



32<sup>nd</sup> Annual **INCOSE**  
international symposium  
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# Look in All the Corners: Gathering, Tracking, and Verifying Requirements



# What are requirements?

- Agreed-upon characteristics of a system
  - Agreed by whom?
  - When?
  - In what format?



# Consumer example

- When buying from a store, who sets the requirements for the products sold there?
  - Government regulations, store owner, product developer, customers
- When do they set those requirements?
  - Some before manufacture, some after
- In what format?
  - Laws, business rules, preferences



# Why do we need requirements?

- The conversations necessary to agree on requirements reveal other things.
- They support decision-making.
- Requirements in a contract give us a legal backup if we don't get what we asked for.

# How should we capture our requirements, if we are sharing them?



- Written
- Accessible
- Editable
- Controlled

Consumer example: requirements for a babysitter's job duties, or for a restaurant meal



# When do we not need requirements?

- When is a handshake enough?
- When are written requirements not allowed or not useful?
- Low risk situations or when power imbalance is high

# When do we generate requirements but keep them to ourselves?



- When the system developer doesn't care or won't listen (COTS)
- To encourage competition
- Dating / negotiating (same as above?)



# Trust but verify

- Under what conditions would you buy clothes without trying them on?
  - Returnable or low cost risk
  - Same as something you have already
  - Made to your measurements by someone trustworthy
- Should we bother verifying requirements have been met if we can't get our money back?
  - Yes, try on your dress before your wedding day.



# Learn more about requirements

- [INCOSE Requirements Working Group](#)
  - YouTube videos
  - Technical Products
    - New! Guide to Writing Requirements
    - Available for free download from INCOSE Store

<https://www.incose.org/incose-member-resources/working-groups/process/requirements>



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