

BPMN modeler 1.1 Release Review



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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](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
- Two contributions are in progress.

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

- The main goal of this release is to issue a very stable modeler
 - Milestones were met
- The goal of adding more quickfixes for validation wasn't met yet
 - We will pursue this work as part of the next release.

Communities

- Bugzilla: not much activity
 - A few contributions, still in the works
- Mailing lists: still new
 - New mailing lists were introduced in October and we haven't had much traffic yet.
- Newsgroup: good activity
 - Mainly users
 - People tend to come there first.

IP Log

- Iplog:
 - http://www.eclipse.org/projects/ip_log.php?projectid=stp.bp
- No contributions were accepted for this release.

IP Issues

- None