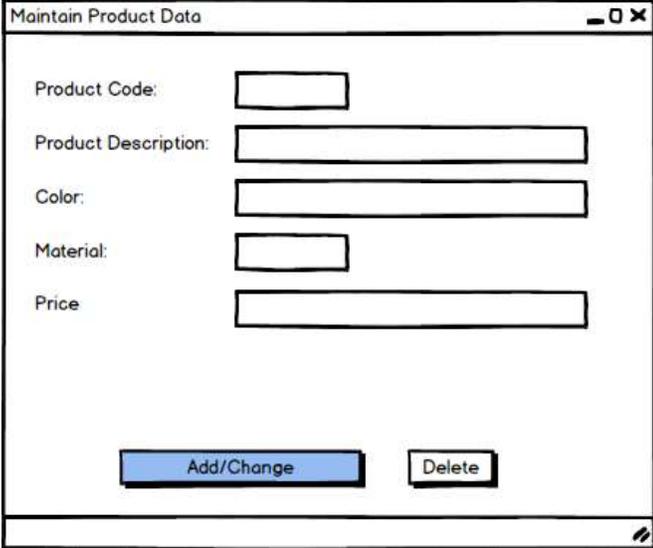


10 COMBINED EXTERNAL INPUTS

Problem description

An application provides the user with the option to maintain product data via the screen below.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Maintain Product Data". It contains the following fields and buttons:

- Product Code:
- Product Description:
- Color:
- Material:
- Price:
- Buttons:

After the user enters a product code, either an empty screen appears or a screen with product data entered earlier. When a new product code is typed in, other data can then also be entered into the remaining data fields on the screen. The data can be saved into the file by pressing the *Add/Change* button. When a product code already used for a product is entered onto the screen, the product data can be altered and saved with *Add/Change* button. A product can be deleted using the *Delete* button. When the user deletes data the application checks to see whether any stock of this product is present.

How many and what types of functions can be distinguished here?

Discussion

Entering the data of a new product is the first external input. Do not forget that the *Add/Change* button should be included in the count as a data element type.

Changing product data is the second external input. Note that the same set of data element types is used for another logical way of processing: to change product data. The same button is used and the button is counted for this external input too.

Deleting product data is the third external input. From a logical standpoint, this function also differs fundamentally from the other two above. If the user considers the stock data file as an individual file, this data must be included in the count when determining the complexity of this particular external input.

Displaying product data is not counted as a separate function because the user's objective is to add, change, or delete product data. Only when the user's objective is to

query the product data with this function should the displaying of data be counted as a separate external inquiry.

Solution

Count three external inputs.

References to the standard

4.7, 4.23, 7.2.g, 7.2.n, 7.2.o and 7.2.p