

TOOLKIT: REQUIREMENTS HIERARCHY

Standing Up an Innovation Center

Requirements hierarchies are often used to trace requirements in software development. You can find and use any framework, but I recommend the one below because it smoothly links *business requirements* to *design and technical requirements*. The solution paper uses a fictitious Coast Guard example to get you started.

Department Mission [Organization's mission statement]

Component Mission [Unit's mission statement]

Mission Need/Capability Gap [Make a statement about a capability missing or lacking but which is required to satisfy the component mission. Can read like a strategic goal or objective, or problem statement.]

Capability Requirement [Make a statement of capability required to satisfy the mission need or close the capability gap. Should read like a solution statement.]



Performance Requirement [Make a statement of outputs or outcomes which satisfy the capability requirement. May be multiple statements, but must be complementary.]

Functional Requirement [Make specific statements of what a solution should do to satisfy the performance requirement. Requires multiple statements.]

Design Requirement [Make specific statements of how the solution should be designed to meet functional requirements. Requires multiple statements.]

Material Requirement [Make specific statements of people, processes, tools, materials, etc. required to satisfy design requirements. Requires multiple statements.]

