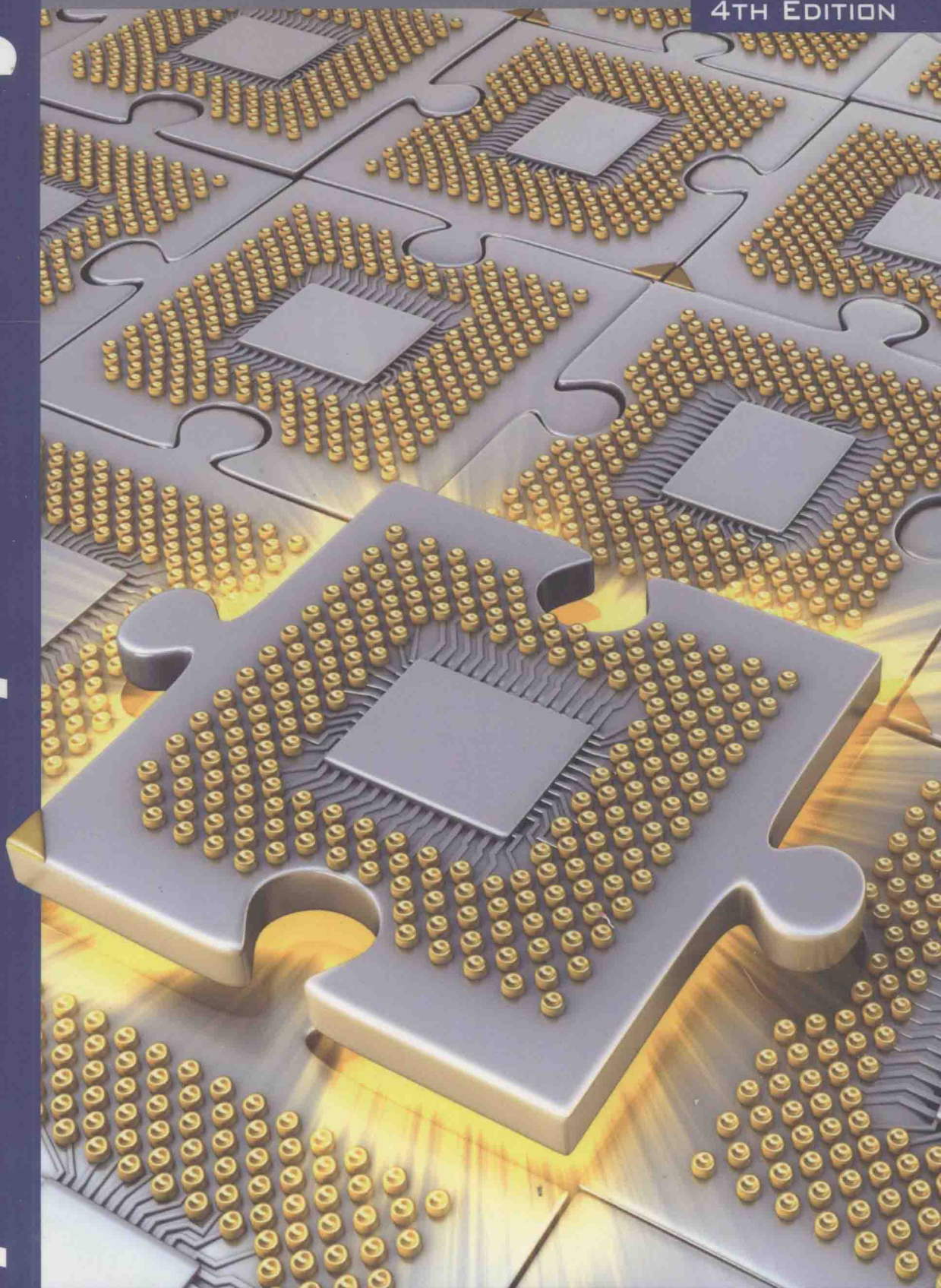


Systems Analysis and Design

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VERSION

4TH EDITION



ALAN DENNIS • BARBARA HALEY WIXOM • ROBERTA M. ROTH

SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND DESIGN

Fourth Edition

International Student Version

ALAN DENNIS

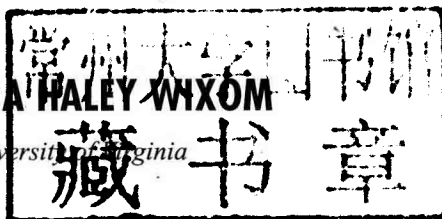
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To Alec

To Chris, Haley, and Hannah

In memory of my mother, and, as always, to Rich and the boys

PREFACE

PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

Systems Analysis and Design (SAD) is an exciting, active field in which analysts continually learn new techniques and approaches to develop systems more effectively and efficiently. However, there is a core set of skills that all analysts need to know no matter what approach or methodology is used. All information systems projects move through the four phases of planning, analysis, design, and implementation; all projects require analysts to gather requirements, model the business needs, and create blueprints for how the system should be built; and all projects require an understanding of organizational behavior concepts like change management and team building.

This book captures the dynamic aspects of the field by keeping students focused on doing SAD while presenting the core set of skills that we feel every systems analyst needs to know today and in the future. This book builds on our professional experience as systems analysts and on our experience in teaching SAD in the classroom.

This book will be of particular interest to instructors who have students do a major project as part of their course. Each chapter describes one part of the process, provides clear explanations on how to do it, gives a detailed example, and then has exercises for the students to practice. In this way, students can leave the course with experience that will form a rich foundation for further work as a systems analyst.

OUTSTANDING FEATURES

A Focus on Doing SAD

The goal of this book is to enable students to do SAD—not just read about it, but understand the issues so that they can actually analyze and design systems. The book introduces each major technique, explains what it is, explains how to do it, presents an example, and provides opportunities for students to practice before they do it in a real-world project. After reading each chapter, the student will be able to perform that step in the system development life cycle (SDLC) process.

Rich Examples of Success and Failure

The book includes a running case about a fictitious company called Tune Source. Each chapter shows how the concepts are applied in situations at Tune Source. Unlike running cases in other books, this text focuses examples on planning, managing, and executing the activities described in the chapter, rather than on detailed dialogue between fictitious actors. In this way, the running case serves as a template that students can apply to their own work. Each chapter also includes numerous Concepts in Action boxes that describe how real companies succeeded—and failed—in performing the activities in the chapter. Many of these examples are drawn from our own experiences as systems analysts.

Incorporation of Object-Oriented Concepts and Techniques

The field is moving toward object-oriented concepts and techniques, both through UML 2.0, the new standard for object-oriented analysts and design, as well as by gradually incorporating object-oriented concepts into traditional techniques. We have taken two approaches to incorporating object-oriented analysis and design into the book. First, we have integrated several object-oriented concepts into our discussion of traditional techniques, although this may not be noticed by the students because few concepts are explicitly labeled as object-oriented concepts. For example, we include the development of use cases as the first step in process modeling (i.e., data flow diagramming) in Chapter 4, and the use (and reuse) of standard interface templates and use scenarios for interface design in Chapter 9.

Second, and more obvious to students, we include a final chapter on the major elements of UML 2.0 that can be used as an introduction to object-oriented analysts and design. This chapter can be used at the end of a course—while students are busy working on projects—or can be introduced after or instead of Chapters 5 and 6.

Real-World Focus

The skills that students learn in a systems analysis and design course should mirror the work that they ultimately will do in real organizations. We have tried to make this book as “real” as possible by building extensively on our experience as professional systems analysts for organizations such as IBM, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Australian Army. We have also worked with diverse industry advisory boards of IS professionals and consultants in developing the book and have incorporated their stories, feedback, and advice throughout. Many students who use this book will eventually apply the skills on the job in a business environment, and we believe that they will have a competitive edge by understanding what successful practitioners feel is relevant in the real world.

Project Approach

We have presented the topics in this book in the SDLC order in which an analyst encounters them in a typical project. Although the presentation necessarily is linear (because students have to learn concepts in the way in which they build on each other), we emphasize the iterative, complex nature of SAD as the book unfolds. The presentation of the material should align well with courses that encourage students to work on projects, because it presents topics as students need to apply them.

Graphic Organization

The underlying metaphor for the book is doing SAD through a project. We have tried to emphasize this graphically throughout the book so that students can better understand how the major elements in the SDLC are related to each other. First, at the start of every major phase of the system development life cycle, we present a graphic illustration showing the major deliverables that will be developed and added to the “project binder” during that phase. Second, at the start of each chapter, we present a checklist of key tasks or activities that will be performed to produce the deliverables associated with this chapter. These graphic elements—the binder of deliverables tied to each phase and the task checklist tied to each chapter—can help students better understand how the tasks, deliverables, and phases are related to and flow from one to another.

Finally, we have highlighted important practical aspects throughout the book by marking boxes and illustrations with a “push pin.” These topics are particularly important in the practical day-to-day life of systems analysts and are the kind of topics that junior analysts should pull out of the book and post on the bulletin board in their office to help them avoid costly mistakes

WHAT'S NEW IN THE FOURTH EDITION

The fourth edition contains several important enhancements, including a new running case, new examples, many new Concepts in Action, and some reorganized material.

Part 1, Planning, has been substantially reorganized and streamlined. Students are introduced to project initiation immediately in the first chapter. The Tune Source running case is launched in Chapter 1 so that students can be involved in a project context from the outset of the book. The topic of project selection has been enhanced with a discussion of project portfolio management. The discussion of SDLC methodologies has been updated and shifted to Chapter 2. In this way, the review of alternative methodologies is placed within the context of planning a project and selecting the best methodology for it. Finally, some of the more technical concepts associated with economic feasibility financial calculations, function point analysis, and project management techniques have been moved to chapter appendices. This keeps the material available for those instructors who choose to include it, but streamlines the main chapter content for those instructors who exclude these topics due to time constraints.

In Part 2, Analysis, a new additional example case, Holiday Travel Vehicles, is introduced to provide additional illustrations of concepts, techniques, and deliverables. The topic of requirements determination is enhanced by a sample interview transcript that provides the basis for new requirements in the Holiday Travel Vehicles case. The discussion of data model normalization has been moved to a chapter appendix. Completed use cases, process models, and data models are included for both the Tune Source case and the Holiday Travel Vehicle cases, providing more extensive examples and illustrations for students and instructors.

Part 3, Design, includes some updated material on the use of packaged software and the use of offshore outsourcing. The n-tiered client-server architecture is explained through an e-commerce illustration. The role of external security requirements and standards is introduced as well. User interface examples and illustrations all have

been updated to use Web-based forms or (Visual Basic) Windows-based forms to better reflect the environment with which students will be involved.

Throughout the book, the Concepts in Action material has been substantially revised and replaced with current examples and illustrations. Chapter references to outside sources have been updated to current resources wherever possible.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS BOOK

This book is organized by the phases of the systems development life cycle (SDLC). Each chapter has been written to teach students specific tasks that analysts need to accomplish over the course of a project, and the deliverables that will be produced from the tasks. As students complete the book, tasks will be “checked off” and deliverables will be completed and filed in a project binder. Along the way, students will be reminded of their progress by road maps that indicate where their current task fits into the larger context of SAD.

Part 1 covers the first phase of the SDLC, the planning phase. Chapter 1 introduces the SDLC, the roles and skills needed for a project team, project initiation, the systems request, and feasibility analysis. Chapter 2 discusses project selection, the selection of an SDLC methodology for the project, and project management, with emphasis on the work plan, staffing plan, project charter, risk assessment, and tools used to help manage and control the project.

Part 2 presents techniques needed during the analysis phase. In Chapter 3, students are introduced to requirements determination and are taught a variety of analysis techniques to help with business process automation, business process improvement, and business process reengineering. Chapter 4 focuses on use cases, Chapter 5 covers process models, and Chapter 6 explains data models and normalization.

The Design Phase is covered in Part 3 of the textbook. In Chapter 7, students create an alternative matrix that compares custom, packaged, and outsourcing alternatives. Chapter 8 focuses on designing the system architecture, which includes the architecture design, hardware/software specification, and security plan. Chapter 9 focuses on the user interface and presents interface design; in this chapter, students learn how to create use scenarios, the interface structure diagram, interface standards, and interface prototypes. Finally, data storage design and program design are discussed in Chapters 10 and 11, which contain information regarding the data storage design, the program structure chart, and program specifications.

The implementation phase is presented in Chapters 12 and 13. Chapter 12 focuses on system construction, and students learn how to build and test the system. It includes information about the test plan and user documentation. Conversion is covered in Chapter 13, where students learn about the conversion plan, the change management plan, the support plan, and the project assessment.

Chapter 14 provides a background of object orientation and explains several key object concepts supported by the standard set of object-modeling techniques used by systems analysts and developers. Then, we explain how to draw four of the most effective models in UML: the use case diagram, the sequence diagram, the class diagram, and the behavioral state machine diagram.

SUPPLEMENTS

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Online Instructors Manual

The instructors manual provides resources to support the instructor both in and out of the classroom:

- Short experiential exercises can be used to help students experience and understand key topics in each chapter.
- Short stories have been provided by people working in both corporate and consulting environments for instructors to insert into lectures to make concepts more colorful and real.
- Additional mini-cases for every chapter allow students to perform some of the key concepts that were learned in the chapter.
- Answers to end-of-chapter questions and exercises are provided.

Online Instructor's Resources

- PowerPoint slides are provided that instructors can tailor to their classroom needs and that students can use to guide their reading and studying activities.

Student Web Site

- Web Resources provide instructors and students with Web links to resources that reinforce the major concepts in each chapter. See <http://www.wiley.com/go/global/dennis>.
- Web Quizzes help students prepare for class tests.

Project Management Software

A 60-day trial edition of Microsoft Project can be purchased with the textbook. Note that Microsoft has changed their policy and no longer offers the 120-day trial previously available. Contact your local Wiley sales representative for details.

Another option now available to education institutions adopting this Wiley textbook, is a free 3-year membership to the MSDN Academic Alliance. The MSDN AA is designed to provide the easiest and most inexpensive way for academic departments to make the latest Microsoft software available in labs, classrooms, and on student and instructor PCs.

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V

PART ONE PLANNING PHASE		3
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	5
CHAPTER 2	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	41
PART TWO ANALYSIS PHASE		95
CHAPTER 3	REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS	97
CHAPTER 4	USE CASES	143
CHAPTER 5	DATA FLOW DIAGRAMS	171
CHAPTER 6	ENTITY RELATIONSHIP DIAGRAMS	209
PART THREE DESIGN PHASE		245
CHAPTER 7	SYSTEM DESIGN	247
CHAPTER 8	APPLICATION ARCHITECTURE	269
CHAPTER 9	USER INTERFACES	301
CHAPTER 10	PROGRAM DESIGN	353
CHAPTER 11	DATA BASES	393
PART FOUR IMPLEMENTATION PHASE		431
CHAPTER 12	CONSTRUCTION	433
CHAPTER 13	INSTALLATION	459
CHAPTER 14	UNIFIED MODELING LANGUAGE	491

CONTENTS

Preface

v

PART ONE PLANNING PHASE

3

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

5

Introduction 6

The Systems Analyst 8

Systems Analyst Skills 8

Systems Analyst Specialization 9

The Systems Development Life Cycle 10

Planning 12

Analysis 12

Design 13

Implementation 14

Project Identification and Initiation 14

System Request 16

Applying the Concepts at Tune Source 16

Feasibility Analysis 21

Technical Feasibility 22

Economic Feasibility 23

Organizational Feasibility 27

Applying the Concepts at Tune Source 30

Summary 32

Appendix 1A: Financial Concepts for Cost–Benefit Analysis 37

Appendix 1B: Detailed Economic Feasibility

Analysis for Tune Source 37

CHAPTER 2 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

41

Introduction 42

Project Selection 43

Applying the Concepts at Tune Source 44

Creating the Project Plan	47
<i>Project Methodology Options</i>	47
<i>Selecting the Appropriate Development Methodology</i>	54
<i>Estimating the Project Time Frame</i>	57
<i>Developing the Work Plan</i>	58
Staffing the Project	60
<i>Staffing Plan</i>	60
<i>Coordinating Project Activities</i>	66
Managing and Controlling the Project	69
<i>Refining Estimates</i>	70
<i>Managing Scope</i>	71
<i>Timeboxing</i>	73
<i>Managing Risk</i>	74
Applying the Concepts at Tune Source	76
<i>Staffing the Project</i>	77
<i>Coordinating Project Activities</i>	77
Summary	80
Appendix 2A: The Function Point Approach	85
Appendix 2B: Project Management Tools: The Gantt Chart and PERT Chart	90
<i>Gantt Chart</i>	90
<i>PERT Chart</i>	90

PART TWO ANALYSIS PHASE

95

CHAPTER 3 REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS

97

Introduction	98
Requirements Determination	99
<i>What Is a Requirement?</i>	99
<i>Requirements Definition</i>	102
<i>Determining Requirements</i>	103
<i>Creating the Requirements Definition</i>	104
Requirements Analysis Techniques	105
<i>Business Process Automation</i>	106
<i>Business Process Improvement</i>	107
<i>Business Process Reengineering</i>	110
<i>Comparing Analysis Techniques</i>	112
Requirements-Gathering Techniques	113
<i>Requirements-Gathering in Practice</i>	113
<i>Interviews</i>	114
<i>Joint Application Development (JAD)</i>	121
<i>Questionnaires</i>	125
<i>Document Analysis</i>	127
<i>Observation</i>	128
<i>Selecting the Appropriate Techniques</i>	130
Applying the Concepts at Tune Source	132
<i>Requirements Analysis Techniques</i>	132
<i>Requirements-Gathering Techniques</i>	132

<i>Requirements Definition</i>	133
<i>System Proposal</i>	133
Summary	135

CHAPTER 4 USE CASES

143

Introduction	144
Use Cases	145
<i>Elements of a Use Case</i>	145
<i>Building Use Cases</i>	148
Applying the Concepts at Tune Source	158
<i>Identifying the Major Use Cases</i>	158
<i>Identifying the Major Steps for Each Use Case</i>	162
<i>Identifying the Elements Within Steps</i>	162
<i>Confirming the Use Case</i>	164
Summary	166

CHAPTER 5 DATA FLOW DIAGRAMS

171

Introduction	172
Data Flow Diagrams	172
<i>Reading Data Flow Diagrams</i>	172
<i>Elements of Data Flow Diagrams</i>	175
<i>Using Data Flow Diagrams to Define Business Processes</i>	177
<i>Process Descriptions</i>	180
Creating Data Flow Diagrams	181
<i>Creating the Context Diagram</i>	182
<i>Creating Data Flow Diagram Fragments</i>	183
<i>Creating the Level 0 Data Flow Diagram</i>	185
<i>Creating Level 1 Data Flow Diagrams (and Below)</i>	188
<i>Validating the Data Flow Diagrams</i>	191
Applying the Concepts at Tune Source	195
<i>Creating the Context Diagram</i>	195
<i>Creating Data Flow Diagram Fragments</i>	195
<i>Creating the Level 0 Data Flow Diagram</i>	197
<i>Creating Level 1 Data Flow Diagrams (and Below)</i>	198
<i>Validating the Data Flow Diagrams</i>	201
Summary	202
Appendix 5A: Supplemental DFDs For Holiday Travel Vehicles	205

CHAPTER 6 ENTITY RELATIONSHIP DIAGRAMS

209

Introduction	210
The Entity Relationship Diagram	210
<i>Reading an Entity Relationship Diagram</i>	211
<i>Elements of an Entity Relationship Diagram</i>	212
<i>The Data Dictionary and Metadata</i>	216

Creating an Entity Relationship Diagram	219
<i>Building Entity Relationship Diagrams</i>	219
<i>Advanced Syntax</i>	223
<i>Applying the Concepts at Tune Source</i>	224
Validating an ERD	228
<i>Design Guidelines</i>	228
<i>Normalization</i>	231
<i>Balancing Entity Relationship Diagrams with Data Flow Diagrams</i>	231
Summary	233
Appendix 6A: Normalizing the Data Model	238

PART THREE DESIGN PHASE **245**

CHAPTER 7 SYSTEM DESIGN **247**

Introduction	248
Transition from Requirements to Design	248
System Acquisition Strategies	251
<i>Custom Development</i>	251
<i>Packaged Software</i>	252
<i>Outsourcing</i>	254
Influences on the Acquisition Strategy	256
<i>Business Need</i>	256
<i>In-House Experience</i>	257
<i>Project Skills</i>	258
<i>Project Management</i>	258
<i>Time Frame</i>	259
Selecting an Acquisition Strategy	259
<i>Alternative Matrix</i>	260
<i>Applying the Concepts at Tune Source</i>	262
Summary	264

CHAPTER 8 APPLICATION ARCHITECTURE **269**

Introduction	270
Elements of an Architecture Design	270
<i>Architectural Components</i>	270
<i>Server-Based Architectures</i>	271
<i>Client-Based Architectures</i>	271
<i>Client–Server Architectures</i>	272
<i>Client–Server Tiers</i>	274
<i>Comparing Architecture Options</i>	275
Creating an Architecture Design	277
<i>Operational Requirements</i>	278
<i>Performance Requirements</i>	279
<i>Security Requirements</i>	281
<i>Cultural and Political Requirements</i>	286
<i>Designing the Architecture</i>	289
Hardware and Software Specification	291

Applying the Concepts at Tune Source	293
<i>Creating an Architecture Design</i>	293
<i>Hardware and Software Specification</i>	295
Summary	295

CHAPTER 9 USER INTERFACES

301

Introduction	302
Principles for User Interface Design	302
<i>Layout</i>	303
<i>Content Awareness</i>	305
<i>Aesthetics</i>	307
<i>User Experience</i>	309
<i>Consistency</i>	310
<i>Minimize User Effort</i>	310
User Interface Design Process	311
<i>Use Scenario Development</i>	312
<i>Interface Structure Design</i>	313
<i>Interface Standards Design</i>	315
<i>Interface Design Prototyping</i>	317
<i>Interface Evaluation</i>	320
Navigation Design	322
<i>Basic Principles</i>	322
<i>Types of Navigation Controls</i>	323
<i>Messages</i>	326
Input Design	328
<i>Basic Principles</i>	329
<i>Types of Inputs</i>	331
<i>Input Validation</i>	333
Output Design	335
<i>Basic Principles</i>	335
<i>Types of Outputs</i>	336
<i>Media</i>	337
Applying the Concepts at Tune Source	339
<i>Use Scenario Development</i>	339
<i>Interface Structure Design</i>	339
<i>Interface Standards Design</i>	341
<i>Interface Template Design</i>	341
<i>Design Prototyping</i>	342
<i>Interface Evaluation</i>	343
Summary	345

CHAPTER 10 PROGRAM DESIGN

353

Introduction	354
Moving from Logical to Physical Process Models	354
<i>The Physical Data Flow Diagram</i>	354
<i>Applying the Concepts at Tune Source</i>	357