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OPEN
REQUIREMENTS
MANAGEMENT
FRAMEWORK
(ORMF)

CREATION REVIEW

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IN A NUTSHELL

ORMF is an Eclipse based framework for the creation, development and management of structured requirements.

ORMF fills a void in the Eclipse set of tools and frameworks, it has a clear vision, an initial architecture and contribution. It has a number of contributors and interested parties from diverse organisations. No conflicts with other Eclipse projects have been identified, in fact, several of the Eclipse tools are being used to develop ORMF. The initial roadmap is quite demanding, yet feasible.
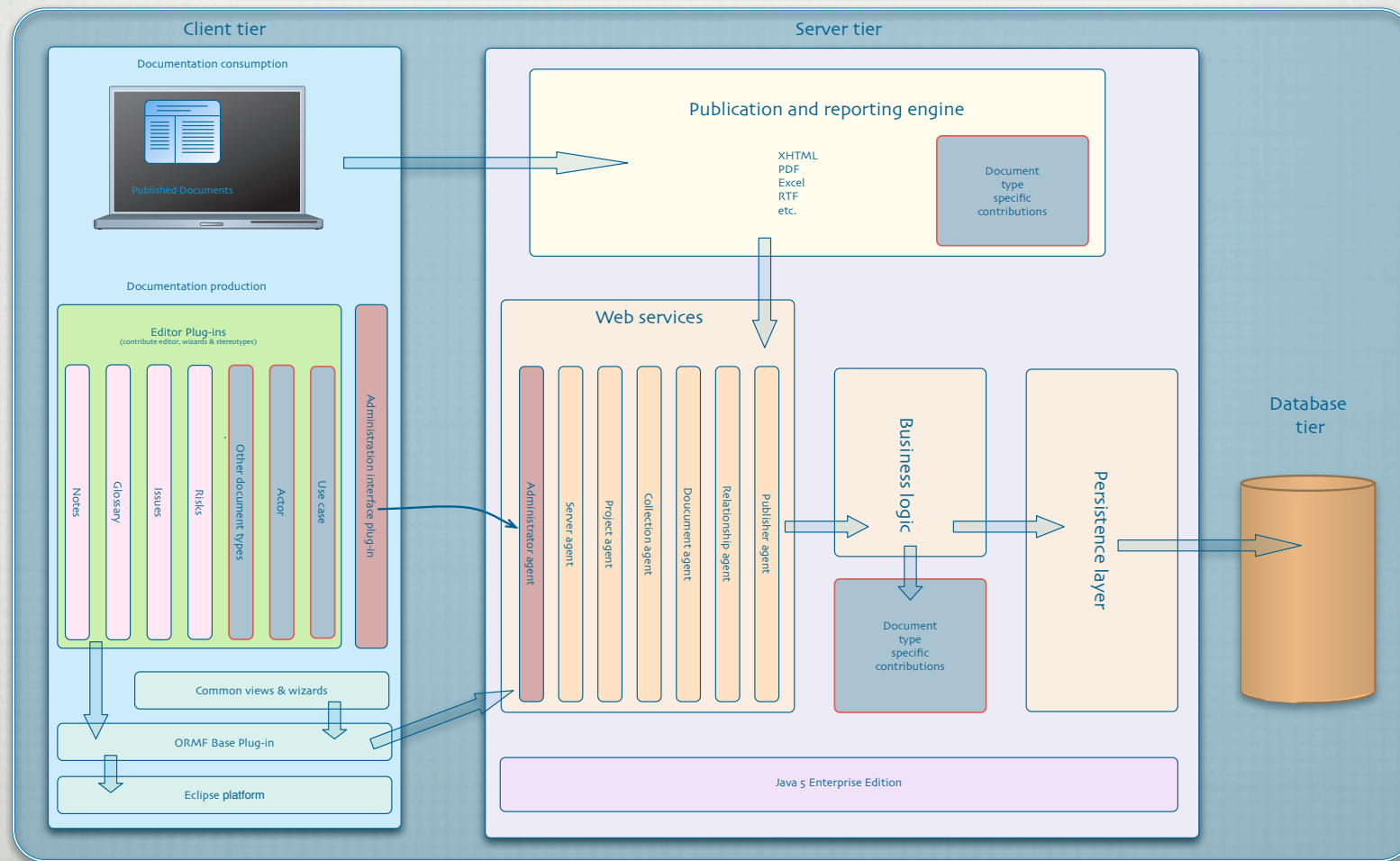
OVERVIEW

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* ORMF defines a common set of services, mechanisms and patterns for disparate types of requirements.

* It facilitates creation of valid and complete requirements models for software projects with specialised tools built on top of ORMF.

* It is collaborative in nature, with a set of client plug-ins and a server component for the infra structural modules and the engine that publishes requirements as documents in a variety of formats.

* It fills an empty niche in the Eclipse ecosystem of software development tools.

* It promotes expansion of the Eclipse user base to requirements definers, analysts and various other roles that are not normally exposed to this platform.

GOALS AND SCOPE

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* ORMF defines structured requirements to facilitate validation and guidance

* It will support existing requirements standards

* It defines smart links to represent intra and inter requirement relationships. It automatically manages these links via an extensible mechanism

* It captures common requirements features (ex. Notes, Glossary terms) and makes them available to all requirements to refer to

* It defines complex views, visualisations and reporting to enable flexible interrogation of the requirements model

* It provides a rich infrastructure or services and mechanisms for the benefit of all tools based on it. It also provides extension mechanisms

* It is collaborative at both requirements production and requirements consumption stages

* Issues of version control, baselining and snapshot creation will be explored as part of ORMF development

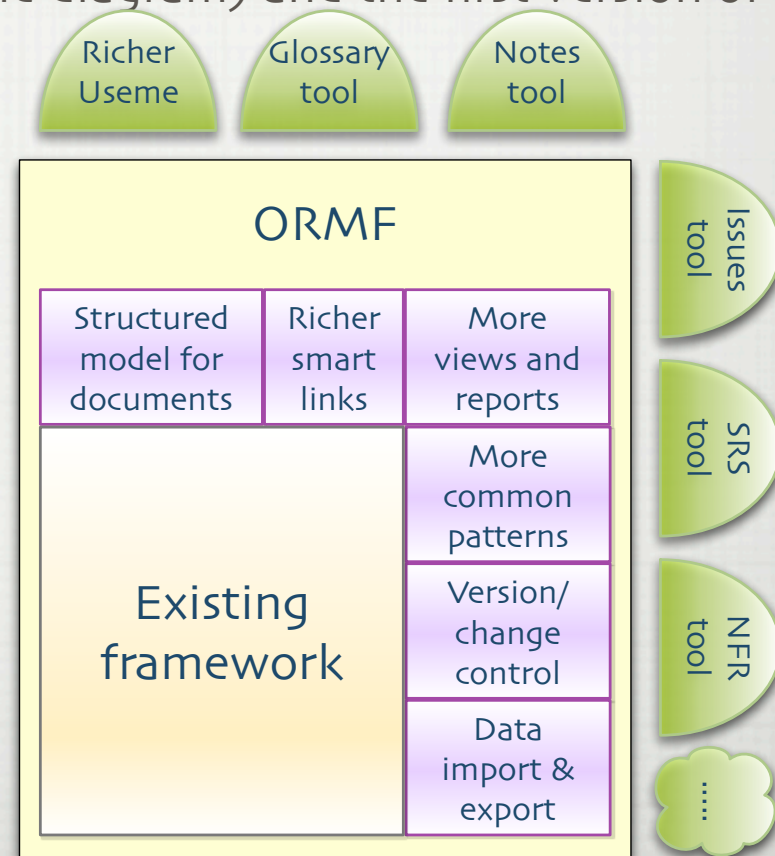* It provides data import and export from/into other standard tools and frameworks

ARCHITECTURE

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High level architecture

Client tier

Documentation consumption

Published Documents

Documentation production

Editor Plug-ins
(contribute editor, wizards & stereotypes)

Notes | Glossary | Issues | Risks | Other document types | Actor | Use case

Administration interface plug-in

Common views & wizards

ORMF Base Plug-in

Eclipse platform

Server tier

Publication and reporting engine

XHTML
PDF
Excel
RTF
etc.

Document type specific contributions

Web services

Administrator agent | Server agent | Project agent | Collection agent | Document agent | Relationship agent | Publisher agent

Business logic

Document type specific contributions

Persistence layer

Java 5 Enterprise Edition

Database tier

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Etish will donate the initial contribution to ORMF, containing the first cut framework (golden yellow in the diagram) and the first version of Useme, an exemplary tool built on top of ORMF for handling use case requirements.

Future extensions are shown in the diagram as the purple (extensions to ORMF) and green (addition of requirements specific tools) regions.

Richer Useme | Glossary tool | Notes tool

ORMF

Structured model for documents	Richer smart links	More views and reports
Existing framework		More common patterns
		Version/ change control
		Data import & export

Issues tool

SRS tool

NFR tool

....

❋ Joel Rosi-Schwartz (project lead)

Joel is a director at the Eclipse Foundation member organisation Etish Limited. He has extensive experience in software development, which includes most aspects of the development life cycle. His primary interests are technical architecture and design based on UML and J5EE, but he has also filled the analyst role on several projects. His experience spans various domains including banking, mortgage, insurance, health care and media. He has participated on many projects for organisations ranging from medium sized software houses to large blue chip companies. In the Eclipse realm, he is particularly interested in OSGi, the Eclipse Modelling Project and BIRT. Joel is one of the authors of ORMF's initial contribution and exemplary tool Useme.

❋ Barbara Rosi-Schwartz (project lead)

Barbara is a software engineer at the Eclipse Foundation member organisation Etish Limited. After gaining a PhD in Soft Matter Physics from the University of Parma (Italy) and spending a few years in Academia, Barbara became a full time software developer. She has been programming in Java for 11 years and she has been involved in UML based software design, as well as requirements definition and capture. She has been developing commercial Eclipse based applications since 2002. Her core competence lies in front end design and development, with particular interest in SWT, JFace, GMF and GEF. Barbara is one of the authors of ORMF's initial contribution and exemplary tool Useme.

Vasile Chereches

Vasile is a 4th year Computer Science student at Polytechnics University Timisoara, Romania. He has a 3 years experience in Java and he has developed web applications and desktop applications using JBoss Seam, EJB3, Hibernate, JBoss and Tomcat application servers, RichFaces, Swing and JXTA. During his Software Engineering 1 course he came in contact with Requirements Engineering and this field caught his interest. He is very excited and motivated to contribute to a project that will ease the lives of those that have to create requirements documents and also those that have to develop applications based on them.

Ben Garbers

Ben has a Masters degree in Software Engineering from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. He is currently working as a manager for IBM and he will be participating on ORMF on his own time. Ben has a great deal of experience in requirements management and Java/Eclipse development, and is in fact the author of the open source Napkins Development Tools.

Achim Loerke

Achim is a director at BREDEX GmbH (Braunschweig, Germany). He is the principal architect of GUIdancer, an Eclipse based GUI testing tool. Achim has more than 10 years experience with Java development, both client and server side. His main interest in the ORMF domain is the path from requirements to test specifications and test results including the traceability of results.

Achim has contributed extensions to the Activities framework in RCP. His company is an Eclipse Foundation member and interested in requirements management support for Eclipse.

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❋ Wolfgang Ponikwar

Wolfgang is a freelance consultant, based in Germany, who has been working with software development for 16 years and with Java for more than 8 years. He is an active developer and trainer in Java SE and EE, Requirements Engineering, UML and XML/XSL-T. His Java experience is mainly on the server side of Java, with a lot of networking and communications, data modelling, databases and algorithms on search, pattern recognition, computational geometry and multithreading. Wolfgang has been struggling over all the usual requirements problems and is attracted to ORMF because, in his own words: "...it seems I have finally found a community with similar interests and experience".

❋ Costabile Santis

Costi is currently working at his post master of science diploma in software engineering at Cefriel-Politecnico di Milano, with a thesis that is about the software development process in small teams, hence his interest in ORMF. He has two years experience at SAS institute as Technical Consultant, mainly providing on site customer support, system administration, installation and configuration of SAS products (Weblogic, Websphere, Tomcat). He was previously employed at Dell Inc. His main areas of interest within ORMF are configuration management and system administration.

- Richard Gronback, Borland

- Harm Sluiman, IBM

- Gary Xue, Actuate

CONTRIBUTORS

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- Izzat Demnati

- Aleksandra Wozniak

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INTERESTED PARTIES

✳ A large number of individual and organisations have expressed interest in and enthusiasm about ORMF. The project's newsgroup has seen a considerable amount of traffic.

✳ The developments of Useme (our exemplary tool built on ORMF) are being closely followed. We regularly receive emails requesting information and we have about 150 people registered to the Useme newsletter.

Particular interest has been expressed by the following organisations:

✳ Bredex GmbH

✳ Fijitsu

✳ greensys

✳ Integranova

✳ Symbian

ECLIPSE SYNERGIES

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Utilised tools

* Eclipse Modelling Project(EMF, GMF and UML 2)

* Graphical Editor Framework

* Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools

Collaboration potentials

* Eclipse Process Framework Project

* Open System Engineering Environment

* Testing Tools

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ROADMAP

M1
Aug 2008

Provisioning
Code donation/IP process
Team ramp-up

M2
Oct 2008

Actor editor
Administration interface
Alpha release to community

M3
Dec 2008

Community feedback solicitation
ORMF project plan release

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* ORMF proposal

* Useme website

* Articles and Flash presentations on Useme

* Presentation at EclipseCon 2008:
  Introducing Useme, the Open Requirements Management Tool

* ORMF newsgroup: eclipse.technology.ormf

* Useme newsletters archive

Thank you !