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Figure 1. Standards requirements specification format (from ANSI/IEEE Std 830-1984).

4. Use a unique identifier for each requirement.

**Extra information.** Digital Switch hasn’t had the problem of having extra information in requirements specifications. In some organizations, though, requirements writers can’t resist specifying functions or features they just know the customer will want — never mind that the customer has not been consulted on the additions! A good way to keep requirements specifications trim is to show the customer a per-feature price list.

Next time we’ll use the most-probable errors list to show how to prevent errors in both the architectural (high-level) and detailed design of software. Your comments and lists continue to enrich the series, and I look forward to more of your contributions.

Harry G. Johnson, President, Digital Switch Corp., for their contributions to this piece.

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