Each use case in the use case model is documented in a use case description, as

follows:

**Use case name:** Each use case is given a name.

**Summary:** A brief description of the use case, typically one or two sentences.

**Dependency:** This optional section describes whether the use case depends

on other use cases – that is, whether it includes or extends another use

case.

**Actors:** This section names the actors in the use case. There is always a primary

actor that initiates the use case. In addition, there may be secondary

actors that also participate in the use case. For example in the Withdraw

Funds use case, the ATM Customer is the only actor.

**Preconditions:** One or more conditions that must be true at the start of use

case, from the perspective of this use case; for example, the ATM machine

is idle, displaying a “Welcome” message.

**Description of main sequence:** The bulk of the use case is a narrative

description of the main sequence of the use case, which is the most usual

sequence of interactions between the actor and the system. The description

is in the form of the input from the actor, followed by the response of the

system.

**Description of alternative sequences:** Narrative description of alternative

branches off the main sequence. There may be several alternative branches

from the main sequence. For example, if the customer’s account has insufficient

funds, display apology and eject card. The step in the use case at which

the alternative sequence branches off from the main sequence is identified

as well as a description of the alternative.

**Nonfunctional requirements:** Narrative description of nonfunctional

requirements, such as performance and security requirements.

**Postcondition:** Condition that is always true at the end of the use case (from

the perspective of this use case) if the main sequence has been followed; for

example, customer’s funds have been withdrawn.

**Outstanding questions:** During development, questions about the use case

are documented for discussions with users.

**Use case name:** Make Order Request

**Summary:** Customer enters an order request to purchase items from then online shopping system. The customer’s credit card is checked for sufficient credit to pay for the requested catalog items.

**Actor:** Customer

**Precondition:** The customer has selected one or more catalog items.

**Main sequence:**

1. Customer provides order request and customer account Id to pay for purchase.

2. System retrieves customer account information, including the customer’s credit card details.

3. System checks the customer’s credit card for the purchase amount and, if approved, creates a credit card purchase authorization number.

4. System creates a delivery order containing order details, customer Id, and credit card authorization number.

5. System confirms approval of purchase and displays order information to customer.

**Alternative sequences:**

**Step 2:** If customer does not have account, the system creates an account.

**Step 3:** If the customer’s credit card request is denied, the system prompts

the customer to enter a different credit card number. The customer can either enter a different credit card number or cancel the order.

**Postcondition:** System has created a delivery order for the customer.