



Data Sheet:

iRise Consulting Services:

Application Definition Mentoring

Developing critical applications can take months, sometimes years, to complete. And so often, the final applications are not what the business requested from IT: features and functionality are missing, systems don't adequately connect to one another, people find it so difficult to use that they don't even log in. An inability to clearly communicate between the business and IT is the root cause of this unfortunate situation. Many companies suffer from the unpleasant results: cost over-runs, HR nightmares and project delays that often stifle innovation.

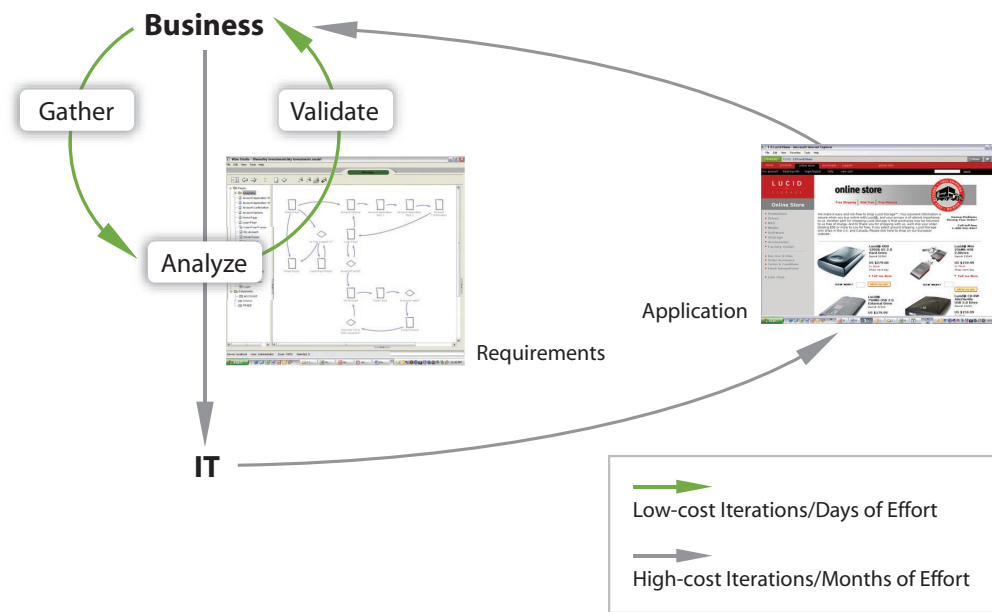
The key to remedying this communication breakdown lies in the accurate definition of an application's functionality—before development. Application Definition Mentoring is a fixed price consulting engagement that leverages the latest in application simulation and hands-on best practices to ensure the final product is precisely what the business needs, and IT builds it right the first time. Costs are cut. Productivity is boosted. Time is saved. Opportunities are realized.

iRise has defined and helped to develop over 300 mission-critical applications for some of the largest corporations in the world. We're proud to share this knowledge and innovation through our mentoring program, which helps organizations to quickly connect business with IT. In a few short weeks, we can help teach business people how to use application simulation to elicit the right requirements, drive consensus and improve processes.

Benefits:

- Transfer application definition best practices to your team in a few short weeks
- Leverage iRise expertise to assess cost/benefit trade-offs of existing processes
- Increase knowledge transfer & build skills in the context of real projects
- Increase iRise product adoption to maximize its return on investment (ROI)
- Accelerate benefits of simulation effort
- Accelerate validation of requirements
- Determine a good fit for iRise in any operating environment and process

iRise application definition mentoring leverages all the benefits of application simulation and gives business and IT project teams lasting value from their investments. When all the contributors standardize on perfected tools and processes, the whole project comes together much more quickly and everyone thinks with a single objective; the engine “fires with all cylinders”. Mentoring enables organizations to quickly get to the right set of specifications for projects that are in the inception or elaboration phases and are especially helpful for accelerating mission-critical projects. Once the engagement is scoped, business analysts get hands-on iRise product training, mentoring and support. Stakeholders are also trained how to use simulation to effectively contribute to and validate the application’s features, functionality and look & feel.



Using IT to figure out how an application will function (grey arrows) takes a long time and doesn't always produce a useable product. Leveraging iRise application definition mentoring and best practices (green arrows) shrinks the cost and time of project delivery while creating a more accurate application.

Required Resources

In order to assure a worthwhile evaluation of the iRise mentoring package, the following project members must participate:

Business Analyst—to shape the simulation and clarify any business requirements

Stakeholder—to review the simulation and iterate on functionality

Developer—to see how much it will help IT to develop what the business needs

Typical Schedule

The project can begin immediately after purchase and initial training.

Four weeks are required for completion of the engagement to ensure proper knowledge transfer and success.

Mentoring engagements can be customized for larger projects.

Master Application Definition in a Few Short Weeks

5. Review Mentoring Success

Following the completion of the mentoring engagement, iRise will work with the project team to evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement against the success criteria that were initially scoped. iRise will then collaborate with the project team and executives to determine the next steps.

Mentoring Activities

1. Scope Project

Initially, iRise provides an understanding of the mentoring engagement requirements and available resources. A determination is made on the appropriate scope and duration of the mentoring engagement, which is typically limited to 4 weeks. iRise completes the project scoping phase by submitting a Statement of Work (SOW) for the entire mentoring engagement, including definition of a set of success criteria.

2. Requirements Gathering

Guidelines for managing requirements provide the means for accurately managing scope, format, attribution, organization and traceability. iRise employs all appropriate best practices, and customers learn how to use simulation in gathering the right requirements.

3. Requirements Analysis

Guidelines for generating requirements-related artifacts assure the output from the gathering phase matches the project team’s needs. Use cases provide a context for the accuracy of the user requirements and speed the definition process. iRise employs best practices for report and extract generation to meet client requirements.

4. Requirements Validation

Since validating requirements has historically been done with paper, and thus lacks any credible, actionable output, this is a new area for most iRise clients and the one area where most see the highest value. This phase begins by defining and communicating the modeling guidelines. To streamline this phase, requirements that truly need validation are identified first, then prioritized based on need. The project team learns how to use simulation to validate requirements and creates complex modeling components to assist new teams. iRise facilitates stakeholder review sessions so the business analyst can learn some of the “tricks of the trade” to make them as productive as possible.

Customer Case Studies

Online Banking System

One of iRise's financial services customers was under pressure to define critical customer use cases for an executive review of a new online banking system. They had identified 12 use cases but hadn't given any thought to the many potential forks in the road that users would encounter while traveling through them. Incorporating iRise Studio into their definition process cut approximately 75% of their timeline, but they still faced the prospect of having to skip 4 of the use cases in order to meet their tight deadline. The mentoring engagement shrunk the use case definition fully in half, which meant they were able to present the full set of customer use cases in time for the executive review, and were able to begin to define how the customer service staff would interact with the system. The executive committee was pleased to see the complete use cases in so little time, and was excited to see that the team began to think about the next set of requirements needed to retain customers. The project was fully funded and the customer service staff began training in the new system using the simulated application long before it went live.

Employee Portal

A prominent travel company was in the midst of building a next-generation employee portal when iRise helped them to determine the best way to shape the application. iRise Studio was an obvious first step, but their project faced some severe challenges: the business analyst couldn't get a complete picture of all the various pieces, the requirements document used multiple terms for the same artifact, and stakeholders had conflicting needs and expectations. The iRise mentoring engagement clarified all the requirements so that the business analyst could focus on those elements that contained the greatest ambiguity. The application was finished on time because stakeholders knew what was being developed and IT didn't burn precious cycles developing requirements that were not necessary.

Customer Quotes

"Without the iRise mentoring package, we would have spent the rest of the year stumbling over all the 'what-ifs'. We knew how to use iRise Studio, but the mentoring people at iRise really gave us the intelligence to make the most of it."

CEO,
Healthcare

"iRise's mentoring program helped us to identify the perfect fit for simulation with RUP."

Architect,
Retail

"We were refining requirements with our user test group and they loved what they were seeing, but we were taking way too long and spending way too much time on mundane details. iRise mentors gave us the skills to identify which requirements we should spend time on and how to best make use of valuable user time."

Business Analyst,
Energy

"Our project team was getting bogged down in so many details and so many requirements that they couldn't make sense of how the application was supposed to really function. The mentors from iRise helped them to validate requirements before it was sent to IT so my team knew that everything they built wasn't going to be reworked over and over."

CIO,
Banking

Call us today to find out
how iRise can improve your
next application definition project.

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