Requirements Determination is Unstoppable: An Experience Report

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2010

This case study shows what happens when you don't work out all the assumptions, exceptions, and variations of your features before you start coding them.

Paraphrases of some quotations

Not enough time for RE.

RE is timeboxed.

Coding starts too early.

Coding is done to early requirements.

Results in many project change notices (PCNs).

Stealth changes with
no PCN to avoid
reproach a PCN earns.

Testing effort estimated based on very early requirements.

It seems that …

RE is being stopped before it has run its course.

Perceptions

How do people perceive any new requirements determined after delivery of the RS?

Creep!

even though the new requirements may be what was missing because of terminated RE.

But, But, But …

If we don’t stop RE,
it will go on forever!

Like a mother’s work, RE is never done!

Yes and No

Yes:

There are *always* new requirements for software that is being used [Lehman], …

and iterative methods are for dealing with those kinds of new requirements.

Yes and No, Cont'd

No:

Once a scope is picked — and you cannot complete the code without pinning down *some* scope — there are no *new* requirements, only *as yet undiscovered* requirements.

and fixing the code to match the newly discovered requirements that were always there is much more expensive than never having to fix the code, because it was written correctly from the beginning.