RML® Quick Reference

RML® is a language for modeling software requirements to organize and communicate large quantities of information, help identify missing requirements, give context to individual details within the overall collection of requirements, and represent different views of requirements details.

Objectives Models

Business Objectives Model (BOM)
A diagram that identifies the value of a project. Use when new functionality is being added to define and control scope.

Objective Chain
A tree structure that measurably links features to business objectives. Use with BOM to select only the features that contribute the most value.

Key Performance Indicator Model (KPIM)
A label on Process or System Flows that associates metrics (KPIs) to business processes to evaluate the performance of the processes. Use it where existing processes or systems are in place in order to maintain or improve overall business throughput.

Feature Tree
A tree structure that shows all features organized into logical groupings. Use to communicate the full set of features in scope for a project.

Requirements Mapping Matrix   (RMM)
A matrix that maps requirements and business rules to a model like Process Flows. Use to organize group information in a more easily consumable way.

People Models

Org Chart
A diagram that shows all people or roles within an organization and how they relate to one another. Use to identify all stakeholders who might use the system or have requirements.

Process Flow
A diagram that shows the business process steps people execute. It shows the sequence of activities and decisions.

Use Case
Formatted text that describes the interactions between a user and a system. It is used to discover the functional requirements for each step of the interaction.
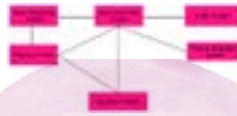

Roles and Permissions Matrix
A matrix that defines the types of roles and their associated permissions to execute operations in the system. Use it to define security at the operation or menu level.

System Models

Ecosystem Map
A diagram that shows the full set of solution components. Use it to capture software, hardware, people, and data relationships.

System Flow
A diagram that shows the activities a system executes automatically. It shows the sequence of activities and decisions

User Interface (UI) Flow
A diagram that shows how a user will navigate between screens. Use it for non-obvious UI navigation paths.
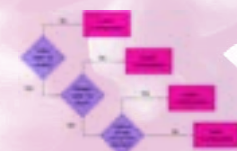
Display Action Response Model
A combination of screen representation and tables that describes how the system displays a screen and how it responds to actions a user can take. Use for any heavily used UI screens.
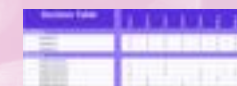
Decision Tree
A tree structure that represents relevant combinations of conditions and their corresponding outcomes. Use it to describe complex logic found in Process sand System Flows.

Decision Table
A matrix that describes all possible combinations of a set of conditions and their corresponding outcomes. Use it to describe complex logic found in Process and System Flows

System Interface Table
A table that describes the communication between two systems including details about information being transferred. Use it when the business cares about the interface requirements.

Data Models

Business Data Diagram (BDD)
A diagram that shows the relationships between business data objects. Use it to describe the data from the business's perspective.

Data Flow Diagram (DFD)
A diagram that shows the flow of information through a system and how processes transform the business data objects. Use it when many processes manipulate the same business data objects to see the flow across the processes.

Data Dictionary
A table used to describe business data object fields. Use one for all business data objects.

State Table
A table used to show all possible states of a business data object and single step transitions between states. Use it to identify all possible transitions.

State Diagram
A diagram that shows the allowed transitions between business data objects and the triggers that cause the transitions. Use it to visualize the sequence of transitions.

Report Table
A table that captures report requirements including how data is displayed, output, drill down views, and allowed manipulations and interactions. Use one for every report in the system.

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