8 Questions for Identifying Candidate Use Cases

Discovering a good list of candidate use cases is essential when the Analyst is gathering the information required to prepare a requirements management plan – and especially as it relates to preparing an elicitation session plan.

The high level scenario description elicited in the early stages of the planning cycle is the basis of the analysis required to find candidate use cases. When a high level scenario has been described and a list of potential variations to the primary flow has been documented, the Analyst should follow the guidelines below to identify candidate use cases for discovery.

1. Can you associate more than one step in the high level scenario with an actor trying to achieve a goal?

2. Does the business need to have a process in place to modify the Entity that is central to the process after it has been created?

3. Does the business need to a process in place to cancel the Entity that is central to the process after it has been created?

4. Do the identified Actors (from the high level scenario) have to complete any other processes from time to time that are not reflected in the high level scenario?

5. Are there any head office processes or back office processes required to support the main process?

6. For an enhancement to an existing process, are there any new use cases that have to be performed to meet the project objectives that are not in place at present?

7. For highly systematized processes, where are the points in the process where there is a significant break in time between one part of the process and the next?

8. For highly systematized processes, where does the Entity that is central to the process change status?