IBM

Rational® software

IBM Rational Requirements Composer

Highlights

■ *Unifies stakeholders and delivery teams with realtime, contextual collaboration and communications for distributed teams*

■ *Helps focus business and technology professionals on solution definition using multiple visual and scenario-driven techniques*

■ *Helps improve solution quality and speed time to market with better organization, storage and retrieval of requirements information*

■ *Supports better decision making with concise information and promotes consistent requirements processes*

■ *Integrates with IBM Rational RequisitePro software to provide a comprehensive requirements definition and management solution that aligns development efforts and lifecycle management activities with business needs*

Enabling successful requirements definition and management
Organizations around the globe are facing growing pressure to quickly deliver high-quality products and services that are aligned with constantly evolving business objectives. Several factors, however, continue to make this goal difficult to achieve.

Executives struggle to align project teams with the organization's strategic vision. Stakeholders struggle to define their needs in the context of a larger solution. And project analysts and managers struggle to facilitate active collaboration to bring all the parties together to achieve shared success. Compounding the difficulty is the fact that many teams now are geographically dispersed, making collaboration more challenging than ever.

Defining software requirements in a team is like writing songs with a band. Both endeavors require a balance of skill and collaboration—and there must be an intense focus on arranging the various parts in harmony so the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

IBM Rational® Requirements Composer software is a requirements definition solution designed to unify product and service development teams on a collaborative platform and enable them to reach consensus on solutions by collecting, organizing and analyzing their business needs using simple yet powerful techniques and processes.

By providing one shared location for requirements information and driving iterative refinement toward solutions that balance the various business, user and system considerations, Rational Requirements Composer helps teams deliver solution requirements that drive improved product quality, facilitate a faster time to market, and maintain the alignment of business objectives and IT solutions across the development lifecycle.
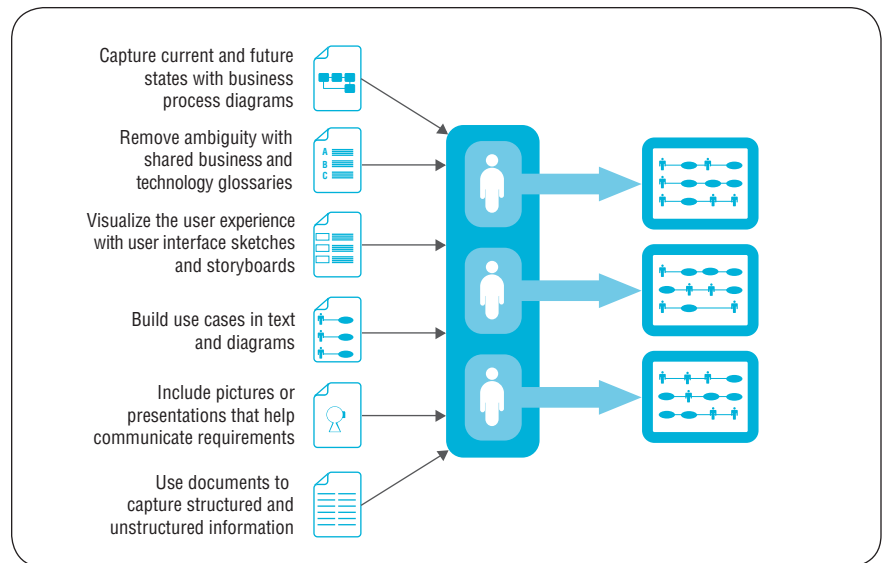
Building consensus with an open and collaborative platform
In any effective requirements definition process, the ability to center the organization and gain consensus on business needs is a key challenge. Satisfying the needs of multiple stakeholders requires continuous

and effective dialogue to overcome information and communication gaps, as well as differences in perspectives that can delay or derail projects.

To meet these challenges, Rational Requirements Composer combines a Web 2.0–based approach to team collaboration with shared workspaces, information and discussion threads. Especially adaptable to software development processes, Rational Requirements Composer gives team members customizable and security-rich project views that deliver realtime information on the new artifacts, comments and requirements that those team members should focus on. The ability to oversee the current set of requirements and engage in conversations about additional requirements information provides teams with greater insight and control.

With Rational Requirements Composer, you can exchange information directly with others in the context of the work you currently are doing—and you can easily update stakeholders and teammates on any changes to an artifact, requirement or associated asset. This open dialogue allows teams to remain focused on business needs and overcome conflicts to build a shared vision.

Requirements information can be presented in various ways. Rational Requirements Composer helps you capture and connect the web of information to define requirements.

Supporting collaboration among business and technology experts

As in a band, the key to unifying multiple project stakeholders—each with a particular interest, concern or ability—is making sure everyone is looking at the same information, using a method each person understands. When stakeholders employ a variety of visual and textual techniques for eliciting, elaborating and defining requirements, teams can then examine the same requirements solution from different perspectives. Rational Requirements Composer software provides teams with the ability to write rich-text documents, create business process diagrams, develop use-case models, and sketch user interfaces and assemble them into storyboards and scenarios so that stakeholders can understand the impacts and changes.

All artifacts and their elements can be connected to other artifacts or elements—helping to integrate the web of requirements information into scenarios that show the solution's impact on business operations, the user experience and (when the project is technology or software development) IT systems. Requirements context is further enhanced through shared glossaries, prioritized comment threads and the ability to annotate any element with more detail, including rich text, images and hyperlinks.

Rational Requirements Composer can also host Microsoft® Office documents and link them to artifacts, or it can embed artifacts into documents for streamlined, visually rich requirements specifications. This broad and flexible approach allows teams anywhere in the world to collaborate, clarify and achieve consensus quickly so they can immediately begin developing business-driven architectures, code, test plans and, ultimately, solutions.

Simplifying information organization, interaction and retrieval

The ability to capture and connect rich information in multiple formats across multiple users and projects is powerful, but it could easily overwhelm teams without equally powerful capabilities for organizing, finding and managing that information. Rational Requirements Composer provides a single location for managing all your requirements inputs where information and artifacts can be stored, tagged and linked.

The software has robust search and filter capabilities that allow users to navigate volumes of requirements information. Employing tags and filters, users can search and find relevant information easily and can navigate the connections between artifacts, requirements, comments, users and projects.

As teams build out the centralized repository with information, they assemble raw material not only for the current project but also for future work, creating requirements information they can reuse instead of re-creating every time. Rational Requirements Composer enables users to focus on their current objectives by accessing updated information via project and user-specific views including recent comments, requirements and artifacts. It maintains a history of artifact changes, enabling teams to quickly return to earlier versions of artifacts and information when necessary.

Providing embedded process guidance

Rational Requirements Composer software also provides process guidance features that can help organizations adopt new capabilities and employ proven patterns of success. And because not all organizations are the same, Rational Requirements Composer supports customization of embedded practice content to meet specific project or organizational needs. You can start from several out-of-the-box processes, and then define and refine rules on the fly.

The software enables teams to adopt the core principles of high-performance development teams—including shorter requirements iterations, collaborative and visual techniques, and faster stakeholder validation. Its customizable process guidance supports requirements definition approaches of almost any software delivery process and supports virtually all types of teams, whether their processes are flexible and easily changed or they're strictly adhered to and tightly organized.

Helping to extend your enterprise investments

But even requirements that appear to meet all needs and satisfy all stakeholders can fail to live up to their potential if they cannot be managed appropriately across the project lifecycle. To help avoid this pitfall, Rational Requirements Composer can be a core element of your requirements definition and management solution. By managing requirements information across the development lifecycle and automating the processes necessary for keeping their requirements information and teams aligned, organizations can extend their enterprise investments.

Rational Requirements Composer integrates with IBM Rational RequisitePro® software to manage your requirements across the project lifecycle. Additional out-of-the-box integrations allow you to configure the Rational requirements solution to work with many other IBM solutions, including IBM Rational ClearCase®, IBM Rational ClearQuest®, IBM Rational Software Modeler, IBM WebSphere® Business Modeler and IBM Rational Quality Manager software.

Leveraging the Jazz technology platform
Rational Requirements Composer is based on IBM Jazz™ technology, the next-generation platform for collaborative software delivery. Built on Web technology, Open Services Gateway initiative (OSGi) Alliance standards and Eclipse technology, the Jazz platform provides an extensible architecture that is designed to make software delivery more collaborative, productive and transparent. Attuned to the needs of global teams, it combines people, project and process awareness with automation to accelerate the software lifecycle and improve project governance.

For more information
To learn more about IBM Rational Requirements Composer software, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/software/awdtools/rrc

To learn more about the open commercial development project building the Jazz platform, please visit:

www.jazz.net