

Some requirement elicitation approaches - summary

Approach	Working	Limitation	Applicability
1. Interview	It is basically a communication that takes place between two or more stakeholders. A closed interview majorly comprises closed ended questions that provides short response. An open interview majorly comprises open ended questions and tries to get the information from the stakeholders in an open discussion.	It is applicable to a small group of people. Inconsistency may affect the information. Closed interviews might miss important elements. Open interviews might be difficult to deal with.	Small group of stakeholders. Medium size projects.
2. Surveys/ Questionnaire	Questionnaire is a set of questions gathered in a paper form or in an electronic one. This technique is used for the collection of large data from a number of stakeholders. It is a cheap way to collect information in less time at a low cost.	No flexibility in stakeholder's language or idea. The effectiveness of the questionnaire depends on the design of the questionnaire and honesty of the respondent.	Large group of stakeholders. Large size projects.
3. Brainstorming	Different stakeholders participate in the discussion to produce many ideas and every member can show ideas about the product. Whatever the idea is, it can't be criticized.	All the ideas are not qualified. It might be time-consuming in case of not being organized properly. Not able to solve big issues.	Small group of stakeholders. Large/medium/small size projects.
4. Prototyping	An initial or the dummy version of the system is built so users can experience the strengths and weaknesses of the system.	Cost can increase than expected. Could be time-consuming for difficult and complex systems. A lot of resources are required.	Medium group of stakeholders. Large size projects.
5. Use case approach	It focuses on identifying and defining the interactions between a user (or "actor") and a system to achieve specific goals.	It might be time-consuming to developed all use case (especially for large case projects).	Medium group of stakeholders. Small size projects.
6. User observation	Observe users in their natural work environment to gain insights into their workflow, pain points, and requirements. Observation can be passive, active or explanatory (the user explains his actions).	Need the cooperation of the users. Time consuming. Might be inappropriate for processes that are executed over a long-time period.	Small group of stakeholders. Medium size projects.
7. Document Analysis	It involves systematic reviewing and interpreting existing documentation to identify and understand the requirements for a new system. It helps capture explicit knowledge contained in the written materials.	Need significant and quality written material.	Large/medium/small size projects.
8. Focus Groups and workshops	The objective of this group is to discuss the topic and provide information. A moderator manages this session.	It might be difficult to gather the group. A skilled moderator is required to manage focus group discussions	
9. Introspection	In this technique the analyst imagines what requirement is needed by posing questions to himself (mirroring) to determine the requirements for the system.	Experience of analyst can't reach the level of user's main requirement. Applicable only at the start of the project.	

References

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