

Technical Spec Writing Exercise

Goal

The goal is for the “development” team to create as accurate a copy of the diagram given to the “spec” team using only written word

Instructions

1. Split each team in half and separate. One half will be “developers” sitting in on area the other half will be “spec writers” who must sit in a different area. Each team will effectively have two locations, one for each specialty.
2. The spec writers will receive a one page diagram that must remain at the spec-writer’s table. It cannot be moved.
3. The spec writers must provide instructions to the development team for them to recreate the diagram they have been given.
4. The development team must remain at their work area. They may not speak to the spec writers or gesture. They may write questions to analysts.
5. The spec writers may not speak to the developers, all communications must be written down. Verbal signals are not allowed.
6. All specifications must be written in text, diagrams, symbols and numbers are not allowed
7. The spec writers can write as many specifications as they want as often as they want.
8. The spec writers may watch what the developers are doing, but they can only write specifications from their designated area. They may not write specs while sitting next to the developers.
9. Each team will have 12 minutes to draw as accurate a diagram as possible.



