

GenA Senior Design

Design Document

Team 45

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Executive Summary

Development Standards & Practices Used

We will follow IEEE standards for software development. Our project will include documentation both in code and on a project level. We will comply with Collins' ADA standards. We will provide version control and comprehensive testing.

Summary of Requirements

We will develop a code generation tool for Collins Aerospace. This code will generate Ada code. The generated code should be functional and provide error messages. We will use a high-level language to develop the tool.

Applicable courses from Iowa State University Curriculum

- COMS 227
- COMS 228
- COMS 309
- COMS 319

New skills/knowledge acquired that was not taught in courses

- Code generation
- Ada code
- XML code

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Acknowledgement	4
1.2	Problem and Project Statement	4
1.3	Operational Environment	4
1.4	Requirements	4
1.5	Intended Users and Uses	4
1.6	Assumptions and Limitations	5
1.7	Expected End Product and Deliverables	5
2	Project Plan	5
2.1	Task Decomposition	5
2.2	Risks And Risk Management/Mitigation	6
2.3	Project Proposed Milestones, Metrics, and Evaluation Criteria	6
2.4	Project Timeline/Schedule	6
2.5	Project Tracking Procedures	6
2.6	Personnel Effort Requirements	7
2.7	Other Resource Requirements	7
2.8	Financial Requirements	7
3	Design	7
3.1	Previous Work And Literature	7
3.2	Design Thinking	7
3.3	Proposed Design	7
3.4	Technology Considerations	8
3.5	Design Analysis	8
3.6	Development Process	8
3.7	Design Plan	8
4	Testing	9
4.1	Unit Testing	9
4.2	Interface Testing	9
4.3	Acceptance Testing	9
4.4	Results	9
5	Implementation	10

6 Closing Material	10
6.1 Conclusion	10
6.2 References	10
6.3 Appendices	10

Figures/tables/symbols/definitions

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1 Introduction

1.1 Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Collins Aerospace for providing this project and supporting sample code/documentation. We would like to extend a special thanks to David Lempia, Stan Thayer, and Kathleen Knot for taking time to meet with and assist us regularly. We could not have done it without them.

1.2 Problem and project statement

Collins Aerospace uses Network Data Objects (NDOs) for avionics systems to communicate with each other. An NDO is defined using a strict XML schema, specifying IP addresses, data types, memory addresses, and other critical information about the message. Once this schema is created, a developer uses the information in the schema to implement the message in Ada. This is a tedious process, and is prone to errors. When these errors occur, they require significant time and effort to debug and correct. Collins Aerospace is looking for a solution to produce the NDOs in a manner that is faster and less prone to errors.

Our solution approach is to create a code generator to create the NDO messages directly from the XML schema. It will use the XML file produced by Collins as part of their requirements process. It will create the ADA file directly. This will reduce the time needed to create the file, as well as reduce small errors in the code. This project consists of producing the generator itself, as well as the documentation for the project.

1.3 Operational Environment

This project is to run inside the command line. Thus, the environment is anything that can run Java. Given the wide array of devices that satisfy this criteria, no special consideration is needed.

1.4 Requirements

1. GenA shall provide errors if XML data needed to generate software is missing from the xml files.
2. GenA shall generate Ada Software in the Ada 95 standard ([ISO-8652:1995](#))
3. GenA shall generate software to read and write NDO messages
 - a. The generated Ada software shall provide a procedure to read in NDO messages.
 - b. The generated Ada software shall provide a procedure to transmit NDO messages.
 - c. The generated Ada software shall provide a method to access the NDO messages.
4. Collins Engineers shall be able to run GenA and associated options in Windows 10 from the command prompt.
 - a. GenA options shall include:
 - The name of the XML file(s)

- The name of the tailoring mechanism (e.g. a template file name).
5. Collins Engineers shall be able to tailor the way Ada software is generated. *Note: This is desired for growth and maintenance of the GenA tool.*
 - a. Tailoring of GenA shall be able to generate software in different languages such as c or c++. *Note: this is desired of use of GenA in different products.*
 - b. Tailoring of GenA shall be able to define new types of I/O.

1.5 Intended Users and Uses

- Collins Engineers - Code Generation
 - Engineers using the generator to create NDOs
- Collins Engineers - Maintainers
 - Engineers who will update the generator in the future, as requirements and specifications evolve

1.6 Assumptions and Limitations

1.6a Assumptions

- The generator will be run from the Windows 10 Command Line
- The generator will only supports one user per running instance
- The generator is only to be used by Collins Aerospace

1.6b Limitations

- The generated code cannot be fully tested by the senior design team
- Due to security constraints, the team cannot access all related materials
- Time constraints due to the project having a hard end date at the end of the spring semester

1.7 Expected End Product and Deliverables

1. GenA Ada Code Generator

This is the executable generator created for Collins Aerospace. It will be delivered in a form that allows the generator to be run immediately upon reception of the generator. It will be used for generating Ada code as part of the NDO creation workflow.

2. Generator Use Documentation

Documentation will be provided to Collins concerning the use of the generator. It covers command line options, available generators, output format, and other generation options. It also covers installation and running instructions.

3. Source code and Design documentation

This is the source code for the generator. It will also include documentation on the design for the generator, design choices, and information needed to maintain the generator.

Documentation will also be provided for extending the generator, such as adding another generator or message type.

2 Project Plan

2.1 Task Decomposition

Below is an outline of the tentative technical tasks and scheduling.

1. Requirements Elicitation
 - a. Regular meetings with Collins Aerospace research team
 - b. Prioritize deliverables based on timeline estimates
 - c. Finalize project plan and schedule
 - d. Research ADA language syntax
 - e. Research NDO message syntax
2. Project Plan Initiation
 - a. Train developers for their specific roles
 - b. Agile Development
 - i. Sprint planning
3. Implement Software XML Parsing
 - a. Integrate Windows 10 command prompt
 - i. Create shell program
 - ii. Implement XML file(s) loading
 - b. Implement Parsing of XML Schema.
 - i. Trim and reformat XML file
 - ii. Parse data categorically
 - iii. Save data to be translated
4. Implement ADA Generation
 - a. Interpret and translate data
 - b. NDO Message Implementation
 - i. NDO message I/O
 1. Module to read in NDO
 2. Transmit NDO module
 3. Access NDO module

- ii. GenA documentation
 - 1.
 - 2.
- c. Error Correction Devices
 - i. Device 1: Fills missing non-crucial XML data
 - ii. Device 2: Outputs Descriptive Error Messaging
 - 1. Missing crucial data
 - 2. Corrupt XML schema
 - 3. Formatted NDO message errors
- d. Tailoring Options
 - i. User Defined Input Options
 - 1. Name of the XML file(s)
 - 2. Tailoring mechanism template
 - ii. User Defined Output Options
 - 1. Output language modulation
- 5. System Level Testing
 - a. Functionality for the Code Generation engineers
- 6. Implement UI
- 7. Additional Implementations
 - a. ...

2.2 Risks and Risk Management/Mitigation

Risk	Gold Plating	Developer Parody	Incompatible Framework	System Testing Failure
Risk Description	Over the course of development, along with being a scheduling risk, this risk involves the scope creep of the project to surpass the allotted time, and the total cost, of development.	During development, if the developers do not stay at the same pace when programming deliverables. This is problematic because it is imperative to maintain critical due dates.	The framework chosen to program the project ends up not being compatible with all of the deliverables. This would require another language to be integrated or replaced mid-development.	The project would fail the final system testing with the customer if this risk were to occur. Failure would be due to a significant lack of features missing, not working, or breaking the program.
Risk Category (Cost, Scheduling, Technical)	Cost	Scheduling	Technical	Technical

Occurrence Indicator	The cause of this risk is the continued feature creep of developing new features, and would occur when said features take away from the other established portions of the project.	Regular qualitative review can determine the schedule of the programming pace compared to the planned deliverable dates.	Quantitative testing and proper planning should both prevent and expose this risk. Ideally it would be identifiable early in development with it becoming more dangerous late into development.	3-4 weeks prior to the scheduled delivery. If quality testing occurs on both the user and customer side, this risk will become evident.
Impact Rating (Negligible - Catastrophic)	Minor	Minor	Serious	Critical
Occurrence Rating (Improbable - Frequent)	Occasional	Probable	Improbable	Remote
Risk Exposure Rating (Low - High)	Medium	High	Low	High
Response Type (Avoid, Mitigate, Accept, Transfer)	Accept	Mitigate	Transfer	Avoid
Response Strategy	The response strategy to this particular risk is through having a predefined development scope and schedule so that if any feature creep occurs, it happens when all main deliverables are complete.	The strategy to mitigate this risk would lie primarily in the development of communication skills, project roles, and the relationship between developers and the client.	If the project required that, if the current framework proved to be insufficient, then a change of language or framework would be a worthy response type to transfer the risk.	Regular review and analysis of the current development process with regular testing of the current product. This is supplemented with a rigid scope and good version control practices.

2.3 Project Proposed Milestones, Metrics, and Evaluation Criteria

Many potential milestones and metrics have been discussed within the group as well as with the project sponsor. Weekly progress updates and meetings will help to evaluate the progress of each

individual as well as the project as a whole. Using trello, github commits and other task management tools will allow the team to track progress of tasks and development within the project.

2.4 Project Timeline/Schedule

This project will follow the following predetermined schedule as part of the course requirements set by the instructors.

- Sept 29 - Team Website V1
- Oct 1 - Design Document V1
- Oct 22 - Design Document V2
- Nov 12 - Final Design
- Bi-weekly project reports

In addition to these set requirements, as a team we will create further small milestones and timeline markers in order to complete the project. Our currently proposed scheduling includes weekly meetings and progress reports as a team as well as between the team and sponsors. Furthermore, this project will continue as a second semester with COM S 492 in the spring semester.

2.5 Project Tracking Procedures

This project will be tracked in many ways that will allow us to properly manage project completion and assure that requirements are being properly met. This project will mainly be tracked via use of github repositories and trello tasks. As a course, this class will be tracked via the regular submission of deliverables and design documents. Additionally, continually monitoring the project and discussing project standards and updates will allow us to continually make changes to ensure a more successful end project.

2.6 Personnel Effort Requirements

This project will require each member of the team to be personally responsible for their share of the project. Individual achievements and progress will be tracked easily through our choice of project management tools as each will be linked to one, or many team members. However, much of this project relies on each individual being responsible for completing a significant portion of the project. This is a 3 credit course, and the second semester course is 2 credit hours. This project should amount for roughly 5 credit hours worth of work for each individual within the group. However, this will vary widely for each individual project.

2.7 Other Resource Requirements

Through discussions with the client responsible for sponsoring this project, many of the physical requirements for the project are already in place at their facility and this code would take

advantage of already in place physical systems. Other open source resources are being taken advantage of as parts of this project as well in order to complete the project. These resources include video conferencing tools such as Zoom and Webex, team discussion tools such as Gmail and GroupMe, project management tools such as Trello and Github, and likely many more resources that have not been needed as of yet. These resources will be properly credited and are an essential part of completing our project successfully.

2.8 Financial Requirements

This project is sponsored under Collins Aerospace as a professional development project development experience. However, cost and financial requirements are going to be heavily accessed within this project. As a software development project, this will have very limited financial requirements. Additionally, many of the financial requirements of this project have already been met as Collins has a dedicated system already in use and will likely not need further physical resources to implement. Much of the potential cost of a project like this is associated with manhours, salary of workers, and potential physical development needed to support code. This project lacks many of these costs as we will all be completing this project as a part of a course, and the physical requirements are already in place.

3 Design

3.1 Previous Work and Literature

An Engineer at Collins has developed a simple code generator. It is limited to code generation in Ada. It does not generate all files required. It is also temperamental when used.

3.2 Design Thinking

Collins has specified that they want a code generator, which eliminates several options to solve the problem. Within the code generation field, there are several options. The current generator creates a file using a formatted string. While this works, it is difficult to maintain. Thus, we are looking at using templating engines to create our files. We are also looking into options for xml file validation.

3.3 Proposed Design

The proposed design consists of six primary modules. The first is the core module. The core module is responsible for parsing the program arguments and passing them the necessary module. The second module is Validation. This module is responsible for validating the XML file against the XML schema. It is also responsible for throwing verbose and useful error messages

regarding file validation errors. The next module is the configuration module. This module is responsible for adding language and message specific settings for the generation. This is then passed to the Generation module. The generation module is responsible for getting the raw data from the parsing module, putting the data in the proper format, and then passing it to the templating module. The parsing module reads the XML file, and puts the data into java objects. The templating module takes the processed data and produces the contents of a file using a templating engine. It is also responsible for writing the file to disk. For this project, we plan on using Mustache for templating. The final module is the CLI. It would be responsible for sending arguments to the core module.

A standard generation workflow would look something like this. A user would start a generation with the CLI. The core module would use the validation module to validate the input file. After validation, the configuration module would provide a configuration based upon the program arguments. This would be passed to the generation module. The generation module would then call the parsing module to read in the XML file. The generation module would then process the data, then pass it to the templating module. The templating module would then create the file contents using Mustache, then write it to file.

This was designed largely with maintainability and extensibility in mind. There are many ways to produce a file, but a major requirement of this project is to be extensible as needs change in the future. The breakdown of modules allows the project to be easily extended in the future.

3.4 Technology Considerations

We will be using java as the primary language. This allows the project to be easily maintained, due to the prolific knowledge of java. One drawback of this is that the project, while written in java, will also require a knowledge of Ada.

3.5 Design Analysis

This design is expected to work, but has not yet been implemented.

3.6 Development Process

For this project, we plan on using Agile development processes. We plan on having stand up meetings, sprints, and weekly meetings with the Client. This fits well with the clients work processes, and fits in well with the COVID workflow for college students.

4 Testing

4.1 Unit Testing

All classes will have proper unit tests. This will be done with JUnit for a unit testing framework, and JMockit for mocking classes when needed. Classes will be tested in isolation to ensure functionality and requirements compliance.

4.2 Interface Testing

The interface between the UI and the Java modules will be tested. Interfaces will be the CLI interface to be run in the Windows CMD environment. Time permitting, a GUI will be developed, which will also be tested. GUI testing will be done with Selenium.

4.3 Acceptance Testing

Acceptance testing provides some challenges. The team will not be able to test our generated code in its final environment. Communication with the client will be critical, both for ensuring the generator functions as the client expects and ensuring the generated code functions properly. Confirming that the generated code can compile under Ada is a form of acceptance testing that the team can perform themselves.

4.4 Results

Testing has not yet been performed. However, testing is a large part of the development of this project outlined for the second semester of this course set, and will produce results as development further progresses.

5 Implementation

For implementation, we plan on having two week sprints. Given the shortened Spring semester, we anticipate 6 sprints over a 12 week period. This should provide sufficient time to implement the project. We are using Gitlab and will be using merge branch workflow.

6 Closing Material

6.1 Conclusion

In this project, many plans and baseline development has been completed to provide the best possible base for the development of our project throughout the rest of this semester and in the next semester. We have laid a sustainable task management system, group discussion processes and schedules, and have deeply discussed the requirements and goals of this project.

GenA, the proposed project in conjunction with Collins Aerospace, proposes using NDOs for use in avionics systems as a means of intercommunication between systems. This must be completed through a strict schema already used within this system to send messages between system subsets. This schema is then used to implement the message in Ada. However, because of the drawbacks of this current system such as errors, time consumption, and correction effort, Collins Aerospace wishes to produce NDOs more efficiently and effectively.

The solution to this problem proposed by our team will implement a code generator to create NDO messages from the XML schema provided using the XML file already being produced during the Collins Aerospace currently in use processes. This will then create the ADA file directly, reducing the potential for errors, and providing a more efficient, and understandable process to work with. This solution will greatly improve on the current system, and produce a much more user friendly, and efficient experience.

6.2 References

N/A

6.3 Appendices

There are no applicable appendices at this time.