Eliciting Requirements

Requirements elicitation is the process of gathering and defining the requirements for a software system. The goal of requirements elicitation is to ensure that the software development process is based on a clear and comprehensive understanding of the customer's needs and requirements.

What is Requirement Elicitation?

Requirements elicitation is perhaps the most difficult, most error-prone, and most communication-intensive software development.

- It can be successful only through an effective customer-developer partnership. It is needed to know what the users require.
- Requirements elicitation involves the identification, collection, analysis, and refinement of the requirements for a software system.
- It is a critical part of the software development life cycle and is typically performed at the beginning of the project.
- Requirements elicitation involves stakeholders from different areas of the organization, including business owners, end-users, and technical experts.
- The output of the requirements elicitation process is a set of clear, concise, and well-defined requirements that serve as the basis for the design and development of the software system.

Requirements Elicitation Activities:

Requirements elicitation includes the subsequent activities. A few of them are listed below:

- Knowledge of the overall area where the systems are applied.
- The details of the precise customer problem where the system is going to be applied must be understood.
- Interaction of system with external requirements.
- Detailed investigation of user needs.
- Define the constraints for system development.

Steps of Requirements Elicitation:

- Identify all the stakeholders, e.g., Users, developers, customers etc.
- List out all requirements from customer.
- A value indicating degree of importance is assigned to each requirement.
- In the end the final list of requirements is categorized as:
- It is possible to achieve.
- It should be deferred and the reason for it.
- It is impossible to achieve and should be dropped off.