Commercial Requirements Tools, Vendors, and Web Sites

The artifact provided in this folder lists a set of the commercial requirements tools, vendors, and Web sites. This list is not comprehensive and complete. For a more comprehensive and complete list, see the Web site of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) requirements working group at *http://www.incose.org/rwg/*. There, the most current survey provided by INCOSE's tools working group is provided at *http://www.incose.org/tools/tooltax.html*.

Note that many of the automated tools available today are often described as "requirements management tools." However, as emphasized in this book, the requirements process involves much more than just requirements *management*. Every systems and software development effort requires an industry-strength requirements tool. The cost and sophistication of the requirements tool that is selected should be based on the size and the complexity of the effort. Many projects have used office automation tools such as Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel or database applications such as Informix to manage requirements. These approaches are relatively limited in their capabilities (although they can provide the capabilities needed for a particular project in some situations). Many organizations have developed their own requirements tools (some have developed several), but this approach is not cost-effective, given the tools available on the market today.

A sophisticated requirements tool is able to do much more than requirements management. It should be able to facilitate requirements elicitation, help with prioritization of requirements, provide traceability[1] of requirements throughout the development effort (to design, implementation, and test verification, for example), and to allow for assignment of requirements to subsequent releases of system products. It should allow assignment of an unlimited number of attributes (characteristics of requirements) to any and all requirements. Attributes allow users to associate data with objects, table markers, table cells, modules, and projects.

See Chapter 4 for more information and advice concerning requirements tools.

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1. Traceability gives essential assistance in understanding the relationships that exist within and across requirements, design, and implementation, and is critical to the development process. See James D. Palmer, "Traceability," pp. 364–374.