

The University of Iowa  
**22C:22 (CS:2820)**  
**Object-Oriented Software  
Development**

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**Inception**

by

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# Inception Phase

Short initial step in which the following kinds of questions are explored:

- What is the vision and business case for this project?
- Is it feasible?
- Buy and/or build?
- What is the rough cost range (\$10K–100K, \$100K–1M, \$1M–10M)?
- Should we proceed or stop?

# Inception Goals

- Establish initial common vision for the objectives of the project
- Understanding the basic scope and ~10% of the requirements
- Determine if project is feasible
- Decide if it is worth some serious investigation in elaboration

# Inception Main Artifacts

- Vision
  - Management level description of project
- Use case model for critical aspects
  - Functional requirements (essential!)
- Glossary
  - Key domain terminology, and data dictionary
- Development case
  - The actual process to be used & artifacts to be delivered
- Others
  - Risk List, Prototypes, Iteration Plan, SW Dev. Plan

# Common Mistakes

- Devoting too much time to it
- Defining too few/too many requirements
  - writing lots of detailed use cases, or
  - writing none at all
- Trying to develop reliable plans
- Defining architectural details
- Missing business case or vision artifact

# Credits

Notes and figures adapted from

*Applying UML and Patterns: An Introduction to Object-Oriented Analysis and Design and Iterative Development* by C. Larman. 3rd edition.  
Prentice Hall/Pearson, 2005.