OBVIOUSLY NOT

Application Organization Worksheet

Three questions that take your notes or a provisional and say which of the organizations seen in 32 US software applications the explanation fits, and what that organization's detailed description walked through. Read it below, copy it, or download it.

Start Here

How to use the answer: as a starting suggestion. Most applications in the sample were mechanism-led (20 of 32), and these questions help you notice whether yours is an exception. On a held-out test they matched the later application's organization 7 of 8 times, the same as always answering mechanism-led. Basis: observed in 32 US software applications.

The Material You Are Reading From

Name what the answers come from (notes, a design document, a provisional, something else) and its date. Answer every question from that material alone, not from what you plan to add later.

Question 1: A Person at a Screen

Take the questions in order; the first yes decides. For each answer, quote or point to the passages it relies on, so someone else can check it. Where the material cannot answer, write "cannot tell" and note what is absent. Do not guess.

Is any step of how the idea works something a person sees or does at a screen? Yes · No · Cannot tell

A screen counts only when it is a step of the mechanism, not a way in or a way out of it. A settings page or a results view is a no when the idea works the same without it. The test: would the account of how the idea works have holes if the screens were left out? If the material describes no screen at all, the answer is no.

Question 1: Passages Relied On

Quote or point to the passages. A yes means the explanation fits the interface-centered walkthrough, and the worksheet ends here.

Question 2: Explanation Before the Mechanism

Two conditions, answered separately. The explanation sits toward the problem-led end of the scale only when both hold. The one-fifth figure is a starting point, not a measured boundary; how the share is counted was revised once, on held-out material.

Roughly what share of the material explains the setting? Estimate

Count only passages whose subject is the setting, the existing approaches, or what a term means. Leave out any explanatory sentence inside the description of a step or a part, and leave out boilerplate. Is the share about a fifth of the material's length or more? Give the estimate and the passages counted.

Does the mechanism use a concept that has to be explained before the mechanism can be described? Yes · No · Cannot tell

Name the concept if there is one, and where the material first explains it. A long background that a specialist would skip does not make this a yes: length is not need.

Result of Question 2

Both conditions hold: toward the problem-led end. Either one does not: go on to question 3.

Question 3: Sequence or Structure

Material that reaches this question fits the mechanism-led organization. The answer names the emphasis inside it. On the held-out test the emphasis was not scored.

Is the core of the idea mostly a sequence of operations, or mostly a structure? Sequence · Structure · Cannot tell

A structure is parts and how they connect, or elements and the rules that relate them, such as a layout or a schema. For a learned model, answer for what the material says is new: a training or inference procedure is a sequence; an architecture or an input representation is a structure. A pipeline drawn as boxes is still a sequence when the boxes are stages run in order.

Question 3: Passages Relied On

Quote or point to the passages. A sequence points to the procedure-led emphasis; a structure points to the component-led emphasis.

What the Answer Points To

A fourth organization seen in the 32, claim-dominant, is chosen by no question. It is a matter of how much of a document is claims, which is settled when an application is written, not by the idea.

The Organization the Explanation Fits

Interface-centered walkthrough; toward the problem-led end; mechanism-led with a procedure-led emphasis; mechanism-led with a component-led emphasis; or cannot tell, with what is absent.

What That Organization's Detailed Description Walked Through

Mechanism-led (20 of 32): a walk through the figures one at a time, carrying the parts, what each does, the steps and the data; procedure-led follows the method's flowchart step by step, component-led follows the system's block diagram part by part. Problem-led (4 of 32): an extended account of the setting before and around the mechanism, with definitions and comparisons with other approaches. Interface-centered (6 of 32): the mechanism alongside a walk

through the screens, each with what it shows, what the person does and what the system does in response.

Open Points

Anything the material could not answer, and anything about the result you want to raise with a registered patent practitioner.

Scope. This worksheet describes how a body of technical material is organized, against organizations observed in 32 US software applications. It does not say how any application ought to be organized or drafted, what to file, or whether anything is patentable, and it gives no verdict on any filing.

Disclaimer. This worksheet is educational and descriptive. It and any output are not a substitute for advice from a registered patent practitioner. Use of this worksheet does not constitute legal services or legal, patent, patentability, drafting, filing-strategy or deadline advice, and does not create an attorney-client relationship with Obviously Not. Decisions about what to file, when, and how an application is drafted belong with a registered patent practitioner.

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