

1.7 Software Project Goals Key software project goals include: **Functionality** This is the number one driver in most software projects, which are obsessed with meeting functional requirements. **Security** often comes with significant overhead. The problem is, security mechanisms, including most uses of cryptography, elaborate login procedures, tedious audit requirements, and so on, often cause usability to plummet. **Usability** People like programs to be easy to use, especially when it comes to conducting electronic commerce. Usability affects reliability too, since human error often leads to software failure. **Efficiency** People tend to want to squeeze every ounce out of their software (even when efficiency isn't needed). Solving the problem invariably involves getting something done in a particular way. Usability is very important, because without it software becomes too much of a hassle to actually work with. **Security** people often deride cookies, but cookies are a great user-friendly programming tool! **Efficiency** can be an important goal, though it usually trades off against simplicity. Security concerns regularly impact convenience too. Waiting around while a remote server somewhere authenticates you is no fun. Software is a tool meant to solve a problem. And for good reason too. But it can be necessary.