Title: Patterns for Effective Use Cases: Leveling Use Cases with The Ever Unfolding Story.

Background
In our book, “Patterns for Effective Use Cases”, we defined a pattern language that describes the qualities of effective use cases. The various patterns in the language describe the commonalities in structure and process used to develop use cases that have resulted in delivering successful systems. We based these patterns on the experiences of the four authors and their associates (several of whom are recognized pattern and use case experts), who have seen a wide variety of use cases in different environments.

I am co-presenting a daylong tutorial on our material at OOPSLA 2003. This talk will be based on that presentation.

Abstract
Use cases are a wonderfully simple concept: describe a system’s functional requirements by telling stories about how using it delivers value to its actors. However, practitioners have discovered that writing effective use cases is more difficult than they had anticipated, especially when it involves structuring the collection of use cases for a multi-disciplined audience.

A well-written set of use cases should describe a system from several different viewpoints, illustrating the system to a variety of people with different backgrounds and levels of interest. Executives, users, developers, and testers, to name a few, have different roles to perform, and require different levels of detail. We call this structure “The Ever Unfolding Story”, because it allows the reader to examine the use case from several perspectives, with as little or as much detail as they choose.

I shall use several patterns to describe an Ever Unfolding Story from four structural levels: 1) sets of use cases; 2) individual use cases; 3) scenarios; and 4) steps. At the end of this talk, the audience should have a better understanding of scoping and leveling a set of use cases.

Biography:
Paul Bramble is a Senior Software Engineer with Emperative, Inc., specializing in Object-Oriented Software Development and distributed systems. He has been developing software in the telecommunications, avionics, and computer manufacturing industries for over 20 years. Paul has a MS degree in Computer Science from Arizona State University, has been using and researching use cases since 1994, and co-authored the book “Patterns for Writing Effective Use Cases”. He
has given several presentations on use cases at the industrial and university levels, including OOPSLA events.