University of Leicester – Department of Computer Science

CO7206 - Fall 2003 - Assignment 1 (6%)

Released on Monday, Oct. 6 - Due on Monday, Oct. 20 at 1:30pm

This assignment covers the topics of legacy systems and software maintenance.

- 1- Brief the arguments of each of the articles "software lives too long" and "software should live longer", in one paragraph each. Which side of the argument do you take? Why?
- 2- Which of the symptoms of software aging existed in the system that was replaced in "Cash cow in the tar pit" article? Where does this system fall on the Figure 26.10 of Sommerville's "Software Engineering book"? What preventive measures could have been taken to make this system live longer, if possible, and why?
- 3- You were asked to advise a process for changing a non-critical medium-size software developed in a company with a medium size IT department. You realized that the IT department has limited software maintenance resources. So, you decided that a rigorous approach is not needed. Instead, you decided to advise a semi-formal process which balances between resource consumption, documentation effort and change management and control. Produce a manual for your process that describes the detailed steps of software change starting from a change request until change deployment. Produce all the necessary forms for the process.
- 4- Given TAS system and the three change requests forwarded to you, as TAS's maintainer, by its stakeholders, order the priority with which you will tackle these changes. Write the reasons for giving each change the priority assigned to it.
- 5- Answer questions 26.6 and 26.8 of Ian Sommerville