



Chapter VII

Business Software Specifications for Consumers: Toward a Standard Format

Shouhong Wang, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, USA

Abstract

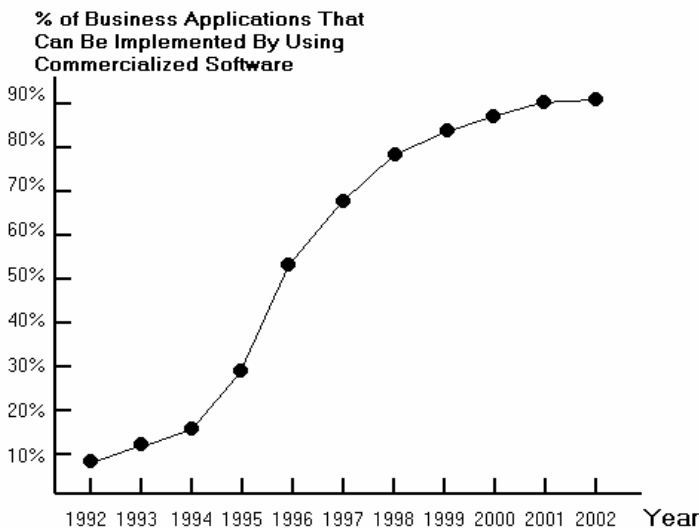
Commercialized business application software packages have been widely used to implement business information systems. In order to determine whether a software package meets the system needs, consumers must check the software specifications against the target system requirements. Since the commercial software industry does not have standard format of software specifications for consumers, free-formatted descriptions of application software and ad hoc demos are commonly used in marketing software products, but are often too ambiguous for consumers to uncover the implemented capacity. This chapter proposes a model of commercialized business software specifications for consumers. It suggests that software packages need to provide specifications for consumers in four aspects:

business operations, user-computer interfaces, user-perceived inputs and outputs, and business rules. Using an example, the chapter demonstrates the implementation of the model.

Introduction

Information systems analysis and design lies in the core of the information systems discipline. The techniques and approaches of information systems analysis and design are continually renovated. About 15 years ago, systems analysis and design projects were more likely to place the focal point on the use of databases and fourth generation languages to implement real business information systems. Gradually, systems users and consultants found that commercialized business application software packages were readily available in the software market. According to the author’s observations over the past decade in supervising 428 real-world MIS (Management Information Systems) systems analysis and design projects, the percentage of business applications that can be implemented by using commercialized software packages has dramatically increased since 1994 (see Figure 1). Clearly, the phenomenon and the trend observed are based solely on the author’s personal experience, and the

Figure 1. Increasing commercialized business software



15 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/business-software-specifications-consumers/7035

Related Content

Social Media Tools Adoption and Use by SMES: An Empirical Study

Samuel Fosso Wamba and Lemuria Carter (2014). *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing* (pp. 1-17).

www.irma-international.org/article/social-media-tools-adoption-and-use-by-smes/110330

The Importance of Ease of Use, Usefulness, and Trust to Online Consumers: An Examination of the Technology Acceptance Model with Older Customers

Donna Weaver McCloskey (2008). *End-User Computing: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (pp. 1620-1636).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/importance-ease-use-usefulness-trust/18275

Usability Optimization of a Military Training System

Roberto K. Champney, Christina M. Kokini, Kay M. Stanney and Stephanie Lackey (2013). *Cases on Usability Engineering: Design and Development of Digital Products* (pp. 355-377).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/usability-optimization-military-training-system/76808

Deep Reinforcement Learning for Adaptive Stock Trading: Tackling Inconsistent Information and Dynamic Decision Environments

Lei Zhao, Bowen Deng, Liang Wu, Chang Liu, Min Guo and Youjia Guo (2024). *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing* (pp. 1-27).

www.irma-international.org/article/deep-reinforcement-learning-for-adaptive-stock-trading/335083

Application of Improved Convolution Neural Network in Financial Forecasting

Wensheng Dai (2022). *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing* (pp. 1-16).

www.irma-international.org/article/application-of-improved-convolution-neural-network-in-financial-forecasting/289222