

ReleasePlanner Experiences

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1. ReleasePlanner is an effective tool to generate the optimal strategic release plans. It is really useful to balance the different constraints involved during the release planning, i.e. requirement dependencies, resource constraint and stakeholders' preferences.
2. The tool has been improving continuously as per observation during the last six months. For example, the addition of a new feature to import projects through an excel sheet increases the scalability and usability of the tool.
3. Getting the stakeholders' preferences is one of the major feature of the ReleasePlanner, in this regard a separate online service is developed which is really convenient for stakeholders to prioritize the requirements through email rather than physical presence.
4. The interface of stakeholder's prioritization section is also very convenient but some stakeholders might require a proper training or guidance to perform the voting correctly. For example, in one case-study some of the participated stakeholders complained that voting on a large set of requirements is really tedious. On the other hand, they praised the idea of prioritizing requirements on the scale of 0 to 9.
5. Moreover, the stakeholders' voting analysis section of the ReleasePlanner is very useful to analyze the conformance of stakeholders' votes for each requirement. This information is used to select the most important requirements in different alternative plans.
6. The six different steps to analyze the optimized solutions are very useful for making a choice about the most optimal release plan.
7. The facility of performing automated what-if analysis is one of the most convenient feature of the ReleasePlanner, makes it easier to change the parameters of release planning on a large scale in very less time.
8. It is easy to compare the generated solution with any base-line solution which clearly shows the difference between the manual and the plan generated through the ReleasePlanner.
9. An explicit support for the evolving requirement can be an interesting addition in the ReleasePlanner. For example, currently tool supports to delete a requirement completely from the system or to change the requirements. However, in some cases it is important to know how requirements are evolved and completely deleting the requirements can cause loss of the important information. It is also possible that later a changed requirement might need to be restored; therefore a better mechanism to handle the changing requirements in release is required.
10. An explicit support for re-planning of releases can be interesting addition in the ReleasePlanner, here the explicit means that a strategic release plan can be automatically adjusted according to the changes in the requirements.
11. An explicit support for post release analysis and evaluation of the strategic plan after post release analysis can help selecting requirements in the next release.
12. The tool is continuously improving but we have found some issues with the feature to import new projects using the provided template and to analyze a solution with the base-line solution set.