CIS 443/543 User Interfaces

In-Class Exercise for Thursday, Jan. 15
(Not Handed-in, Not Graded)

The Rosson and Carroll text is oriented toward learning the scenario-based development process. The first step in the development process is called *requirements analysis*. Its purpose is to study and understand the problem situation. Methods such as interviews with clients and other users (the stakeholders), field study observations of the current situation, and brainstorming among users and developers can be used. The output of this phase is a set of problems scenarios - stories that convey important characteristics of the users, the typical and critical tasks they engage in, the tools they use, and their organizational context as they exist currently. Features in the current situation are analyzed and used to call out features of the proposed situation. This helps move the design team and scenario content from analysis to design. Note the text website has several case studies illustrating requirements analysis
<http://ucs.cs.vt.edu/default.asp?button=2>

Assignment
1. Read Chapters 1 & 2 in the Rosson and Carroll text.
2. Read the kayaking design paper "Rapid Scout" by Ranson et al.
3. Using the kayaking example in the paper, prepare the following questions for discussion in-class.

Questions
1. How did the authors of this paper gather the information about the system context, users and activities? Describe the specific studies that they did.
2. Describe of the *root concept* for the Rapid Scout kayaking system. (See example R&C Table 2.2.) Include the following:
   a. high-level vision: problem statement and proposed solution
   b. basic rationale
   c. stakeholder groups & how they will benefit
   d. starting assumptions
3. Profile the stakeholders. Include their background, expectations, preferences, and relationships.
4. Describe one task carried out by real kayakers. (See example R&C Table 2.4)
5. Describe one scenario based on real activities of kayaking. Study the example in R&C Figure 2.13 carefully. (For a description of scenario components, see R&C Table 1.2.) The scenario must include:
   a. the setting
   b. the people involved
   c. task goals, expectations, plans and actions of the people
   d. events created by the environment
   e. artifacts, technology, and systems involved (resources)