Systems Analysis AND Design

IN A CHANGING WORLD

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SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND DESIGN In a Changing World

Seventh Edition

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Systems Analysis and Design in a Changing World, Seventh Edition

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DEDICATION

To my wife JoAnn—JWS

To my immediate and extended family—RBJ

To Dee, Amelia, and Alex—SDB

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Systems Analysis and Design in a Changing World, Seventh Edition, was written and developed with instructor and student needs in mind. Here is just a sample of the unique and exciting features that help bring the field of systems analysis and design to life.

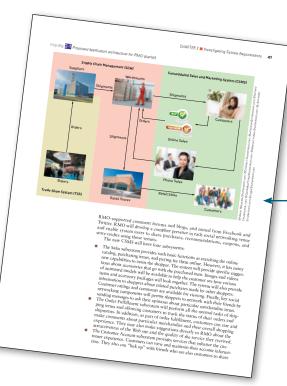


The innovative text organization starts with a complete beginning-to-end system development example, moves immediately to systems analysis models and techniques, and then moves to systems design concepts emphasizing system architecture, user-interface design, and database design. Analysis and much of design is covered in the first nine chapters. Next, the text focuses on managing system development projects, including project planning and project management, after the student has a chance to learn what is involved in system development. Finally, the text covers detailed object-oriented design techniques and deployment topics.

The text uses a **completely updated** integrated case study of moderate complexity—**Ridgeline Mountain Outfitters** (**RMO**)—to illustrate key concepts and techniques. In addition, a smaller RMO application—the Tradeshow System—is used in Chapter 1 to introduce the entire system development process.

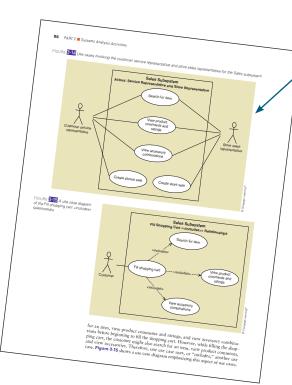




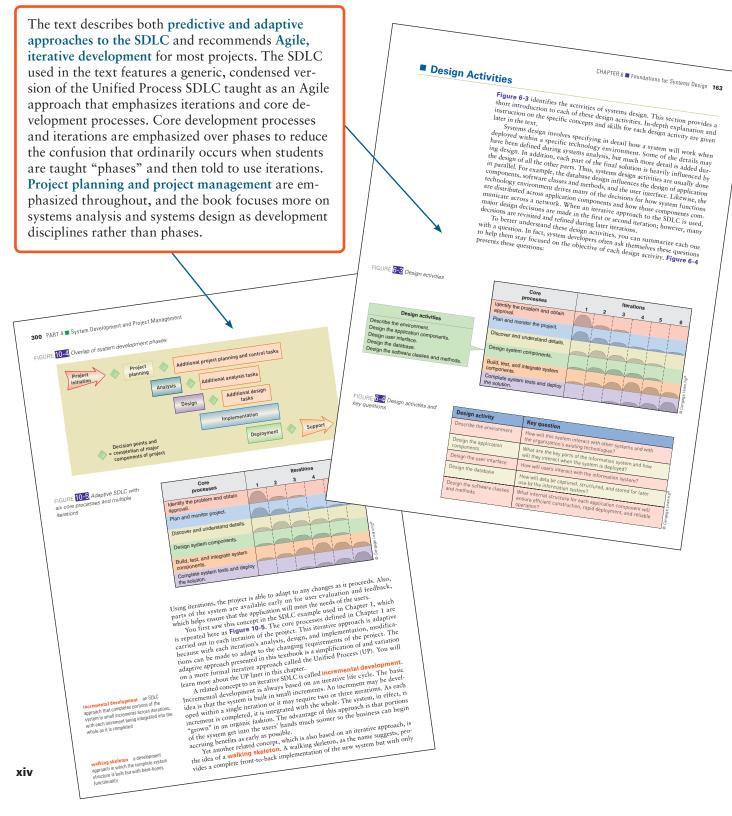


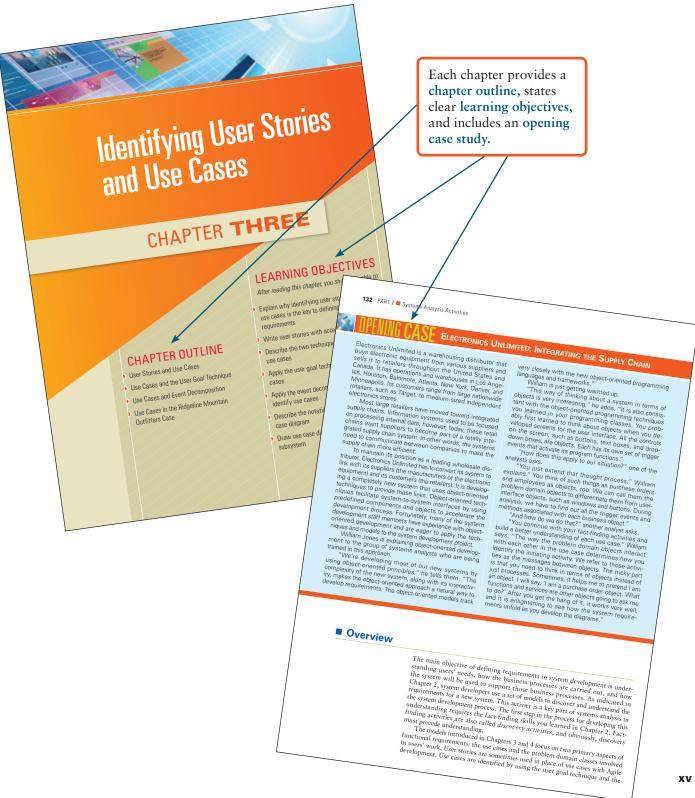
The planned RMO application architecture provides for rich examples—a Web-based component, a wireless smartphone/ tablet application, and a client/server Windows-based component. All RMO applications described are integrated and strategically planned. The Supply Chain Management System already exists, ready for integrating the Tradeshow System and the new Consolidated Sales and Marketing System.

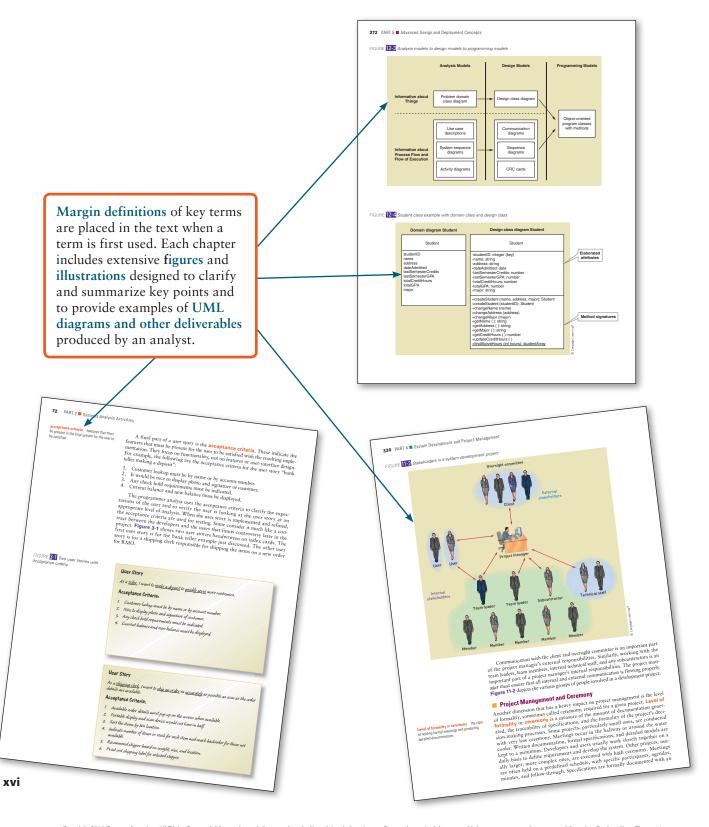
The new Consolidated Sales and Marketing System (CSMS) is the system development project described in Chapter 2 and used throughout the text for examples and explanations. It is strategically important to RMO, and the company must integrate the new system with legacy systems and other planned systems. There are four subsystems, and the requirements and design models are shown in detail. UML diagrams are used throughout for examples and exercises.

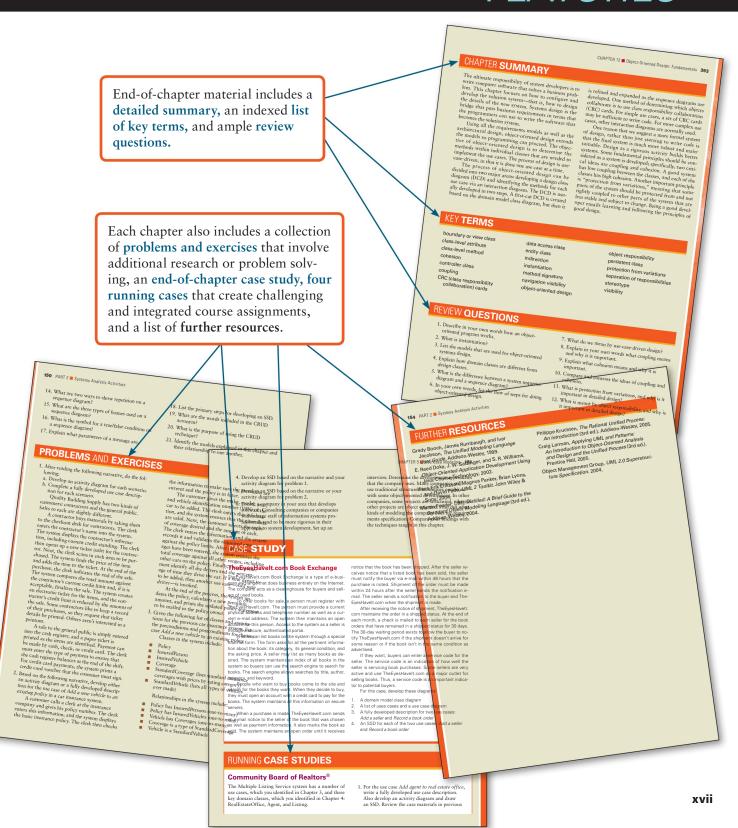












PREFACE

When we wrote the first edition of this textbook, the world of system development was in a major transition period—from structured methodologies to object-oriented methodologies. We were among the first to introduce a comprehensive treatment of object-oriented methodologies, and *Systems Analysis and Design in a Changing World, Seventh Edition*, continues to be the leader in teaching UML and object-oriented techniques.

However, change continues. Today, many new initiatives and trends have become firmly embedded in the world of system development. First and foremost is the ubiquitous access to the Internet throughout the global economy. The resulting explosion of connectivity means that project teams are now distributed around the world. In addition, large providers (such as Microsoft) and a proliferation of small providers now contribute to a wonderfully rich and varied software development environment.

In order to manage system development teams in today's distributed, fast-paced, connected, ever-changing environment, the techniques for software development and the approach to project management have expanded. Along with the foundational project management principles, additional approaches and philosophies provide new, success-oriented methodologies, such as Agile iterative, incremental development approaches. These are thoroughly covered in this edition.

Even though *Systems Analysis and Design in a Changing World, Seventh Edition*, continues to be the leader in its field, with thorough treatment of such topics as user stories, use cases, object-oriented modeling, comprehensive project management, the Unified Modeling Language, and Agile techniques, it was time to take another step forward in textbook design. This edition uses an innovative approach to teaching systems analysis and design, taking advantage of the new teaching tools and techniques that are now available. As a result, not only is systems analysis and design easier to learn by using this approach, it is also easier to teach. It brings together the best approaches for teachers *and* students.

In this edition, we accomplish four major new objectives. First, we teach all the essential principles of system development—principles that must be followed in today's connected environment. Second, we teach and explain the new methodologies and techniques that are now available because of widespread connectivity. Third, we have organized and revamped the textbook so that it teaches these new concepts in a new way. Fourth, we created a set of short videos that explain key concepts and walk the reader through UML diagrams to help with understanding complex modeling.

For example, Chapter 1 presents a complete iteration in the development of a new system. Students get to see that complete iteration—from beginning to end (through implementation and testing)—before having to learn abstract

principles or memorize terms. Also, the newly written running cases throughout the book focus on current issues of communication and connectedness and take the students through all aspects of system development. We have also expanded the *Instructor's Materials* and enhanced the aids available through CourseMate, our online resource. Additional online chapters are also available to enhance and extend the learning experience.

Finally, we updated and enhanced the set of *over 30 short videos* that explain key concepts in the text. These videos have been very well received and are even better with the new edition. These videos are useful for blended and online classes as well as traditional classes. The videos range from 3 to 10 minutes, and provide just-in-time explanations for often difficult to understand concepts, such as iterative development and Agile development, and illustrate important techniques such as identifying user stories and use cases. Most importantly, the videos show by demonstration how to read and interpret important UML models such as the domain model class diagrams, use case diagrams, sequence diagrams, and package diagrams. Understanding detailed UML models is finally possible in a way no other text can match.

We are excited about this new approach. The time is right for new materials and new tools for teaching systems analysis and design. Instructors will find this textbook intuitive, powerful, and easy to use. Students will find it engaging and empowering. Many concepts are presented so the students can teach themselves, with coaching and direction provided by the professor. It will be an rewarding experience to teach and learn with this textbook.

Innovations

This edition is innovative in many respects. It includes key concepts from traditional and object-oriented approaches, covers the use case-driven approach (with UML modeling being detailed in depth), emphasizes Agile and iterative development, and incorporates the latest concepts in Agile project management. Also, the material is completely reorganized to better support learning systems analysis and design.

Coverage of Object Orientation and Traditional Analysis and Design

This textbook is unique in its integration of key systems-modeling concepts that apply to the traditional structured approach and the object-oriented approach—user goals and events that trigger system use cases, plus classes of objects/data entities that are part of the system's problem domain. We devote one chapter to identifying user stories and use cases and another chapter to modeling key objects/entities, including coverage of entity-relationship diagrams, while emphasizing UML domain model class diagrams. After completing these chapters, instructors can cover structured analysis and design by including an online chapter, or they can focus on object-oriented analysis and design by using the chapters in this textbook. It is assumed from the beginning that everyone should understand the key object-oriented concepts. The traditional approach isn't discarded; key structured concepts are still included. But these days, most instructors are emphasizing the object-oriented approach.

■ Full Coverage of UML and the Object-Oriented Approach

The object-oriented approach presented in this textbook is based on the Unified Modeling Language (UML 2.0) from the Object Management Group, as originated by Grady Booch, James Rumbaugh, and Ivar Jacobson. A model-driven approach to analysis starts with user stories and use cases and then defines problem domain classes involved in the users' work. We include requirements

modeling with use case diagrams, domain modeling, use case descriptions, activity diagrams, and system sequence diagrams. The FURPS+ model is used to emphasize functional and nonfunctional requirements.

Design principles and design patterns are discussed in depth, and system architecture is modeled by using UML component diagrams and package diagrams. Detailed design models are also discussed in detail, with particular attention given to use case realization with CRC cards, sequence diagrams, and design class diagrams.

Project Management Coverage

Many undergraduate programs depend on their systems analysis and design course to teach project management principles. To satisfy this need, we cover project management by taking a four-pronged approach. First, specific project management techniques, skills, and tasks are included and highlighted throughout this book. This integration teaches students how to apply specific project management tasks to the various activities of the system development life cycle (SDLC), including iterative development. Second, complete coverage of project planning and project management is included in a separate chapter. Third, we include a 120-day trial version of Microsoft Project Professional in the back of this book so students can obtain hands-on experience with this important tool. Fourth, a more in-depth treatment of project management techniques and principles is provided in an online chapter on this book's Web site. This information is based on the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK), as developed by the Project Management Institute—the primary professional organization for project managers in the United States.

Organized for More Effective Learning

This edition's innovative and entirely new organization starts with a complete beginning-to-end example of system development, moves immediately to systems analysis models and techniques, and then proceeds to system design concepts, emphasizing system architecture, user interfaces, and database design. The student sees analysis and much of design covered in the first nine chapters. Next, the text focuses on managing system development projects, including Agile development, after the student has had a chance to understand what is actually involved in system development. Finally, the text covers detailed design topics and deployment topics, going into more depth about such contemporary approaches as the Unified Process, Extreme Programming, and Scrum.

■ CourseMate Companion Web Site

Cengage Learning's *Systems Analysis and Design in a Changing World, Seventh Edition*, CourseMate brings course concepts to life with interactive learning, study, and exam preparation tools that support the printed textbook. Watch student comprehension soar as your class works with the printed textbook and the textbook-specific Web site. CourseMate goes beyond the book to deliver what you need! Learn more at cengage.com/coursemate.

■ Engagement Tracker

How do you assess your students' engagement in your course? How do you know your students have read the material or viewed the resources you have assigned? How can you tell if your students are struggling with a concept? With CourseMate, you can use the included Engagement Tracker to assess student preparation and engagement. Use the tracking tools to see progress for the class as a whole or for individual students. Identify students at risk early in the course. Uncover which concepts are most difficult for your class. Monitor time on task. Keep your students engaged.

■ Interactive Teaching and Learning Tools

CourseMate includes interactive teaching and learning tools:

- Quizzes
- Case projects
- Flash cards
- Short videos on concepts, techniques, and models
- PowerPoint presentations

These assets enable students to review for tests, prepare for class, and address the needs of students' varied learning styles.

■ Interactive E-Book

In addition to interactive teaching and learning tools, CourseMate includes an interactive e-book. Students can take notes, highlight, search for, and interact with embedded media specific to their book. Use it as a supplement to the printed text or as a substitute—the choice is your students' with CourseMate.

■ Organization and Use

Systems Analysis and Design in a Changing World, Seventh Edition, includes this printed textbook, a complete e-book, and supporting online chapters. The current printed textbook provides a focused presentation of those topics that are essential and most important for information systems developers. The online chapters extend those concepts and provide a broader presentation of several topics. The online chapters may be integrated into the course or simply used as additional readings as prescribed by the instructor.

There are three major subject areas discussed in this book: systems analysis, systems design, and project management. There are additional subject areas, which are no less important but aren't discussed in as much depth. These include systems implementation, testing, and deployment. In addition, we have taken an approach that is quite different from other texts. Because students already have a basic understanding of systems analysis and design from Chapter 1, we immediately present in-depth concepts related to systems analysis and design. We present approaches to development and project management topics later in the text. This allows students to learn those project management concepts after understanding the elements of systems analysis and design. We think it will be more meaningful for students at that point in the course.

Part 1: Introduction to System Development

Part 1, comprising Online Chapter A and Chapter 1, presents an overview of system development. Online Chapter A, "The Role of the Systems Analyst," describes basic systems concepts and the role of the systems analyst in system development projects. Chapter 1 begins by briefly explaining the objectives of systems analysis and systems design. Then, it provides a detailed, concrete example of what is required in a typical software development project. Many students who take a programming class think that programming is all you need to develop software and deploy a system. This chapter and the rest of the book should dispel that myth.

Part 2: Systems Analysis Tasks

Chapters 2 through 5 cover systems analysis in detail. Chapter 2 discusses system requirements, analysis activities, and techniques for gathering information about the business problem. Developing the right system solution is possible only

if the problem is accurately understood. Chapter 2 also explains how to identify and involve the stakeholders and introduces the concept of models and modeling. Chapters 3 and 4 teach modeling techniques for capturing the detailed requirements for the system in a useful form. When discussing an information system, two key concepts are particularly useful: the user stories/use cases that define what the end users need the system to do and the data entities/domain classes that users work with while carrying out their work tasks. These two concepts—user stories/use cases and data entities/domain classes—are important no matter what approach to system development is being used. Chapter 5 presents more in-depth requirements models, such as use case descriptions, activity diagrams, system sequence diagrams, and CRUD analysis.

Online Chapter B, "The Traditional Approach to Requirements," presents the traditional, structured approach to developing systems. To those instructors and students who desire to learn about data flow diagrams and structured English, this chapter provides an in-depth presentation.

All these modeling techniques provide in-depth analysis of user needs and allow the analyst to develop requirements and specifications. Again, the purpose of systems analysis is to thoroughly understand and specify the user's needs and requirements.

Part 3: Essentials of Systems Design

Part 3 provides the fundamental concepts related to systems design and designing the user experience. Chapter 6 provides broad and comprehensive coverage of important principles of systems design, including design activities and the crucial issues of system controls and security that all students should understand. It serves not only as a broad overview of design principles but also as a foundation for later chapters that explain the detailed techniques, tasks, skills, and models used to carry out design.

Chapter 7 provides a comprehensive overview of system architecture and is a new chapter that consolidates material previously spread out in multiple chapters. Chapter 8 presents additional design principles related to the user experience. Designing the user interface is a combination of analysis and design. It is related to analysis because it requires heavy user involvement and includes specifying user activities and desires. On the other hand, it is a design activity because it is creating specific final components that are used to drive the programming effort. The screens and reports and other user interaction components must be precisely designed so they can be programmed as part of the final system. Chapter 9 provides a compact and integrated coverage of designing the database.

Part 4: Projects and Project Management

By this point, students will have a basic understanding of all the elements of system development. Part 4 brings together all these concepts by explaining more about the process of organizing and managing development projects. Chapter 10 describes different approaches to system development in today's environment, including Agile development and several widely used development methodologies—the Unified Process, Extreme Programming, and Scrum. It is an important chapter to help you understand how projects actually get executed.

Chapter 11 extends these concepts by teaching foundation principles of project planning and project management. Every systems analyst is involved in helping organize, coordinate, and manage software development projects. In addition, most good students will eventually become team leaders and project managers. The principles presented in Chapter 11 are essential to a successful career.

Online Chapter C, "Project Management Techniques," goes into more detail regarding the tools and techniques used by systems analysts and project managers to plan and monitor development projects. For those instructors and students who would like to learn specific project management skills, this is an important chapter.

Part 5: Advanced Design and Deployment Concepts

Part 5 goes into more depth with respect to systems design, specifically objectoriented software design, and other important issues related to effective and successful system development and deployment.

Chapters 12 and 13 explain in detail the models, skills, and techniques used to design software systems. As mentioned earlier, systems design is a fairly complex activity, especially if it is done correctly. The objective of these two chapters is to teach the student the various techniques—from simple to complex—that can be used to effectively design software systems.

Chapter 14 describes the final elements in system development: final testing, deployment, maintenance, and version control.

■ Designing Your Analysis and Design Course

There are many approaches to teaching analysis and design courses, and the objectives of the course differ considerably from college to college. In some academic information systems departments, the analysis and design course is a capstone course in which students apply the material learned in prior database, networking, and programming courses to a real analysis and design project. In other information systems departments, analysis and design is used as an introduction to the field of system development and is taken prior to more specialized courses. Some information systems departments offer a two-course sequence emphasizing analysis in the first semester and design and implementation in the second semester. Some information systems departments have only one course that covers analysis and design.

The design of the analysis and design course is complicated even more by the choice of emphasizing some traditional and some object-oriented content—again, depending on local curriculum priorities. Additionally, the more iterative approach to development in general has made choices about sequencing the analysis and design topics more difficult. For example, with iterative development, a two-course sequence can't be divided into analysis and then design as easily.

The objectives, course content, assignments, and projects have many variations. What we offer below are some suggestions for using this textbook in various approaches to the course.

UML and Object-Oriented Analysis and Design Course

This is the course we designed the printed textbook to support, so all the printed chapters but none of the online chapters are included. Note that object-oriented design is included in detail. The course covers object-oriented analysis and design, user and system interface design, database design, controls and security, and implementation and testing. It is usually assumed that the projects will use custom development, including Web development. The course emphasizes iterative development with three-layer architecture, project management, information gathering, and management reporting. One-semester courses are usually limited to completing some prototypes of the user interface to give students closure. Sometimes, this course is spread over two semesters, with some implementation of an actual system in the second semester for a more complete development experience. Iterative development is emphasized.

A suggested outline for a course emphasizing object-oriented development is:

Online Chapter A: The Role of the Systems Analyst (optional)

Chapter 1: From Beginning to End: An Overview of Systems Analysis and Design

Chapter 2: Investigating System Requirements

Chapter 3: Identifying User Stories and Use Cases

Chapter 4: Domain Modeling

Chapter 5: Use Case Modeling

Chapter 6: Foundations for Systems Design

Chapter 7: Defining the System Architecture

Chapter 8: Designing the User Interface

Chapter 9: Designing the Database

Chapter 10: Approaches to System Development

Chapter 11: Project Planning and Project Management

Chapter 12: Object-Oriented Design: Fundamentals

Chapter 13: Object-Oriented Design: Use Case Realization

Chapter 14: Deploying the New System

Traditional Analysis and Design Course

A traditional systems analysis and design course provides coverage of activities and tasks by using structured analysis, user and system interface design, database design, controls and security, and implementation and testing. It is usually assumed that the project will use custom development, including Web development. The course emphasizes the SDLC, project management, information gathering, and management reporting. One-semester courses are usually limited to completing some prototypes of the user interface to give students closure. Sometimes, this course is spread over two semesters, with some implementation of an actual system in the second semester for a more complete development experience.

For this approach to the analysis and design course, a reasonable outline would omit chapters and sections detailing object orientation but include the online chapters on the role of the systems analyst and on traditional structured analysis. However, object-oriented concepts are introduced throughout the text, so students will still be familiar with them. Additionally, because of the amount of material to cover, the online chapter detailing project management, financial feasibility, and scheduling might be omitted.

A suggested outline for a course emphasizing the traditional structured approach is:

Online Chapter A: The Role of the Systems Analyst

Chapter 1: From Beginning to End: An Overview of Systems Analysis and Design

Chapter 2: Investigating System Requirements

Chapter 3: Identifying User Stories and Use Cases

Chapter 4: Domain Modeling

Online Chapter B: The Traditional Approach to Requirements

Chapter 6: Foundations for Systems Design

Chapter 8: Designing the User Interface

Chapter 9: Designing the Database

Chapter 10: Approaches to System Development

Chapter 11: Project Planning and Project Management

Chapter 14: Deploying the New System

In-Depth Analysis and Project Management

Some courses cover object-oriented systems analysis methods in more depth and briefly survey structured analysis—with not much about object-oriented design—while emphasizing project management. Sometimes, these courses are graduate courses; sometimes, they assume design and implementation are covered in more technical courses. In some cases, it might be assumed that packages are likely solutions rather than custom development, so defining requirements and managing the process are more important than design activities. The online chapters covering the role of the systems analyst, the traditional approach to structured analysis, and project management would be included.

A suggested outline for a course emphasizing object-oriented analysis, with in-depth coverage of project management, is:

Online Chapter A: The Role of the Systems Analyst

Chapter 1: From Beginning to End: An Overview of Systems Analysis and Design

Chapter 2: Investigating System Requirements

Chapter 3: Identifying User Stories and Use Cases

Chapter 4: Domain Modeling

Chapter 5: Use Case Modeling

Online Chapter B: The Traditional Approach to Requirements

Chapter 6: Foundations for Systems Design

Chapter 8: Designing the User Interface

Chapter 10: Approaches to System Development

Chapter 11: Project Planning and Project Management

Online Chapter C: Project Management Techniques

Chapter 14: Deploying the New System

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Figure files allow instructors to create their own presentations by using figures taken directly from this text.

■ Credits and Acknowledgments

We have been very gratified as authors to receive so many supportive and enthusiastic comments about *Systems Analysis and Design in a Changing World*. Students and instructors in the United States and Canada have found our text to be the most up-to-date and flexible book available. The book has also been translated into many languages and is now used productively in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, India, China, and elsewhere. We truly thank everyone who has been involved in all the editions of our textbook, particularly Lori Bradshaw who managed the development of the seventh edition.

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Rob Anson, Boise State University
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Introduction to System Development

PART **ONE**

- Online Chapter A
 The Role of the Systems Analyst
- Chapter 1
 From Beginning to End:
 An Overview of Systems Analysis and Design

From Beginning to End: An Overview of Systems Analysis and Design

CHAPTER ONE

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Software Development and Systems Analysis and Design
- The System Development Life Cycle (SDLC)
- Iterative Development
- Introduction to Ridgeline Mountain Outfitters (RMO)
- Developing RMO's Tradeshow System
- Where You Are Headed—The Rest of This Book

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

- Describe the purpose of systems analysis and design when developing information systems
- Explain the purpose of the system development life cycle (SDLC) and identify its six core processes
- Explain how information system methodologies provide guidelines for completing the six core processes of the SDLC
- Describe the characteristics of Agile methodologies and iterative system development
- Based on the Ridgeline Mountain Outfitters
 Tradeshow System example:
 - Describe how the six core processes of the SDLC are used in each iteration
 - Identify key documents used in planning a project
 - Identify key diagrams used in systems analysis and systems design

■ Software Development and Systems Analysis and Design

You have grown up in a world of ubiquitous computing, where computers are everywhere and are increasingly characterized by mobility, communication, and connectivity. You use smartphones, laptops, notepads, and wearable devices throughout the day. Some of you have already developed your own application software or have friends who have written applications for these devices. Some of you have taken programming classes; others have taught yourself how to write computer application programs. In one way or another, you are certainly interested in building computer applications and information systems.

Although you are most likely more familiar with your mobile devices, there is much more to building information systems than just that. Information systems exist to support all aspects of business organizations and have done so for centuries. The ancient Mesopotamians conducted business and had accounting information systems 3,000 years ago—using clay tablet technology. Electronic computers have been a part of these information systems only for the last 50 years. The technology changes, but information systems have a long history.

An **information system** is a set of interrelated components that collect, process, store, and provide as output the information needed to complete business tasks. The information system always includes people who operate the system and carry out some of the work. In Mesopotamia, people did just about all of the work required. Now, of course, electronic computing devices do most of the work, although not all. If you are at the library typing in some search terms using the online catalog, you are part of the information system—the part that supplies the input and consumes the output. If you are using your bank's online information system, you are part of the information system—the part that selects which account to use to pay a specific bill.

More recently, another term has been used to refer to an information system—a computer application. A **computer application** is a computer software program that executes on a computing device to carry out a specific function or set of related functions. Sometimes, *computer application* is shortened to **app** (such as an iPhone app or an Android app). Many people use the terms information system and computer application interchangeably, but remember that an information system includes people and their manual procedures and an application usually refers just to the software.

Consider the information system your university or college uses to support students. It is an elaborate system that likely integrates admissions, financial aid, course scheduling, and even individual course support. You probably access this information system through the network using a desktop workstation at home or in a computer lab, a wireless notebook computer, an iPad or tablet, an iPhone or an Android phone, and even a wearable device such as a smartwatch or Google Glass. There might be an app that connects to the system seamlessly from your device, or you might connect through a browser on your desktop, notebook, or other devices. **Figure 1-1** shows a variety of devices all connecting to the same University Student Support System.

Each information system (or app) was conceived and built to satisfy some need. When the information system is completed, it is used productively to satisfy that need. Our purpose here is to describe the process by which an information system is created from perceived need through actual use. As noted in this chapter's title, systems analysis and systems design are key components of this process.

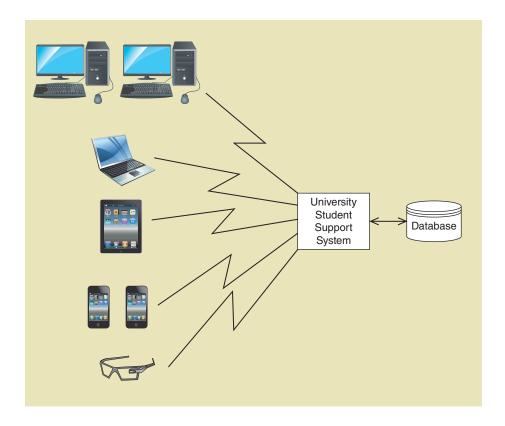
Systems analysis consists of those activities that enable a person to understand and specify what the new system should accomplish. The operative words here are *understanding* and *specifying*. Systems analysis is more than a brief

information system a set of interrelated components that collect, process, store, and provide as output the information needed to complete business tasks

computer application or app a computer software program that executes on a computing device to carry out a specific function or set of related functions

systems analysis those system development activities that enable a person to understand and specify what the new system should accomplish

FIGURE 1-1 A variety of devices all connected to the same information system



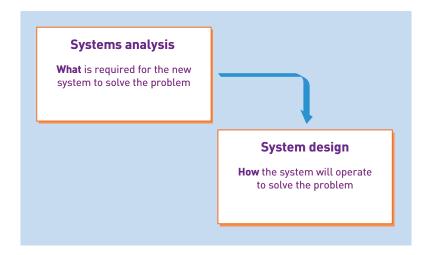
systems design those system development activities that enable a person to describe in detail how the resulting information system will actually be implemented

statement of the problem. For example, a customer management system must track customers, register products, monitor warranties, and track service levels, among many other functions—all of which have many details. Systems analysis describes in detail *what* a system must do to satisfy the need or solve the problem.

Systems design consists of those activities that enable a person to describe in detail how the information system will actually be implemented to provide the needed solution. In other words, systems design describes *how* the system will actually work. It specifies in detail all the components of the solution system and how they work together. See **Figure 1-2** to help distinguish between analysis and design.

Systems analysis and design plays an integral role in the development of information systems. To illustrate, consider an analogous situation: the art and

FIGURE 1-2 Systems analysis versus systems design



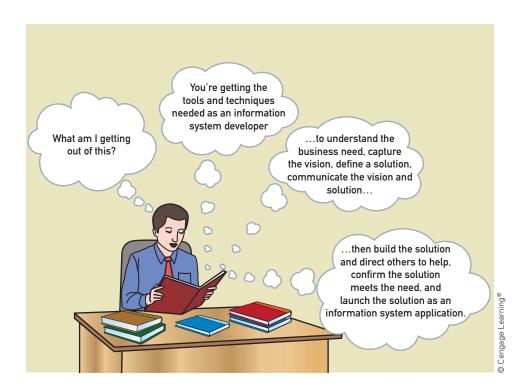
science of creating a new building. In this scenario, there is the owner of the land who has the vision, the builder who will construct the building, and the architect who serves as the bridge between the owner and the builder. The architect helps the owner develop the vision, but must also communicate the building's specifications to the builder. In doing so, the architect uses various tools to first capture the vision from the owner and to then provide the builder with instructions—including line drawings, blueprints, to-scale models, detail specifications, and even on-site inspection reports.

Just as a builder doesn't start construction without plans, programmers don't just sit down and start writing program code. They need someone (maybe themselves) to function like an architect—planning, capturing the vision, understanding details, specifying needs—before designing and writing the code that satisfies the vision. Usually, we call this person a *systems analyst*. In situations where you are the programmer as well as the analyst (often called a *programmer-analyst*), it might be possible to keep track of the details without many formal notes. However, in today's world, with system development teams often distributed worldwide, you might only be responsible for part of the programming, with the rest handled by team members in different locations. In a distributed team situation or with a complicated project, it is much more important to create formal requirements documents that capture each components' specifications.

In a nutshell, systems analysis and design provides the tools and techniques you need as an information system developer to complete the development process:

- 1. Understand the need (business need).
- 2. Capture the vision.
- 3. Define a solution.
- 4. Communicate the vision and the solution.
- 5. Build the solution or direct others in building the solution.
- 6. Confirm that the solution meets the need.
- 7. Launch the solution application.

FIGURE 1-3 What analysis and design provides for the system developer



■ The System Development Life Cycle (SDLC)

project a planned undertaking that has a beginning and an end and produces some end result

system development life cycle (SDLC)

a framework that identifies all the activities required to research, build, deploy, and often maintain an information system

system development process or methodology a set of comprehensive guidelines for carrying out all of the activities of each core process of the SDLC

FIGURE 1-4 Six core processes of the SDLC

Initial development of a new information system is usually done as a project. A **project** is a planned undertaking that has a beginning and an end and produces some end result. This means that the activities required to develop a new system are identified, planned, organized, and monitored. Some projects are very formal, whereas others are informal, usually depending on the project size.

To manage a project with analysis, design, and other development activities, you need a project management framework to guide and coordinate the work of the project team. The **system development life cycle (SDLC)** is a framework that identifies all the activities required to research, build, deploy, and often maintain an information system. Normally, the SDLC includes all activities needed for the planning, systems analysis, systems design, programming, testing, and user training stages of information systems development, as well as other project management activities that are required to successfully deploy the new information system.

There are many approaches to the SDLC, including variations specific to certain types of projects. However, every SDLC includes some core processes that are always required, though many different names are used. Here are the six core processes required in the development of any information system (see **Figure 1-4**):

- Identify the problem or need and obtain approval to proceed with the project.
- Plan and monitor the project—what to do, how to do it, and who does it.
- Discover and understand the details of the problem or the need—what is required?
- Design the system components that solve the problem or satisfy the need how will it actually work?
- Build, test, and integrate system components—lots of programming and component integration.
- Complete system tests and then deploy the solution—the need now is satisfied.

As previously stated, most information systems you will develop are conceived and built to solve complex organizational problems, which are usually very complex, thus making it difficult to plan and manage a system development project. Fortunately, there are many ways to implement the six core processes of the SDLC to handle each project's complexity. An information systems development **methodology** is a set of comprehensive guidelines for carrying out all of the activities of each core process of the SDLC. An overall **system development process** is a more recent term for methodology. Each development

Core processes

Identify the problem and obtain approval.

Plan and monitor the project.

Discover and understand details.

Design system components.

Build, test, and integrate system components.

Complete system tests and deploy the solution.

Cendade Learnin

Agile development an information system development process that emphasizes flexibility and rapid response to anticipate new and changing requirements during development

methodology prescribes a way of carrying out the development project, and every organization develops its own system development methodology over time to suit its needs.

During the last 15 years, information system research efforts have resulted in many new information systems development methodologies/processes to improve the chance of project success. These are all based on what is called **Agile development**. The basic philosophy of Agile development is that neither team members nor the users completely understand the problems and complexities of a new system, so the project plan and the execution of the project must be responsive to unanticipated issues. The plan must be agile and flexible. It must have procedures in place to allow for, anticipate, and even embrace changes and new requirements that come up during the development process. The six core processes are still involved in Agile development, but they are carried out iteratively, as explained next.

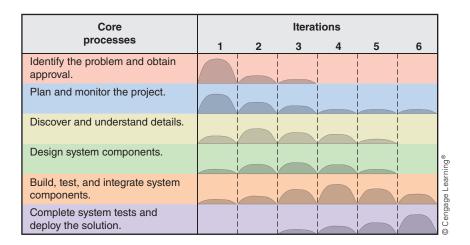
■ Iterative Development

Iterative development an approach to system development in which the system is "grown" piece by piece through multiple miniprojects called iterations

Iterative development is an approach to system development in which the system is "grown" in an almost organic fashion. Core components are developed first and then additional components are added. It is called *iterative* because the six core development processes are repeated for each component. In other words, there is one big project, which consists of a series of mini-projects, and the information system is grown piece by piece during these mini-projects. Iterative development makes Agile development possible, although Agile development includes additional techniques that help with project flexibility, too.

Figure 1-5 illustrates how an iterative project might be managed. Across the figure, you see six iterations as columns. Each iteration involves all six core processes, shown as rows in the table. At the end of each iteration, a working part of the system is completed and evaluated. An iteration lasts a fixed period of time, usually two to four weeks. The rounded mounds inside the graph represent the relative amount of effort for that core process during that iteration. For example, in Figure 1–5, Iteration 1 appears to primarily focus on identifying the problem and planning the project. Lesser amounts of discovery, design, and build/test may also be done. For this iteration, nothing is done with regard to deploying the system. In Iteration 2, there is less effort for identifying the problem and planning the project and more effort for discovery, design, and build/test. By Iteration 3, build/test gets the most effort, but all six core processes are still involved, including the beginnings of completing and deploying the system.

FIGURE 1-5 The six core processes of the SDLC showing iterations



There are several benefits to iterative development. For one, portions of the system can sometimes be deployed sooner. If there are core functions that provide basic support for users, these can be deployed in an early iteration. Second, by taking a small portion and developing it first, the most difficult problems can be identified and addressed early in the project. Many of today's systems are so large and complex that even with a formal process it is impossible to remember and understand everything. By focusing on only a small portion at a time, the requirements are fewer and easier to solve. Finally, developing a system in iterations makes the entire development process more flexible and able to address new requirements and issues that come up throughout the project.

A key element of iterative development is dividing system components into pieces that can be completed in two to four weeks. During one iteration, all the core development processes are involved, including programming and system-wide testing, so the result is a working part of the system, even though it may only have a portion of the functionality that is ultimately required. Developers choose components for each iteration based on priority, either the components most needed or riskiest to implement.

To better illustrate these concepts, we will walk through a complete example in the next sections concerning Ridgeline Mountain Outfitters (RMO). These sections use a fairly small information system to demonstrate all six core processes (as much as is feasible in a textbook, anyway). The example completes one iteration in detail, but the project actually requires multiple iterations. By going all the way through a very simple project, you will more easily understand the complex concepts provided in the rest of the text.

■ Introduction to Ridgeline Mountain Outfitters (RMO)

Ridgeline Mountain Outfitters (RMO) is a large retail company that specializes in clothing and related accessories for all types of outdoor and sporting activities. The mountain and western regions of the United States and Canada witnessed tremendous growth in recreation activities in recent years, including skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, water skiing, jet skiing, river running, sailing, jogging, hiking, ATVing, cycling, camping, mountain climbing, and rappelling. With the increased interest in outdoor sports, the market for winter and summer sports clothing and accessories exploded, so RMO continually expanded its line of sportswear to respond to this market.

The company's growth charted an interesting history of mail-order, brickand-mortar, and online sales. RMO got its start by selling to clothing stores in the Park City, Utah, area. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, it began selling directly to customers using catalogs with mail-in and telephone-order options. It opened its first store in 1994. After the Winter Olympics in Park City in 2002, business exploded and RMO quickly expanded to 10 retail outlets throughout the West and added Internet sales. Last year, retail store revenue was \$67 million, telephone- and mail-order revenues were \$10 million, and Internet sales were \$200 million. Most sales continue to be in the West, although the market in several areas of the eastern United States and Canada is growing. By the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2008, RMO's growth and profits resulted mainly from online sales and service, as with most specialty retailers; however, the brick-and-mortar and mail-order business remained important, too. After the Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014, RMO negotiated with several Utah Olympic Medal Winners for endorsements. This provided additional interest throughout the West and instigated another period of rapid growth.

Figure 1-6 shows a sample of the catalog that RMO still mails out. Although mail-order and telephone sales are modest, receiving the catalog encourages