ASSIGNMENT NO. 2

1. In the document on Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice (Required Reading No.5), one statement reads:

   “In particular, software engineer shall, as appropriate: Be accurate in stating the characteristics of software on which they work, avoiding not only false claims but also claims that might reasonably be supposed to be speculative, vacuous, deceptive, misleading or doubtful”.

In simple terms and using your own words, explain what you understand by this statement. You may explain using an example.

2. A complete understanding of software requirements is essential to the success of a software development effort. No matter how well designed or well coded, a poorly analyzed and specified program will disappoint the user and bring grief to the developer because the user requirements are not fully understood.

   The Good Book says in Chapter 11 somewhere, "Notice that like all engineering disciplines, requirements engineering is not conducted in a sporadic, random, or otherwise haphazard fashion, but instead is the systematic use of proven approaches."

   List at least 3 proven approaches that have been used in software requirements engineering.

3. One day in the Board Room of a large and well respected corporate organization, a consultant was presenting a software project that will change the organization’s corporate identity and its existing practices (“Reengineering the Corporation”), and the CEO heard mention of the words ‘system specifications’ and ‘software specifications’ a couple of times during the presentation. At one point, he raised his hand and asked the Consultant "What is the difference between a System Specification and a Software Specification?" Assuming that you are the Consultant, how would you answer the question? A CEO is normally not a technical person.

   Hint: "Very often the software is called upon to meet the system requirement with the hardware you have. Very often, there is not a systems department to drive the project and the software engineers become system engineers.” (A quotation extracted from Required Reading No. 6.)

4. In formal documents, to prevent misinterpretation of terms there is usually a section titled “DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS’. If SRA is for Software Requirements Analysis, URSA is for User Requirements Study and Analysis, and finally SRS is for Software Requirements Specifications, in which order do you think the three processes get executed? Please clarify in your answer as to why you chose that order.

5. In the Good Book, there is a sentence in Chapter 11, “It is possible to identify primary actors during the first iteration and secondary actors as more is learned about the system”. Please explain what is ‘actors’ and what the whole sentence is all about.

Author: WRY. What is the similarity between an elephant and an ant? Think.
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