

RE tools survey (part 1, collaboration and global software development in RE tools)

Thank you very much for participating in this survey, which will allow your tool to become part of a research study to be published in [IEEE Software](#) and [International Conference on Global Software Engineering](#), which both address a broad international community of engineers.

The survey is structured in two parts:

- (1) a mandatory part concerning the collaboration and global software development capabilities of RE tools;
- (2) an optional part concerning the general capabilities of RE tools.

The questionnaire includes questions extracted from a new international framework for the evaluation of the requirements engineering tool capabilities. All those questions derived from regulation ISO/IEC TR 24766:2009 are marked with the label "ISO", and mandatory questions are labeled with the symbol "**".

We estimate that you should be able to fill in the first part of the questionnaire in 10 minutes.

The questions are shown as follows. Please, read and answer them carefully.

There are 23 questions in this survey

RE tool general information

1 [0001]Vendor *

Please write your answer here:

2 [0002]Tool name *

Please write your answer here:

3 [0003]Tool version *

Please write your answer here:

4 [0004]Years of first and last release *

Please write your answer here:

5 [0005]Total number of versions released since the creation of the tool *

Please write your answer here:

6 [0006]Platform required (e.g. Windows XP/Vista/7, Linux) *

Please write your answer here:

7 [0007] Eclipse-level support *

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No	I don't know
The RE tool provides an interface for Eclipse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8 [0008] Type of license

The RE tool is:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No
Open-source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Free	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9 [0009] Price

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° Answer was 'No' at question '8 [0008]' (Type of license The RE tool is: (Free))

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Less than 100	100 to 500	501 to 1000	More than 1000
Average cost per individual license (in U.S. dollars)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10 [0010] Worldwide coverage

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	0 to 100	101 to 1000	1001 to 10000	More than 10000
Amount of licenses in use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11 [0011] Part(s) of the requirements engineering (RE) process for which the RE tool is intended: *

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Requirements elicitation
- Requirements analysis
- Requirements specification and modeling
- Requirements verification and validation
- Requirements management

12 [0012]Collaboration

We talk about Distributed Software Development when a software development project is carried out in many business worksites or locations, and the project members may not see each other face to face, but are all working collaboratively towards the outcome of the project. Global Software Development is a specific form of distributed software development which involves globally distributed teamwork in locations which are situated in different continents or time zones. Thus, in your opinion the RE tool supports:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No
Distributed Software Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global Software Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13 [0013]In your view, to what degree is the RE tool applicable in distributed collaborative work? *

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Very low	Low	Medium	High	Very high
Degree of applicability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14 [0014]Please provide 1-2 scenarios on how your tool is used in distributed teams:

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

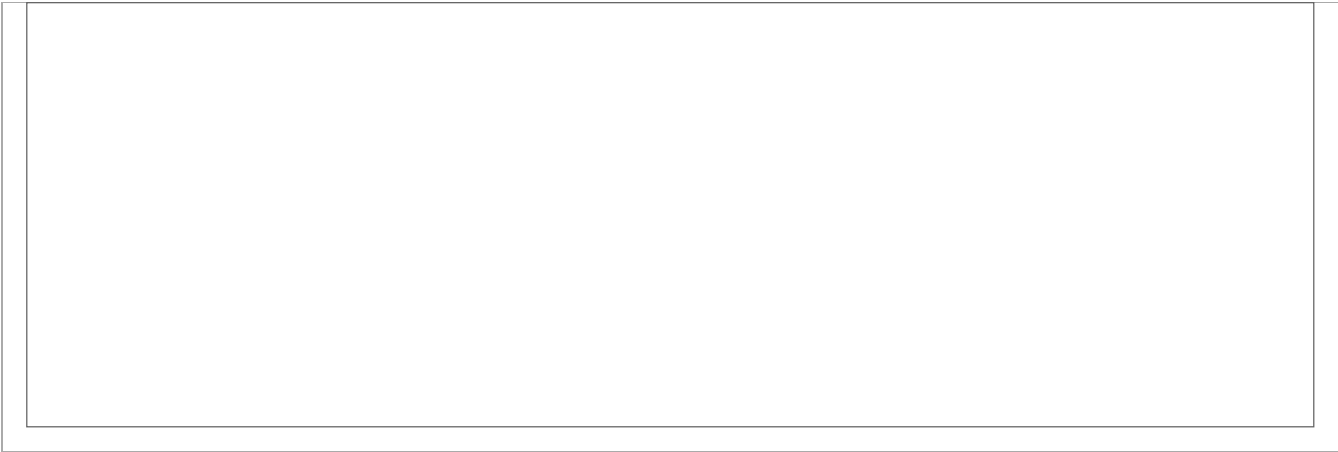
° Answer was 'Yes' at question '12 [0012]' (Collaboration We talk about Distributed Software Development when a software development project is carried out in many business worksites or locations, and the project members may not see each other face to face, but are all working collaboratively towards the outcome of the project. Global Software Development is a specific form of distributed software development which involves globally distributed teamwork in locations which are situated in different continents or time zones. Thus, in your opinion the RE tool supports: (Distributed Software Development))

Please write your answer here:

15 [0015]Comments

Fill in this box if you wish to comment on the topics on this page or if you have experienced difficulties with them:

Please write your answer here:



Collaboration and global software development

16 [0016](ISO) Decision methods

Multiple stakeholders decide how to manage and resolve conflicting requirements. The RE tool supports decision methods as follows:

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Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No	I don't know
Supporting an interface to a separate terminology (glossary) or domain knowledge repository	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Checking requirements' conformity to predefined templates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storing and managing the list of conflicting requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storing and managing the information and rationale for resolved results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17 [0017](ISO) Review and inspection

Reviewing and inspecting requirements is used for identifying ambiguous requirements and for validating requirements. The RE tool should support review and inspection as follows:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No	I don't know
Accessing to large numbers of stakeholders and users for review and comment on requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing user and group security for each requirement (e.g. access, read only, read-write)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Generating reports on requirements by user defined sort criteria (e.g. attributes, key words)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing user comments and review edit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storing and managing discussion threads linked to a specific requirement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining history of all changes for each requirement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storing and managing the review and inspection results (e.g. how it was done and who was responsible)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18 [0018](ISO) Collaborative access

In a distributed development environment, the synchronization of developers and access permissions to the requirement artifacts are key functions for ensuring integrity. The RE tool supports role-based collaborative access as follows:

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Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No	I don't know
Maintaining data integrity under simultaneous multi-user access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Yes	No	I don't know
Assigning roles to users and groups of users	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assigning role-based access to sets of requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assigning role-based access to attributes of requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assigning role-based access to tasks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining the role-based access schema	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19 [0019]Control and coordination

There are control and coordination difficulties inherent to managing a global software development project. The RE tool supports control and coordination features as follows:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No	I don't know
By providing security mechanisms (e.g. cryptography and encryption, digital signature)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By implementing offline features and later providing online synchronization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By managing the various stakeholders' schedules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By assisting in the common planning of meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By managing the virtual meetings (e.g. official announcements, agendas, topics)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By managing the face-to-face meetings (e.g. official announcements, agendas, topics)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By implementing a knowledge acquisition and sharing infrastructure (e.g. knowledge center, requirements repository, meetings repository)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By maintaining awareness (i.e. individuals working together need to gain some level of shared knowledge about each other's activities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By integrating an intercultural analysis tool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20 [0020]Loss of communication

The geographical distribution of teams in multiple time zones creates a detachment which may lead to a loss of communication. The RE tool supports prevention of loss of communication as follows:

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Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No	I don't know
By integrating an e-mail system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By integrating an online discussion forum	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By integrating a wiki	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By integrating a semantic wiki	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By integrating an online chat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By integrating a virtual blackboard	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By integrating audio conference	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By integrating video conference	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Yes	No	I don't know
By allowing a distributed requirements negotiation process through discussion threads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By allowing a distributed requirements negotiation process through a voting system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By providing internationalization features (e.g. different languages, character sets, date formats)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21 [0021] Misunderstandings and misconceptions

Misunderstandings and misconceptions can be caused by temporal, geographical and socio-cultural distances. The RE tool supports prevention of misunderstandings and misconceptions as follows:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No	I don't know
By showing local time (e.g. world clock) and working hours on each site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By taking a common standard for the current time (e.g. Coordinated Universal Time)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22 [0022] Mutual trust

In global software development it is difficult to establish the necessary trust among distributed work teams. The RE tool supports mutual trust as follows:

*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	No	I don't know
By providing socio-cultural knowledge reuse (e.g. repository of cultural descriptions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By assisting in the establishment and management of teams (e.g. team-mates grouped by culture or nationality)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By facilitating social interactions in face-to-face meetings (e.g. programme of activities, conclusion of the meeting, photo albums, notice board)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23 [0023] Comments

Fill in this box if you wish to comment on the topics on this page or if you have experienced difficulties with them:

Please write your answer here:

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Thank you very much! You have finished the first part of the questionnaire, concerning collaboration and global software development.

Next, if you are in agreement, we will ask you some questions regarding general capabilities in your RE tool, which have principally been obtained from the ISO/IEC TR 24766:2009, "Information technology — Systems and software engineering — Guide for requirements engineering tool capabilities". Your participation signifies that your tool will be part of a research study to be published in [IEEE Software](#) and [International Conference on Global Software Engineering](#), which both address a broad international community of engineers. We have estimated that you should be able to fill in the second part of the questionnaire in about 15 minutes. You can now finish the questionnaire if you wish; otherwise, you can find the link to the second part of the questionnaire below.

Please submit by 01.15.2011 – 00:00

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.