

BPMN modeler 1.2 Release Review

The Eclipse logo features a dark sphere with a bright light source on its left side, creating a lens flare effect. The word "eclipse" is written in white, lowercase letters across the center of the sphere. Three horizontal white lines pass through the sphere behind the text.

eclipse

Planned Review Date: 11/06/2010

Communication Channel: #eclipse-stp

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Introduction

The BPMN modeler is:

- a graphical editor
- to model Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN) diagrams
- compatible with the BPMN 1.0 and BPMN 1.1 specifications proposed by the Object Management Group.

Features

- BPMN model: The core of the modeler. It represents the EMF model used to persist the BPMN diagrams.
- BPMN diagram: The diagram editor itself. It would represent the editor and all its tools.
- BPMN validation: The BPMN validator, it enforces the BPMN specification by flagging the invalid shapes with warnings and errors.

Non-Code Aspects

- Main website:
 - <http://www.eclipse.org/bpmn>
 - Updated to the Nova theme and cleaned up
 - http://wiki.eclipse.org/STP/BPMN_Component
 - Wiki home
 - http://wiki.eclipse.org/STP/BPMN_Component/Samples
 - Main page for samples

APIs

- Extension points:
- On bpmn.diagram
 - BpmnDiagramEditorContextMenuContributor
 - DecorationFilter
 - EannotationDecorator
 - Note: there was an API change on this extension point, it is now accepting an Image instead of an ImageDescriptor.
 - FileDnDHandlers
 - SecondarySemanticHintProcessor

APIs

- On bpmn.validation:
 - BpmnFileExistenceConstraintCustomizer
 - BpmnMarkerResolutionProvider
 - ValidationMarkerCreationHook
- Exported packages on the various plugins:
 - No changes since last release.

Architectural Issues

- Project built on top of GMF, so very extensible by nature
- Many ways to extend the project are shown in the samples
- One of the goals of the project is to be very easily embeddable in a product.
- We showed how to extend and rebrand the modeler in our talk during EclipseCon 2008:
 - http://wiki.eclipse.org/STP/BPMN_Component/EclipseCon_2008

Tool Usability

- The modeler uses both the keyboard and mouse to interact with the user.
 - Popup menus may be shown through a key shortcut.
 - Handles show around figures when the mouse hovers them.
 - Wizards are here to help to connect figures if needed.
 - Drag and drop is heavily involved.

End-of-Life

- None

Bugzilla

- No major defects are present
- A few issues on usability are present
- A few issues regarding the BPMN compatibility are present

Standards

- The modeler complies with the BPMN 1.2 standard.
 - However we need to stick a bit more to the standard:
 - We miss the decorator for ad hoc subprocesses
 - We need to draw a better shape for dataobjects

UI Usability

- We follow the standard user interface guidelines.
- We support internationalization
 - BPMN modeler is declared on Babel
 - It is completely translated in japanese
 - We support models written in non-latin characters.

Schedule

- BPMN modeler tested with latest GMF and EMF frameworks
- No strong development
 - Migrated to git
 - New build system in the works

Communities

- Bugzilla: nothing much new.
- Mailing lists: slow traffic
- Newsgroup: good activity
 - Mainly users
 - People tend to come there first.
 - Most people ask how to get their hands on the modeler.

IP Log

- Iplog:
 - http://www.eclipse.org/projects/ip_log.php?projectid=stp.bp_mnmodeler
- No contributions were accepted for this release.
- Moved to the SOA TLP

IP Issues

- None