Requirements Bazaar: Experiences, Added-Value and Acceptance of Requirements Negotiation between End-Users and Open Source Software Developers

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Abstract: Open Source Software (OSS) developer and end-user communities mutually benefit from, but also depend on each other. End-user communities generate innovative ideas for software, but lack technical capabilities for their realization. OSS developers realize software, but need to access and prioritize an abundance of ideas to maximize impact. Requirements Bazaar, a Web-based tool for Social Requirements Engineering (SRE) brings both groups together to negotiate requirements in mutual interest. After an introduction to SRE and Requirements Bazaar, we report on experiences, added value and acceptance collected over two years of productive use in EU-funded research.
elicitation and negotiation of requirements. Importantly, such tools must seamlessly and unobtrusively integrate into working processes and software used on both sides to find mutual acceptance.

These observations motivated our research [KJHR11] towards Requirements Bazaar, a Web-based Open Source social media tool supporting SRE between end-user communities and OSS developers. Participants express, discuss, negotiate, and trace requirements, ideally resulting in a realization. Developers discover relevant innovative requirements from an abundant set of end-user requirements and thus maximize their impact with a realization [RBKJ13].

In our talk, we first discuss the above motivation, leading to our approach of Social Requirements Engineering [LCRK12]. We then derive the four main concepts of Requirements Bazaar, i.e. intuitive requirements specification, co-creation workflow, workspace integration and personalizable requirements prioritization [RBKJ13]. Finally, we report experiences, added value and acceptance as well as common misconceptions and challenges from both end-user communities and developers using Requirements Bazaar in OSS development for two large-scale EU integrating projects over two years of productive use [RK14]. We finally give an outlook to future work on Requirements Bazaar. Interested readers are referred to http://requirements-bazaar.org/info.

References


