

Re: For an article: What do you wish your CIO understood about requirements?

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- *From:* CBFalconer <[cbfalconer@xxxxxxxx](mailto:cbfalconer@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 03 Jan 2007 03:20:08 -0500
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"sjdevnull@xxxxxxxx" wrote:

estherschindler wrote:

.... snip ...

Ah! But that's why I'm asking these questions, and why I'm writing the article. Sure, it might be a hopeless case in a lot of organizations. But a CIO who cares enough about creating quality software (and yes, despite my cynicism I know this truly does exist) will read this article, and will do her best to learn the process changes to make which can improve life for the developers, the managers, and ultimately the users.

.... snip ...

So, given the premise that your company's \*next\* CIO is one of those to-be-wished-for managers, what would you hope that person understood?

Piggybacking, since the original is not available here.

I have the reverse experience to David (elsethread). At one firm we had a slew of financial applications which consisted of individually customized modules and ran at point of sale on an embedded system. They handled money. The modules had very strong interconnections, and used a herd of globals. Control was a mess. I wanted to rework the whole thing to disconnect the interactions, and replace many custom routines by table driven standard routines. I did this as a demonstration for one routine that required rewriting for almost every customer. Meanwhile three of

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us were battling nitty gritty revisions for changing customer needs or bugs. The system was originally written by someone who understood the problem, but didn't understand programming, and who was long gone when I got there. I was convinced that a rework would virtually eliminate the maintenance chore. I couldn't persuade the powers that be to let me loose on it.

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