

# Rethinking Requirements

Brian Lawrence  
Coyote Valley Software  
USA  
brian@coyotevalley.com

## Abstract

This talk presents a set of common misconceptions about requirements which I've experienced in my consulting practice, together with some ideas about how to look at requirements differently:

- In my travels, I see many different views about what requirements are, and how to deal with them.
- There are more and less useful ways to view requirements.
- I believe many people could be thinking about requirements in a more useful way, which would help them build better software more effectively.

## About the Speaker

*Brian Lawrence is a principal at Coyote Valley Software, a Silicon Valley software consulting firm. His primary focus is teaching and facilitating requirements analysis, inspection, project planning, risk management, life cycles, and design specification techniques. He served as the editor of Software Testing and Quality Engineering Magazine for 2000. In addition to teaching in the University of California Santa Cruz Extension program in software engineering, he has also served as program chair for 1998 International Conference on Requirements Engineering. Brian currently serves on the editorial board of IEEE Software.*