

CLIENT	QRA Corp
PROJECT	Feature article for web and print handout
OBJECTIVE	Generate leads by highlighting a nagging problem that the client's product can solve

COPY EXCERPT

The Drawbacks of Using Modelling Languages and Rule Set Checklists in Requirement Specification



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The drawbacks of modelling languages

Numerous requirements modelling languages are now in use. They range from semiformal languages like Unified Modelling Language (UML), User Requirements Notation (URN) and other graphical notations, up to formal methods like Z-notation, KAOS and proprietary model-based systems engineering (MBSE) tools. The main problem with modelling languages is that they cannot be used throughout the entire systems engineering processes.

All the languages mentioned above and others like them were designed for communication between engineers. They weren't intended for communication with project stakeholders who aren't directly involved in system development—like executives, managers and business analysts.

Furthermore, they are designed primarily for software development. Even model-based systems engineering focuses on [domain models](#), a concept from software engineering.

Domain models are designed to capture functional requirements and define information flow. They can't be used for specifying non-functional requirements. And while domain models can be used to convey concepts to non-technical stakeholders in presentations – since they use the vocabulary of their user domain – non-technical stakeholders may not be able to interpret the models on their own, without training.

In most cases, modelling languages are inappropriate for many stakeholders. Project stakeholders may come from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines. They represent a broad spectrum of interests. They may write or review requirements only occasionally, and only then in higher-level specifications...

"It's really refreshing to work with a writer who has first-hand experience in the engineering field."

Trevor Bradley
 Marketing Manager
 QRA Corp