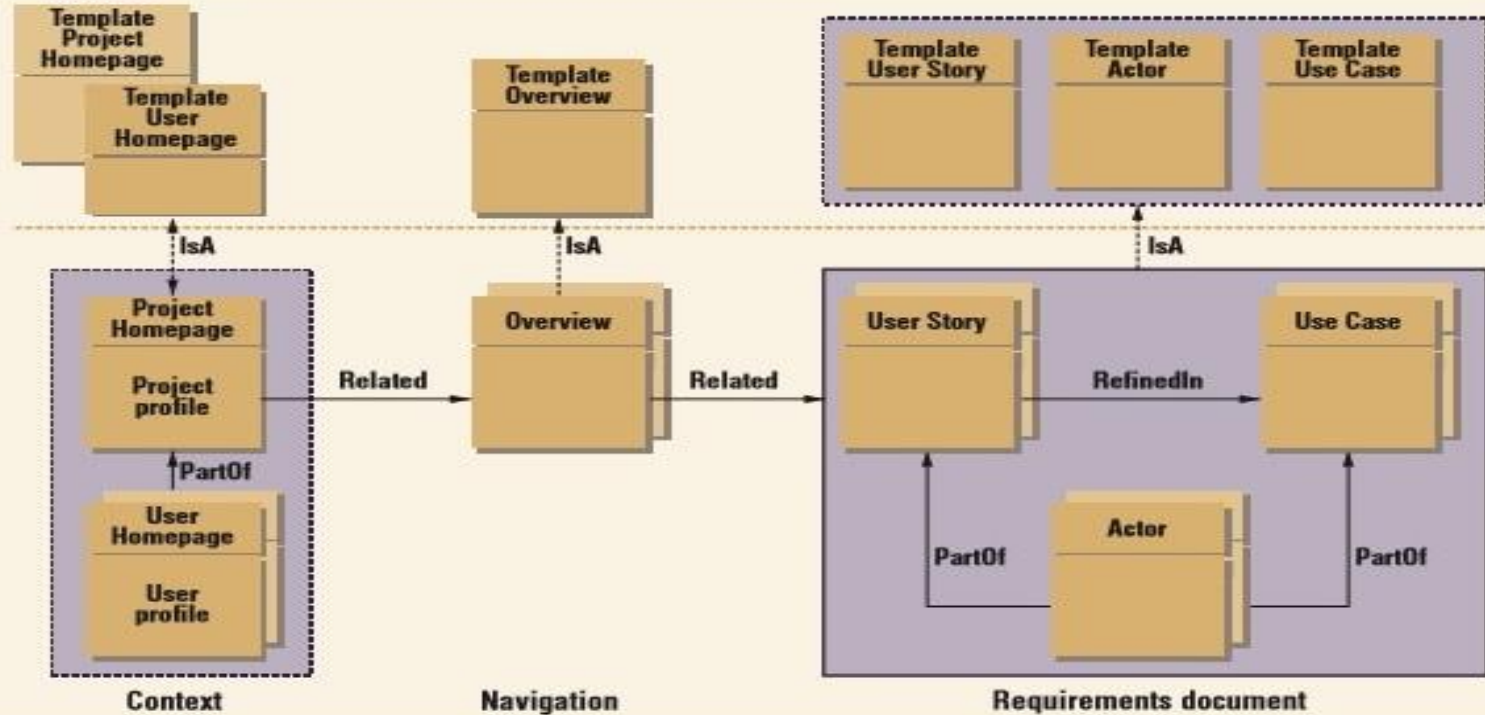


Using wikis in Requirement Engineering:

- Managing Communication
- Handling conflicts



A document structure for wiki based RE:



Wiki problems:

1. Remembering page names.
2. Versioning across several pages.
3. Exporting the content of wiki pages.
4. Missing features for restructuring content.
5. Multiple page (re)classification.
6. Missing replication of wiki content.



Pros and Cons of wikis used in RE:



Pros

1. Support for collaboration
2. Support for grouping requirements into individual documents
3. Low cost (mostly open source software)
4. No tool licenses required
5. Also applicable in other development phases, such as testing

Cons

1. Users must remember page names to be linked
2. Difficult to export page content
3. Missing features of restructuring content, particular for classifying and reclassifying pages
4. Missing replication of wiki content

**THANK
YOU**

