On the Relevance of Models in Information Systems Engineering

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Colloquium @ UPC / ESSI
Barcelona, Sept 18, 2013

AGENDA

- My Personal History & Background
- Focus Area: Model Based Software & Data Integration
  - Languages and Models (… the basics …)
  - Metalanguages and Metamodels, i.e. „playing with languages“
- Project Experiences 2007 thru 2013
  - Application towards Business Scenarios (… software and data integrators: only SMEs !!)
  - BIZYCLE: Model Based Software & Data Integration
  - BIZWARE: Domain Specific Languages
- My Present Work: Teaching Relevance of MBSDI and Future Project Perspectives

Large Scale Information Infrastructures Specifications & Modeling … my personal history …

• PAtientenDatenKOMmunikation PADKOM (*Patient Data Communication*) / Heterogeneous Distributed information Management System HDMS at German Heart Centre Berlin DHZB (1989 – 1993+)

• LandesUmweltInformationsSystem LUIS Brandenburg (1994 – 2000+) (*State Environmental Information System Brandenburg*)

• Telematikplattform für die Medizinische Forschung in Deutschland TMF (1998 – 2003+) (*Telematics Platform for Clinical Studies*)

• European Migration Network EMN (2004 – 2006+)

PADKOM / HDMS @ DHZB

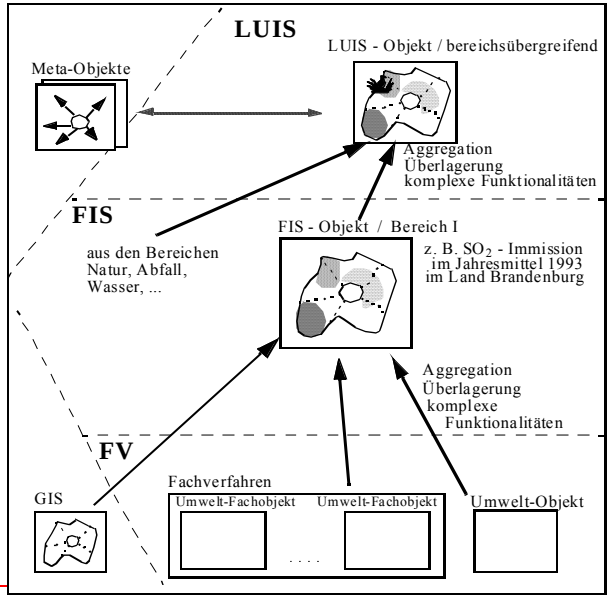
since 1989

- Development of the HDMS …
- … as an object-based, distributed, heterogeneous information system in the domain of cardiology at German Heart Centre of Berlin DHZB …
- … basically enabling communication and an integrated view of the various kinds of patient data … (later also: data integration)

LUIS Brandenburg

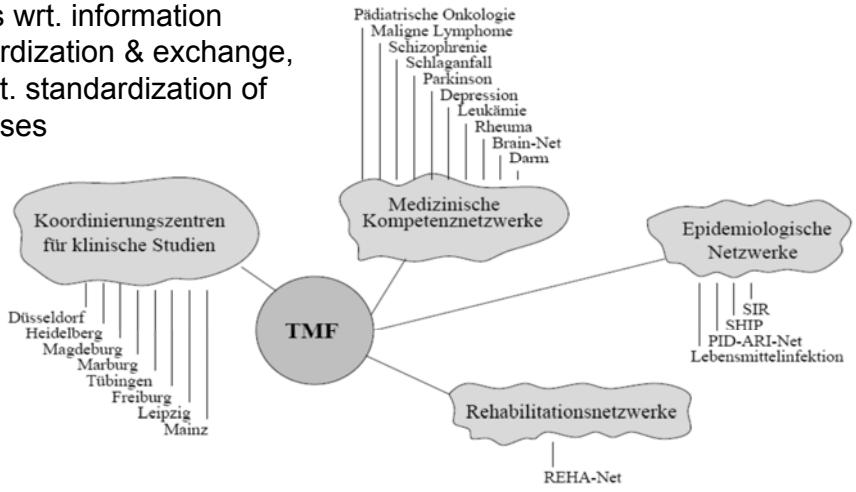
since 1994

- Integration of environmental information sources via object-oriented middleware …
- Object-based approach …
- Metadata-based approach …



TMF Germany since 1998

- Integrating approx. 200 medical centers performing clinical studies wrt. information standardization & exchange, and wrt. standardization of processes

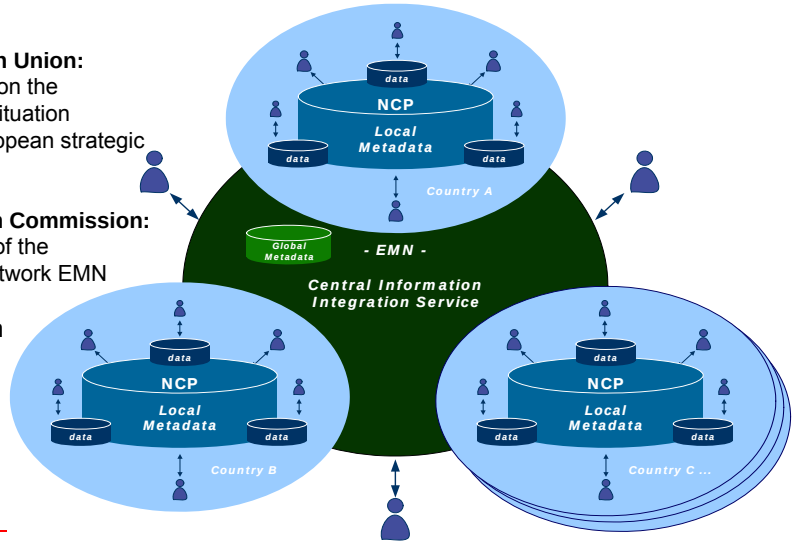


European Migration Network

since 2004

Goals of the European Union:
• Comprehensive view on the migration and asylum situation
• Harmonization of European strategic policy & legislation

Task for the European Commission:
"Pilot Implementation" of the European Migration Network EMN w.r.t.
• Contact Information
• Publications
• Legislation
• Statistics
• …



Lessons Learned from the Experiences …

- **Model-based development** is essential in order to guarantee flexible, stable and sustainable software solutions and information systems
- **Metadata definition, standardization and management** is essential in order to allow for data exchange and integration
- **Semantic concepts** help to improve ‚real' semantic integration
- **Graphical languages help** in faster perception of complex structures and relations and often help to avoid inception phase errors
- **Object-oriented paradigm** helps to unify structural (data) view and dynamic (functions, processes, interactions, workflows) views
- **Rich middleware platforms** are essential in order to allow for complex interoperability (e.g. transactions, security, …)
- **Solid mathematical / theoretical background** is absolutely useful

Quick jump into my eBISS 2013 tutorial on MBSDI

- History & Background
- Goal: Model Based Software & Data Integration
- **Languages and Models**
- **Metalanguages and Metamodels**
- BIZYCLE: Model Based Software & Data Integration
- BIZWARE: Domain Specific Languages

What is a Model? – Some Definitions…

(for a more general view, please, refer to: "Models in Science" ,Roman Frigg and Stephan Hartmann (2006), Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/models-science/#RepModIModDat)

- Merriam Webster dictionary:
  - 4.) a (usually) *miniature representation of* something; also : *a pattern of* something to be made
  - 10.) a system of *postulates, data, and inferences* presented *as a mathematical description of* an entity or state of affairs
- Grady Booch: *… a simplification of reality …*
- According to Stachowiak [Herbert Stachowiak, Allgemeine Modelltheorie, Springer, 1973] a model needs to possess three features:
  - *mapping feature*: A model is based on an original.
  - *reduction feature*: A model only reflects a (relevant) selection of the original's properties.
  - *pragmatic feature*: A model needs to be usable in place of the original with respect to some purpose.

Model Theory: Steinmüller

A model is information …

- … on something (content, meaning)
- … created by someone (sender)
- … for somebody (receiver)
- … for some purpose (usage context)

translated from: W. Steinmüller. Informationstechnologie und Gesellschaft: Einführung in die Angewandte Informatik. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt, 1993.

Abstraction is the key-concept to build models

- … derive information from different viewpoints
- … derive the essence, the characteristics, the lawfulness (‚Gesetzmäßigkeit') from a set of different individuals
- … make relationships between concepts visible by deleting details

Examples of Models

- Mathematical Models

e.g. CIRCLE (*an idealized set of points in two-dimensional space*)

- Architectural Models

e.g. KING'S CASTLE (*an idealized wish of an old/new building in the center of Berlin*)

- Technical Models

e.g. a prototype of a new car, but also all previous technical sketches, specifications, calculations, simulations, ... (*an idealized imagination of several communities*)

In our setting of Software and Information Systems:

- Models of the real world in order to achieve software solutions with given properties:
  - Mapping of the reality
  - Abstraction from (too many) details of the reality: reduction/ simplification
  - Pragmatics/ Feasibility

What is Language?

- A **language** is a *dynamic set* of visual, auditory, or tactile *symbols of communication* and the elements used to manipulate them.

- A *set of commonly accepted symbols* is only one feature of language; all languages must define the structural relationships between these symbols in a *system of grammar*. Rules of grammar are one of the characteristics sometimes said to distinguish language from other forms of communication. They allow a finite set of symbols to be manipulated to create a potentially infinite number of grammatical utterances.

- Languages can be (among other classifications) subdivided into:
  - Formal language / Artificial language, mathematical and other languages created for a specific purpose, like e.g. first order logic (formal) or modeling/programming languages (artificial /semiformal)
  - Natural language, a language used naturally by humans

(A collection of statements from Wikipedia, modified and shortened according to my intensions)

Syntax / Semantics / Pragmatics (I)

In the linguistics of both natural and computer languages, the terms *syntax, semantics and pragmatics* are used to categorize descriptions of language characteristics.

- **Syntax :** The *syntax* of a language describes the structure and composition of allowable phrases and sentences of the language.
- **Semantics :** But syntax itself is devoid of *meaning*, simply telling us what strings are valid and how they may be parsed or decomposed. The meaning of these syntactic elements must be provided through *semantics.* In essence, we may think of providing syntactic elements as inputs to a *semantic function*, which in turn provides some representation of the meaning of the elements as output.
- **Pragmatics :** *Pragmatics* is the third general area of language description, referring to practical aspects of how constructs and features of a language may be used to achieve various objectives.

- From [Cameron 2002] **Robert D. Cameron, "Four Concepts in Programming Language Description: Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics, and Metalanguage"**, Univ. San Francisco CA, 2002

Syntax / Semantics / Pragmatics (II)

- ***Syntax****:* Syntax is the study that **relates signs to one another**.

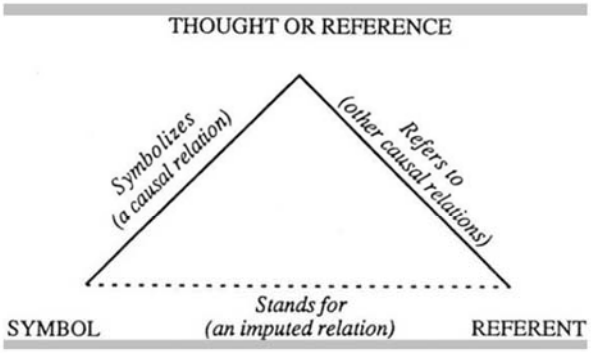
- ***Semantics****:* Semantics is the study that **relates signs to things in the world** and patterns of signs to corresponding patterns that occur among the things the signs refer to.

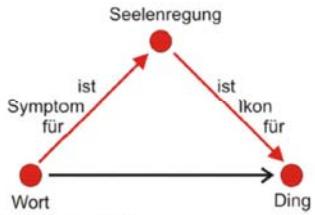
- ***Pragmatics****:* Pragmatics is the study that **relates signs to the agents who use them** to refer to things in the world and **to communicate their intentions** about those things to other agents who may have similar or different intentions concerning the same or different things.

- From [Sowa 2000] **John F. Sowa, "Ontology, Metadata, and Semiotics"** , in: B. Ganter & G. W. Mineau, eds., *Conceptual Structures: Logical, Linguistic, and Computational Issues, Lecture* Notes in AI #1867, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2000, pp. 55-81.

Meaning/Semantics – Bedeutung/Semantik

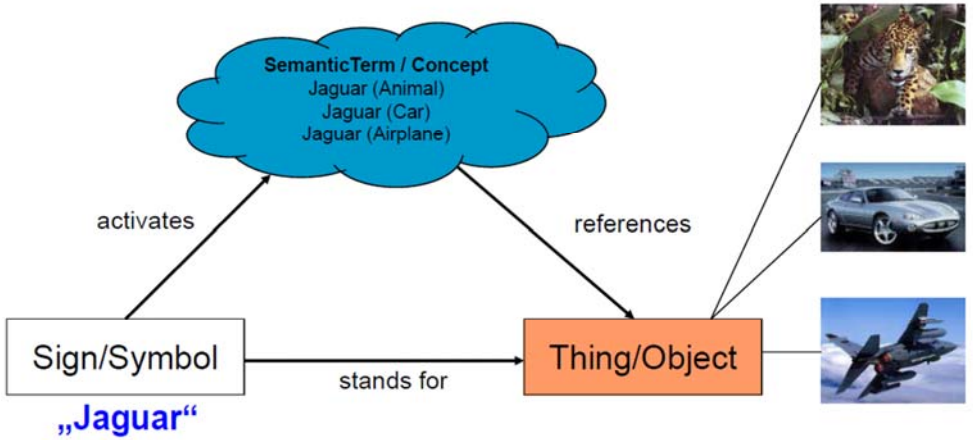
The Ogden and Richards (1923) Semiotic Triangle:





… and its predecessor … (Aristotle, 4th century BC, from Wikipedia)

Semiotic Triangle: Example



Semiotics

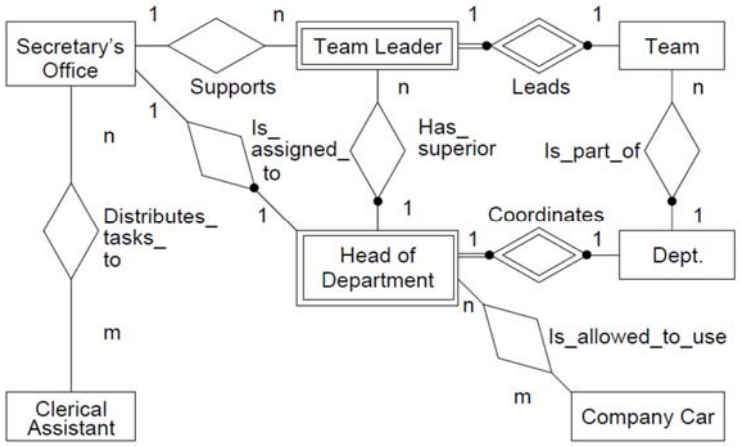
- Sowa (2000) writes about Ogden & Richards' (1923) triangle of meaning: "The triangle has a long history. Aristotle distinguished objects, the words that refer to them, and the corresponding experiences in the *psychê.* Frege and Peirce adopted that three-way distinction from Aristotle and used it as the semantic foundation for their systems of logic. Frege's terms for the three vertices of the triangle were *Zeichen (sign) for the symbol, Sinn* (sense) for the *concept*, and *Bedeutung* (reference) for the *object*."

Literature:

- Ogden, C. K. and I. A. Richards, I. A. (1923). *The Meaning of Meaning: A Study of the Influence of Language Upon Thought and of the Science of Symbolism.* London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Peirce, C. S. (1931-1958). *Collected Papers of C. S. Peirce* ed. by C. Hartshorne, P. Weiss, & A. Burks, 8 vols., Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Sowa, J. F. (2000). Ontology, Metadata, and Semiotics. In: B. Ganter & G. W. Mineau, eds., *Conceptual Structures: Logical, Linguistic, and Computational Issues,* LNAI 1867, Springer, Berlin, 2000, pp. 55-81.

Example: Information Modeling by E/R Diagrams

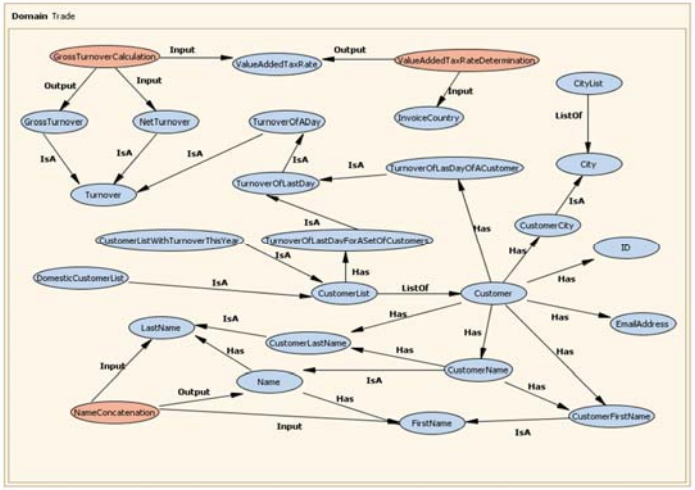
- Example: Excerpt of a phase 1-2 entity-relationship-diagram on some company structure aspects



(Source:
Lab example from an INFMOD course by Ralf Kutsche, 2003)

Example: Modeling „Knowledge“

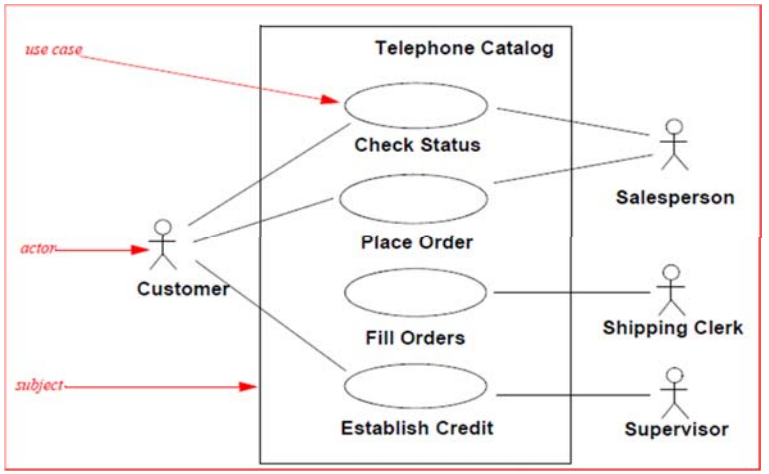
- Example:
  Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Ontology
  (starting point, finally very complex with lots of logical constraints in the background …)



(Source:
BIZYCLE Project,
TU Berlin, 2009)

Software Modeling: System Functionality

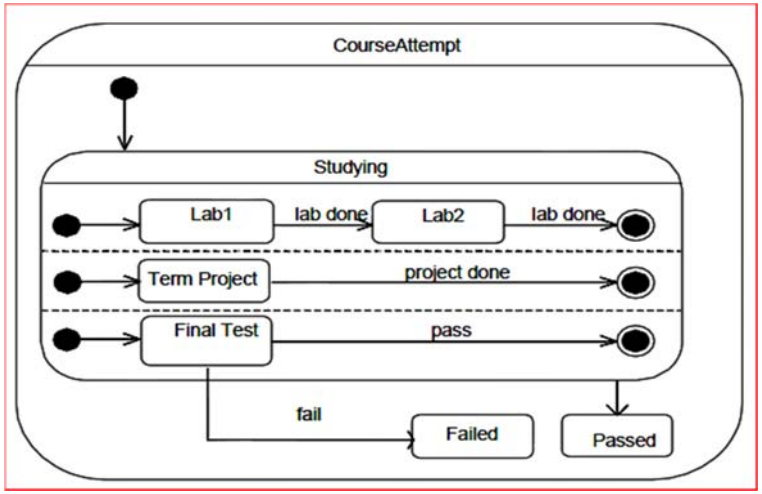
- Example: Modeling (coarse) functionality of a system for telephone orders (*UML use case diagram*)



(from: UML Superstructure Specification v2.3, OMG document formal/2010-05-05, 2010)

Software (Behaviour) Modeling: Statecharts

- Example: Modeling the (concurrent) states of a student during a university project course (*UML statecharts*)



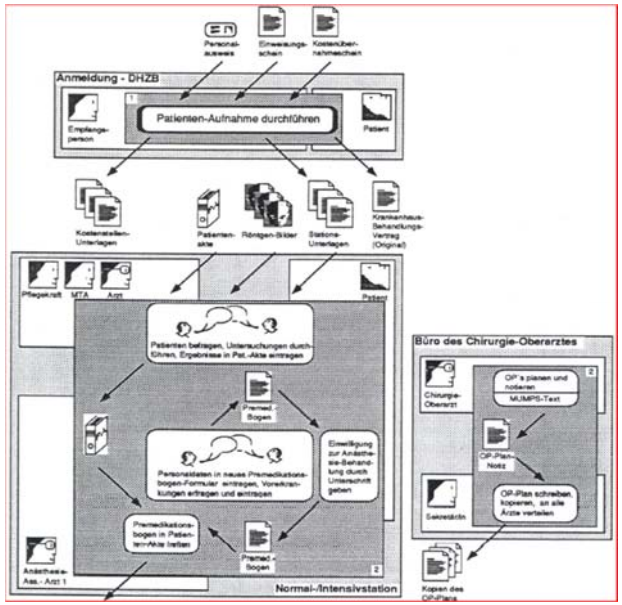
(from: UML Superstructure Specification v2.3, OMG document formal/2010-05-05, 2010)

Modeling example: Activity & Document Flows

- Health Care Example:

Combined Workflow and Document Flow Diagram including the dimensions of time, space (local org units), and responsibility

(Patient registration für heart surgery, excerpt)



(Source: Ralf-D. Kutsche, 1990,
Deutsches Herzzentrum Berlin)

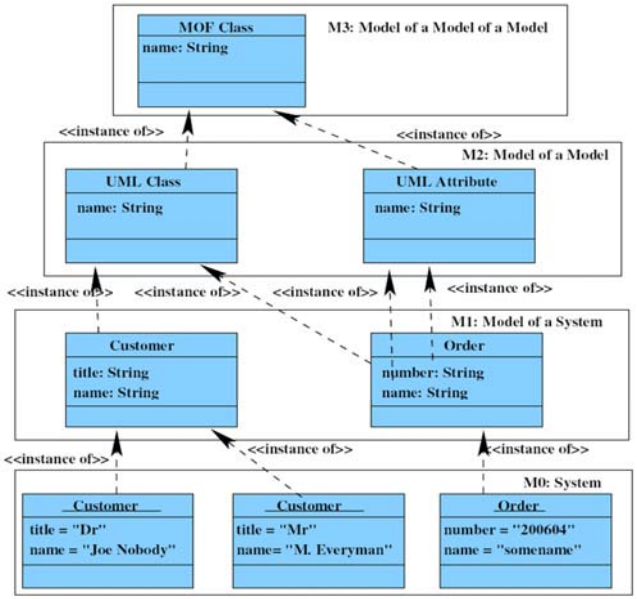
Metalanguage

- Another important concept that applies to all aspects of language description is that of **metalanguage**. *Metalanguage*, in general, *refers to the language in which a subject language is being described*. For example, BNF (Backus-Naur Form) is a metalanguage widely used to describe the syntax of programming languages. Similarly, there are formal metalanguages for describing the semantics of programming languages, particularly associated with the approaches of axiomatic semantics and denotational semantics. In most cases, however, a less formal approach to semantic description is taken, using English as the metalanguage.

- It is important to note that metalanguages are indeed languages in their own right. In particular, one should expect that metalanguages each have their own syntax, semantics and pragmatics, which in turn must be described by a **metametalanguage**. Typically, a combination of English prose and standard mathematical notation is used as metametalanguage.

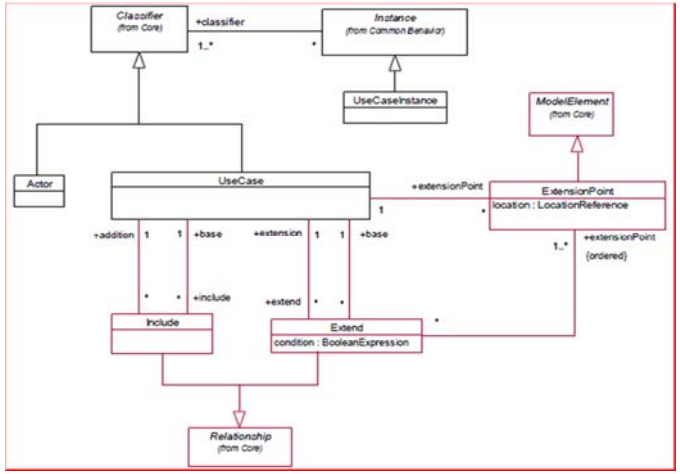
- From [Cameron 2002] **Robert D. Cameron, "Four Concepts in Programming Language Description: Syntax Semantics Pragmatics and Metalanguage"**, Univ. San Francisco CA, 2002

UML / MOF Metamodel Hierarchy: Classical MOF



Language Definition: Example Use Case M.M.

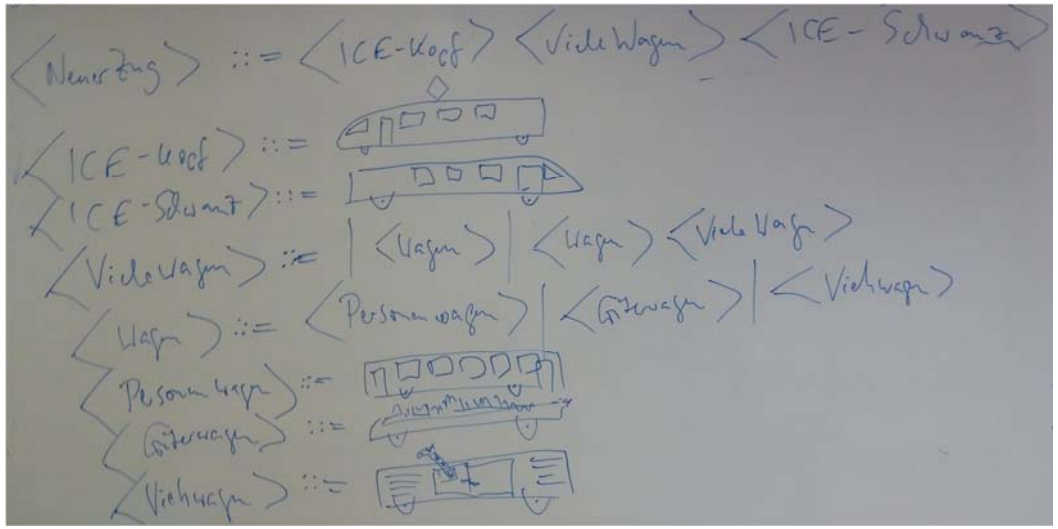
- ... metamodeling: *abstract syntax of a modeling language*, i.e. its concepts !



(from: OMG UML Specification v1.5, OMG document formal/03-03-01, March 2003)

Language Definition: another example ...

- ... BNF (Backus-Naur-Form), here mixing textual and graphical elements!



(Source: an industrial training by Ralf Kutsche, 2011)

UML 2 Discussion of MOF levels

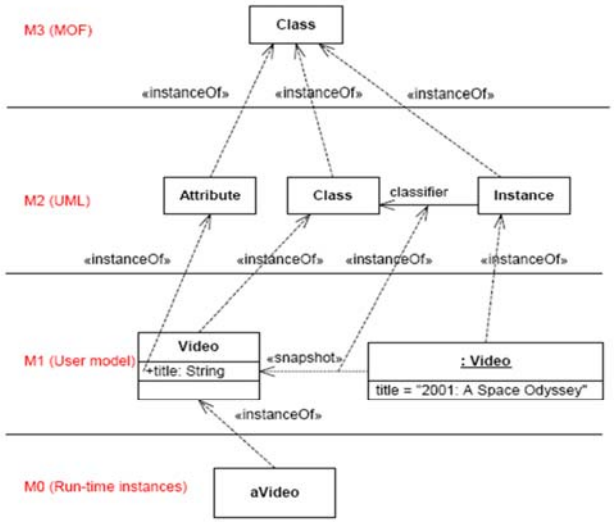


Figure 7.8 - An example of the four-layer metamodel hierarchy

Further Reading in Metamodeling

- **[1] Colin Atkinson & Thomas Kühne.** *Model-driven development: A Metamodeling Foundation*, IEEE Software, Vol. 20, No. 5, pp. 36-41, 2003
- **[2] Thomas Kühne.** *Matters of (Meta-) Modeling*, Journal on Software and Systems Modeling, Vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 369-385, Dec 2006
- **[3] Jean Bezivin and Olivier Gerbe.** *Towards a precise definition of the OMG/MDA framework*, Proc 16th Int. Conf. on Automated Software Engineering, Coronado Island, pages 273–280, November 2001
- **[4] Jean Bezivin**. *In search of a basic principle for model driven engineering*, Special Novatica Issue "UML and Model Engineering", V(2), April 2004
- **[5] Susanne Strahringer,** *Metamodellierung als Instrument des Methodenvergleichs,* Shaker Verlag, Aachen, 1996

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- My Present Work: Teaching Relevance of MBSDI and Future Project Perspectives

BIZYCLE @ TU Berlin 2007 – 2010

Methodology, Design & Development of the Model-based Interoperability Platform MBIF for Software and Data Integration

Our Project team:

Dr. Ralf-D. Kutsche, Dr. Nikola Milanovic

Henning Agt, Gregor Bauhoff, Timo Baum, Mario Cartsburg, Hatice Elmasgünes, Daniel Kumpe, Michael Shtelma, Jürgen Widiker

+ Students …

WACHSTUMSKERNE UNTERNEHMEN REGION Die BMBF-Innovationsinitiative Neue Länder

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

BIZYCLE

Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)

Computergestützte Informationssysteme CIS / Datenbanksysteme und Informationsmanagement DIMA

Motivation 1970 – 2070 … (?)

- Integration of heterogeneous distributed IT-systems is one of the major problems and cost-driving factors in the software industry (approx. 50 % of total IT-cost, 80% of total software cost in integration issues …)
- There is an increasing need to systematically address integration in accidental information infrastructures and IT-architectures, that have grown over time in an uncontrolled manner in heterogeneous enterprise environments
- Integration needs:
  - Data and information integration
  - Software integration (full interoperability)

Model-based SWE / SDI : lots of promises

- **Model-based development helps in sustainability** (models are more stable than code …, abstraction level of documentation, …)
- **Model-based integration saves approx. 70% of integration costs** (statements by Bran Selic IBM/Rational, and: experiences from our BIZYCLE experiments)
- **Fully model-based approach (including process mgmt, and generated code/ model execution) can save even more than 90% of the total development cost** (statements by András Pataricza, Univ. Budapest)

BIZYCLE Vision 2006

- Methodology & technology platform for enterprise-wide (even: cross-enterprise) integration of software solutions and components in business intelligence
- Transparent access to all business relevant applications
- (Semi-) Automatized integration of applications for various kinds of business process improvement
- Cross-system evaluation of enterprise relevant data (KPIs..)

BIZYCLE – slogan: (our industrial partners)

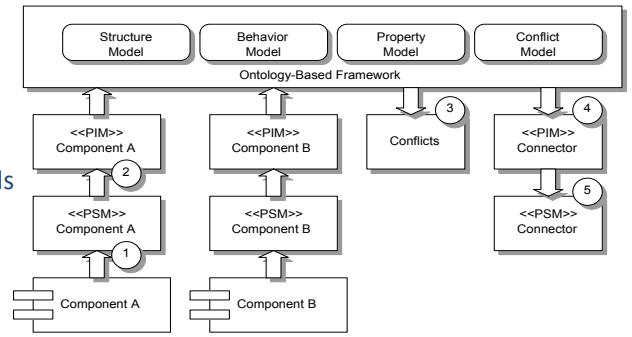
Plug and Play Your Business!

or: (at university)

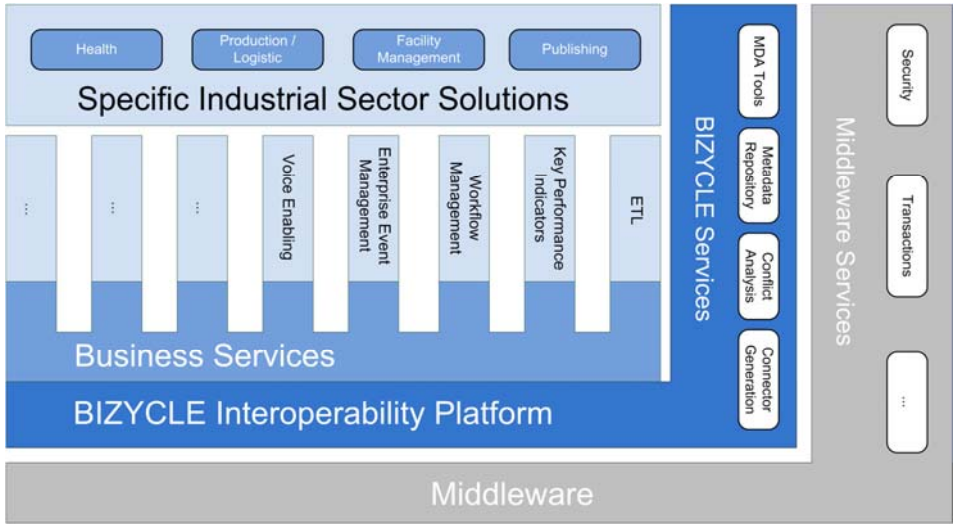
Generate Software Connectors (semi) Automatically !

BIZYCLE Philosophy and Methodology 2006

- Integration scenarios are modeled at different abstraction levels:
  - Computation independent model level (CIM)
  - Platform independent model level (PIM)
  - Platform specific model level (PSM)
- Integration methodology:
  - Component/Interface Analysis Platform Specific (Meta-) Models
  - Transformation to Platform Independent (Meta-) Models
  - Conflict Analysis
  - Connector Generation



BIZYCLE Platform Architecture 2006



BIZYCLE Modeling Methodology & Metamodel Research for System & Component Integration

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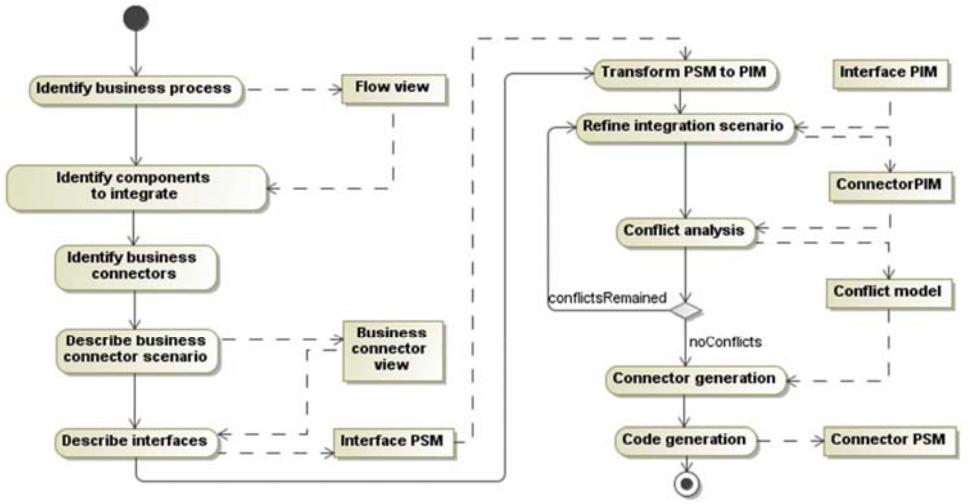
BIZYCLE

Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)
Computergestützte Informationssysteme CIS / Datenbanksysteme und Informationsmanagement DIMA

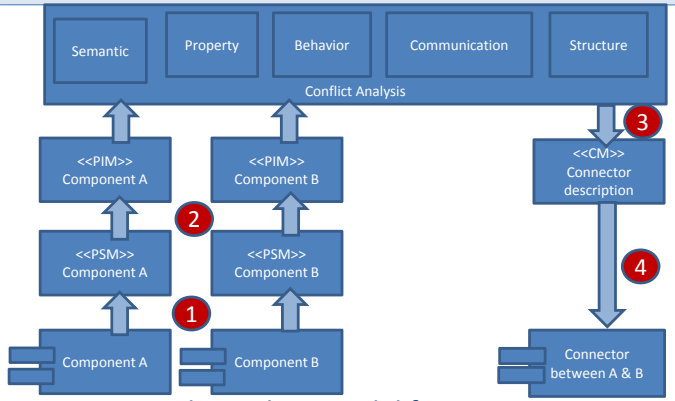
(Meta-)Modeling Methodology

- Methodology:
  Applying MDA methodology (CIM, PIM, PSM meta-/modeling)
- Application:
  Integration Scenario Modeling (CIM level)
  (starting from UML diagrams for use cases, interactions, activities, etc. …
  later using the MBIF toolsuite …)
- Research: Metamodel Development
- Application: Modeling Interface Descriptions / Metamodel Instantiation for Integration Scenarios (PSM level)

Component Integration Process 2007



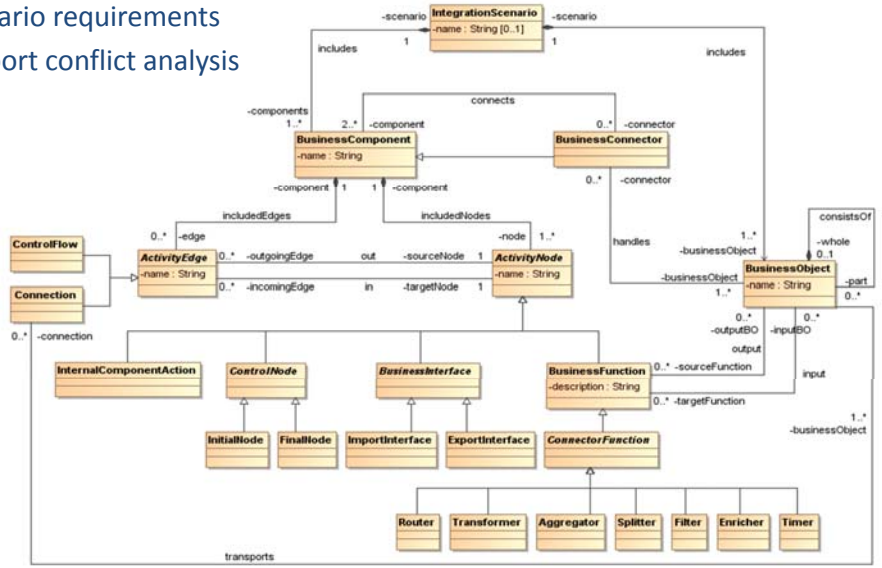
BIZYCLE (Meta-) Models



- CIM: Computation Independent Model for integration requirements
- PSM: Platform Specific Models for interface descriptions (many!)
- PIM: Platform Independent Model for interface descriptions
- SM: Semantic Model (domain ontology)
- AM: Annotation Model for semantic annotations
- CM: Connector Model

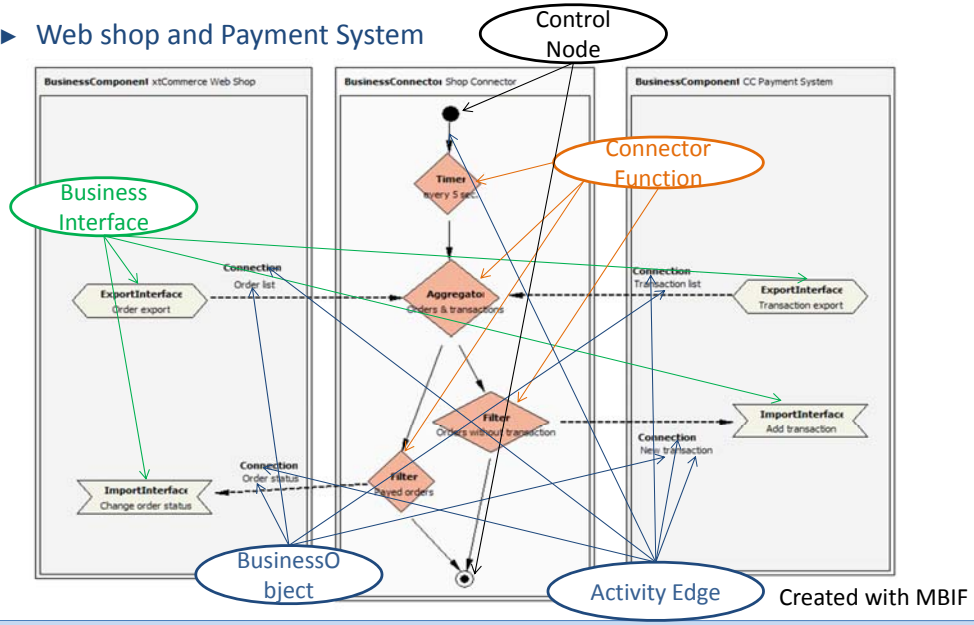
Computation Independent Metamodel (CIM)

- Captures business scenario with control and data flow
- Scenario requirements
- Support conflict analysis



CIM Example

- Web shop and Payment System



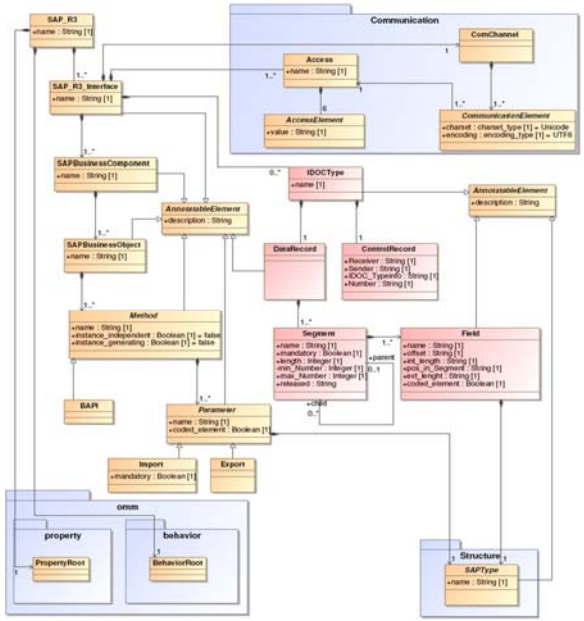
Created with MBIF

BIZYCLE – Modeling Interface Description

- Describe 'technical' information about interfaces that are to be integrated:
  - Interface static signature (types)
  - Interface *behavior*
  - *Communication* protocols
  - *Non-functional* properties
- Systems under study, i.e. development of PSMMs:
  - ERP (e.g., SAP R/3 BAPI/IDOC)
  - Relational and XML databases
  - J2EE and .NET components/applications
  - Web Services
  - Flat files (e.g., XML, CSV…)

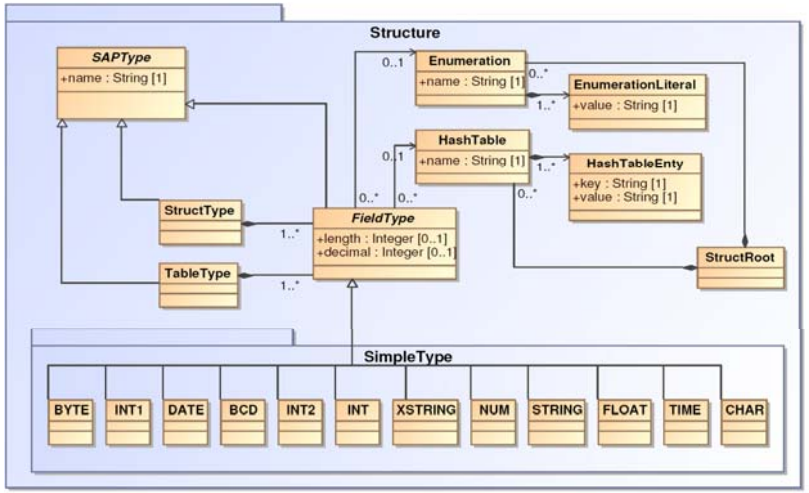
Platform Specific Metamodel for SAP

- Core



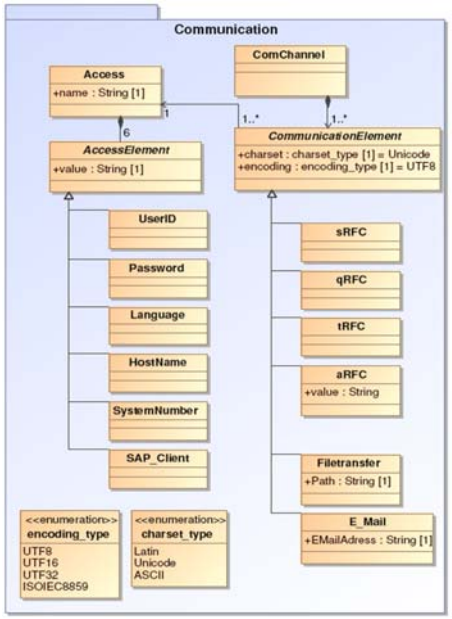
Platform Specific Metamodel for SAP

- Structure



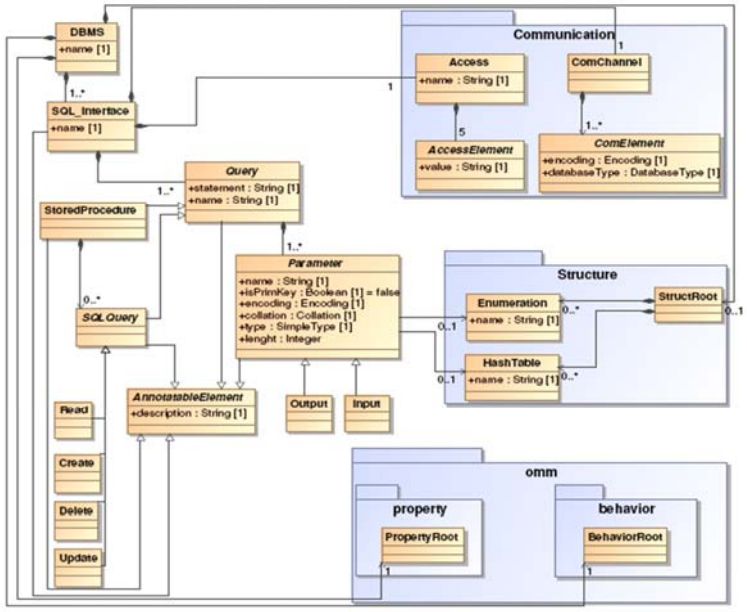
Platform Specific Metamodel for SAP

- Communication



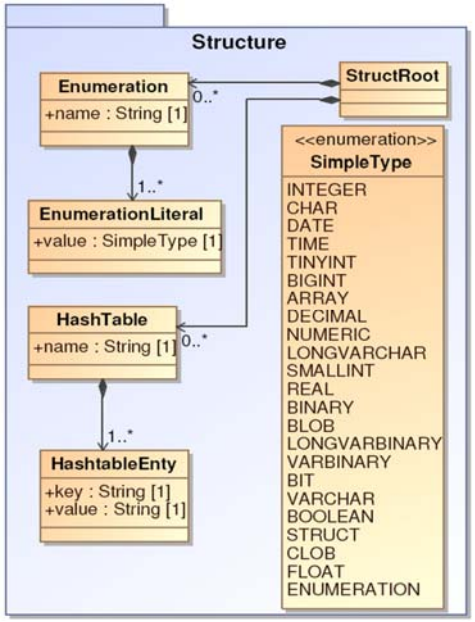
Platform Specific Metamodel for Rel.DB

- Core



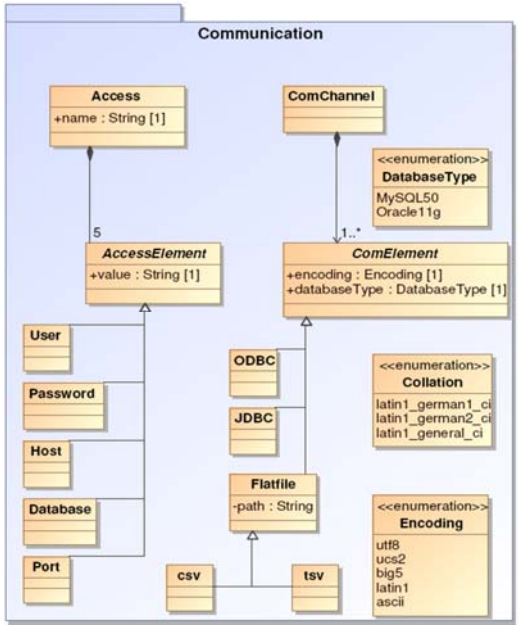
Platform Specific Metamodel for Rel.DB

- Structure



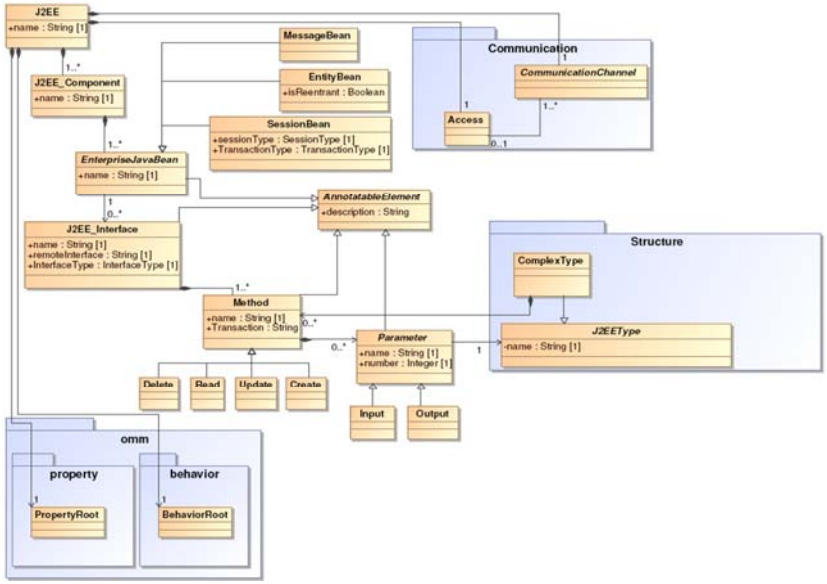
Platform Specific Metamodel for Rel.DB

- Communication



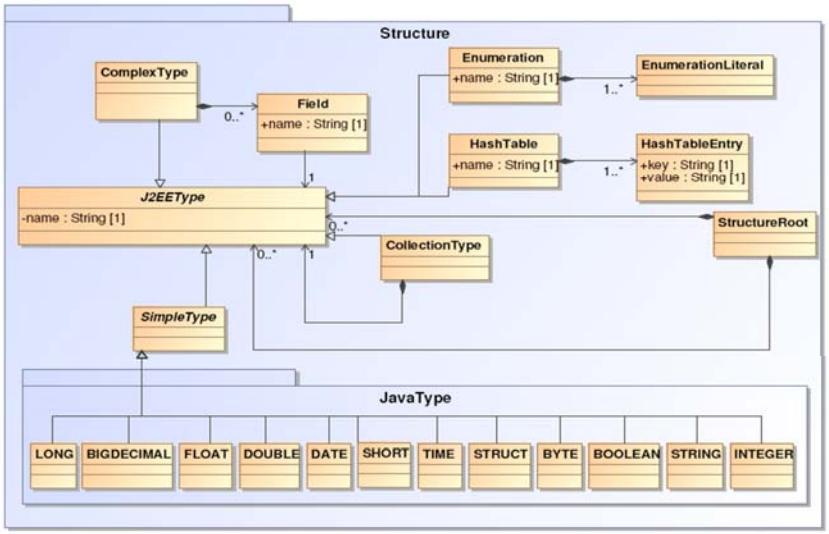
Platform Specific Metamodel for J2EE

- Core



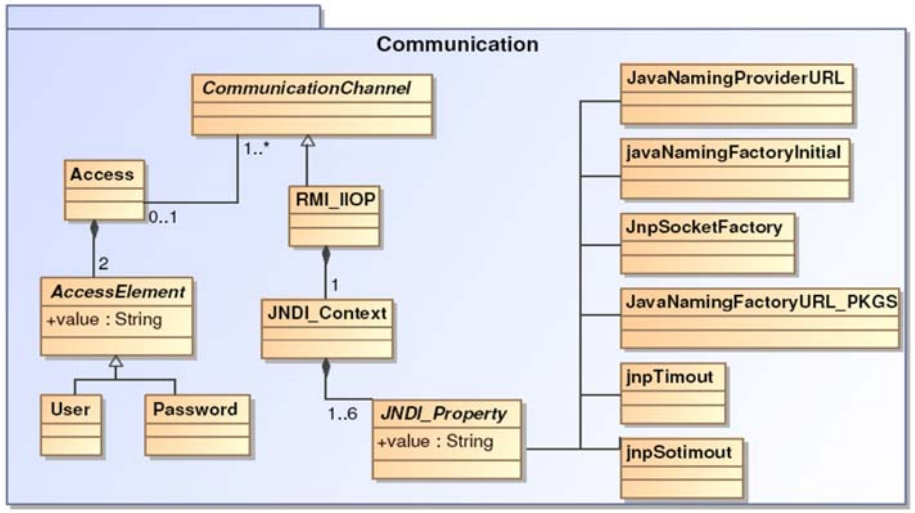
Platform Specific Metamodel for J2EE

- Structure



Platform Specific Metamodel for J2EE

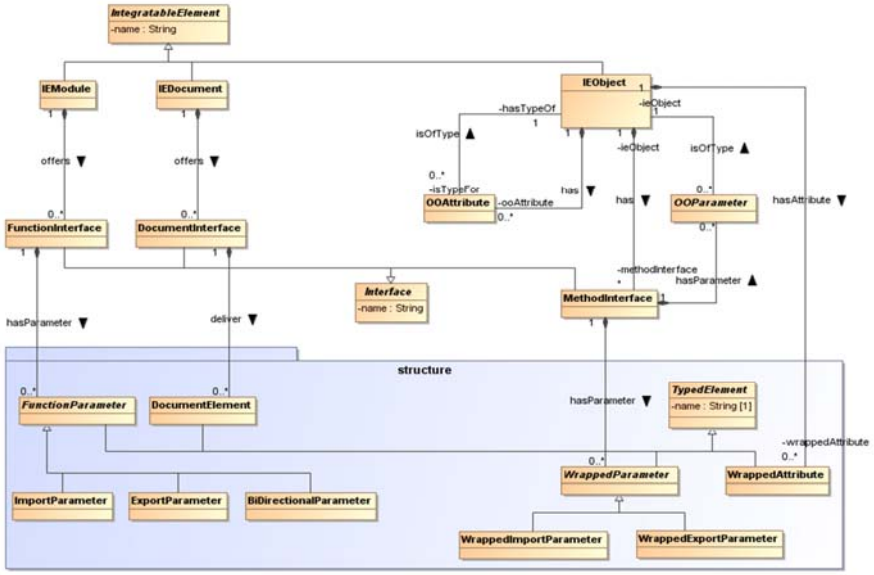
- Communication



Platform Independent Metamodel

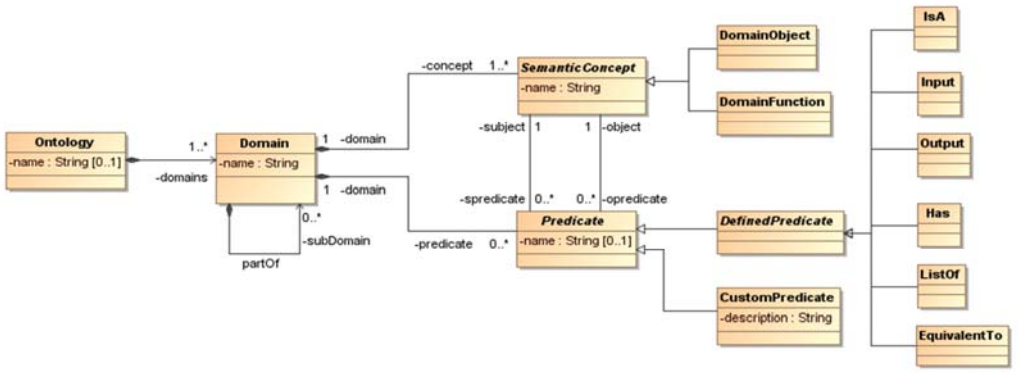
- PIM interface descriptions are generated from PSM interface descriptions by model transformation
- Abstract platform specific issues from PSM interface descriptions by generalizing interface properties
- Presents BIZYCLE middleware with a unified view of component interfaces
- Goal: to enable conflict analysis of heterogeneous components

Platform Independent Metamodel (Excerpt)



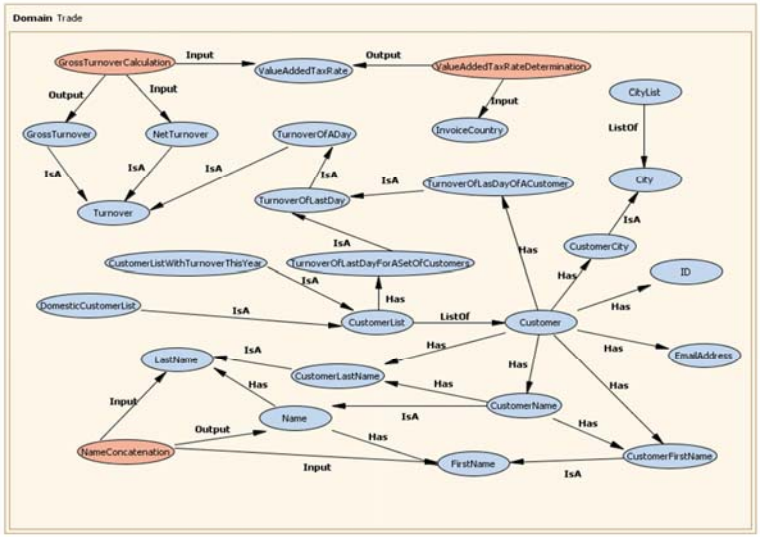
Semantic Metamodel

- Domain Ontology for Integration Scenario
- Controlled vocabulary
- Based on Resource Description Framework (RDF)
- *Subject – Predicate – Object* (RDF - triple)
- Needed for Annotations to PSM, PIM and CIM Elements



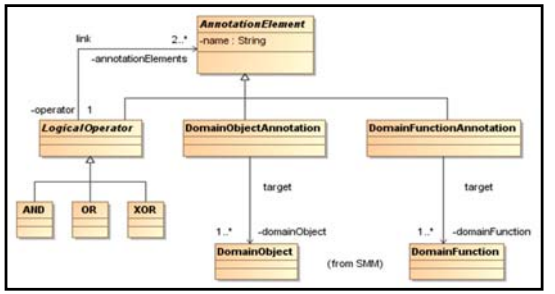
Semantic Model Example

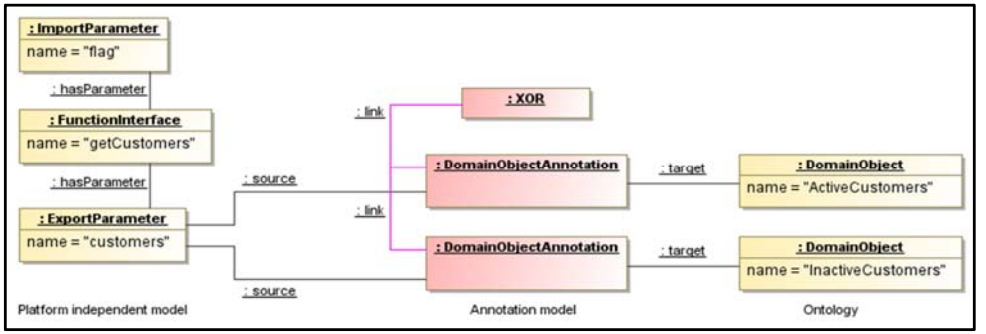
- Set of RDF triples: a *Trade* domain ontology



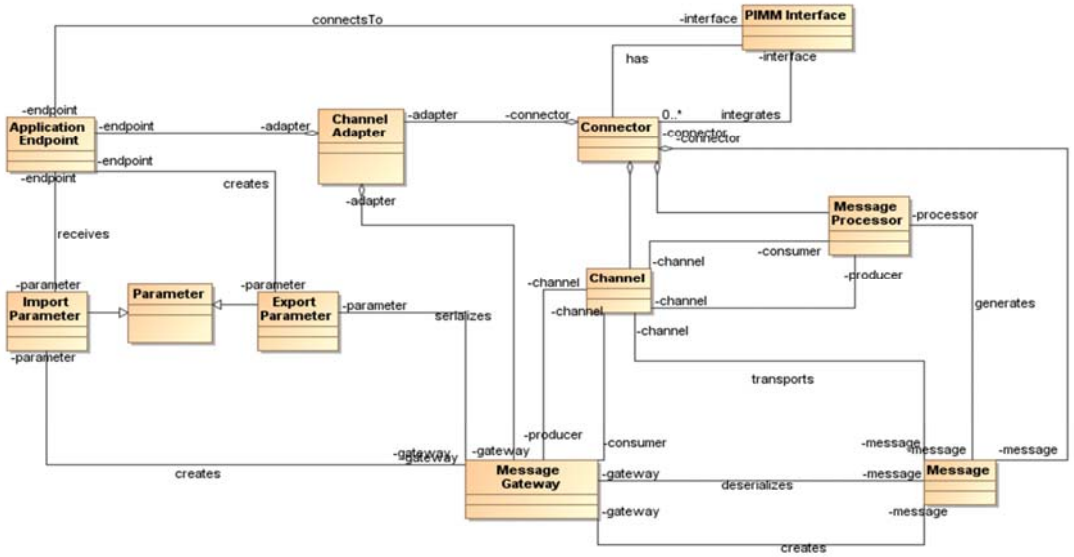
Annotation Metamodel

- Connects semantic to different models (CIM, PSM, PIM)

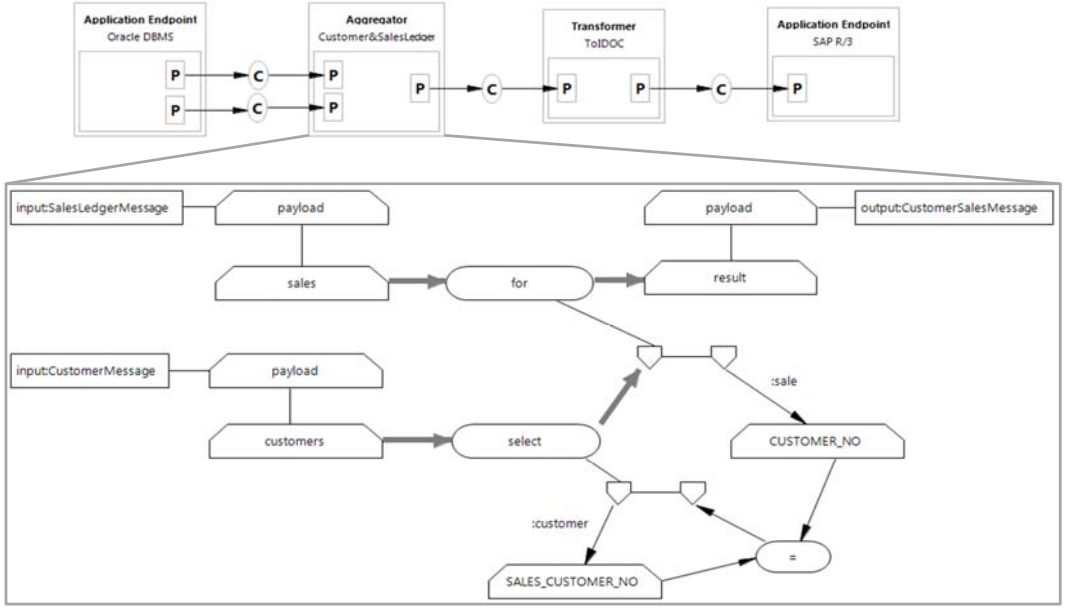




Connector Metamodel



Example Connector Model



BIZYCLE Repository for Software and Data Integration

Consistent Storage of Models&Metamodels, Metadata and Documents

… skipped for this presentation …

Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)
Computergestützte Informationssysteme CIS / Datenbanksysteme und Informationsmanagement DIMA

Conflict Analysis and Connector Generation within the Full BIZYCLE Integration Process

… abbreviated for this presentation …

Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)
Computergestützte Informationssysteme CIS / Datenbanksysteme und Informationsmanagement DIMA

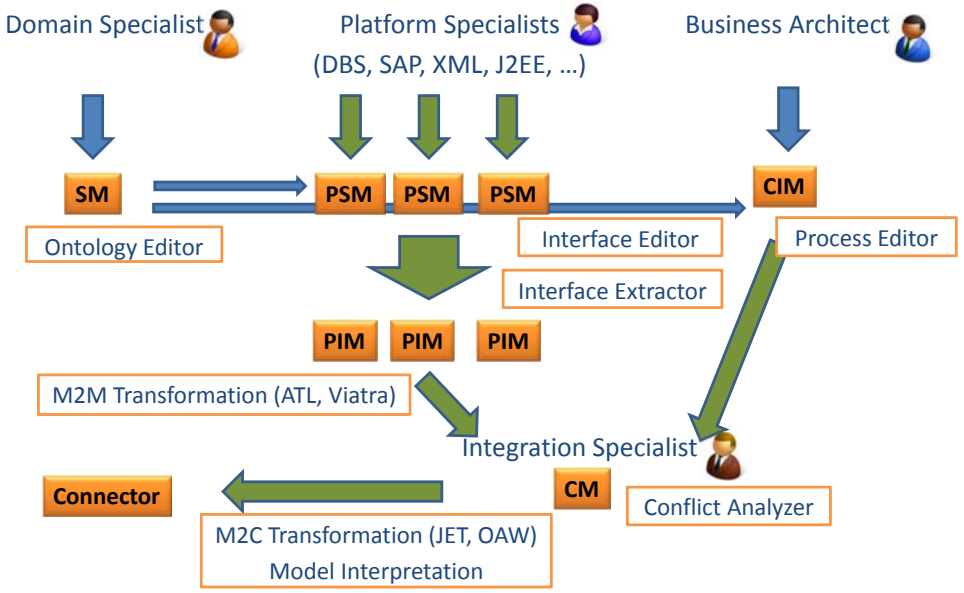
Integration Conflict Types

- Semantic Conflicts
  - Address semantical aspects of elements to be integrated, i. e., differences in the meaning they convey
- Behavior Conflicts
  - Concern dynamic aspects and are primarily caused by functional constraints of interfaces to be integrated
- Property Conflicts
  - Address the characteristics of components to be integrated, e. g., QoS properties
- Data Structure Conflicts
  - Pertain static aspects of components participating in the integration process and are caused by the differences in the data structures
- Communication Conflicts
  - Are differences in communication aspects, e. g., conflicting communication protocols

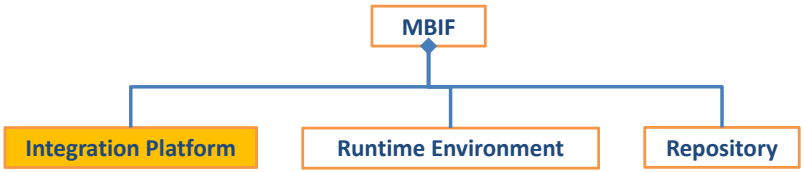
Semantic Annotations

- Data-oriented annotations are realized by references to domain objects, i.e., ontology concepts which describe data elements
  - CIM Level Annotations: Annotation of business objects, i.e., data elements participating in the integration scenario
  - PSM Level Annotations: Annotation of data elements described in various platform-specific models, e.g., data records, segments, and fields of a SAP R/3 system
  - PIM Level Annotations: Annotation of data elements described in the platform-independent models which are results of PSM-to-PIM transformation
- Function-oriented annotations are realized by references to domain functions, i.e., ontology concepts which describe actions
  - Annotation of interfaces on the PSM, PIM, and CIM levels

Full BIZYCLE Integration Process



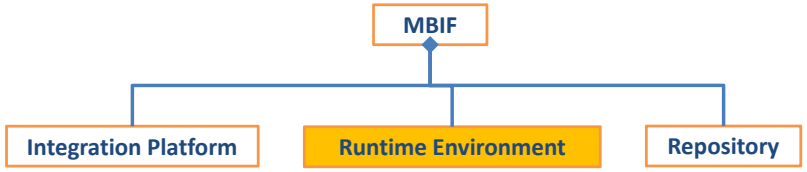
Model-based Integration Framework (MBIF)



- Based on standard Eclipse
- Automatic interface extractors
- Model editors
  - Flow/semantic models (CIM, SM, part of CM): graphical (GMF)
  - Structural models (PSMs, part of CM): graphical + tree-based
- Model transformer
  - PSM + AM -> PIM + AM
  - CIM + CAM + PIMs -> CM
- Conflict analyzer/resolver
- Code generators
  - PSM -> connector code (application endpoints)
  - CM -> connector code (business logic between endpoints)

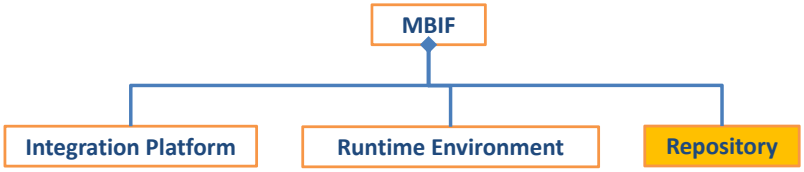
MBIF: 1.7 mio lines of code, thereof 1.3 mio generated

Model-based Integration Framework (MBIF)

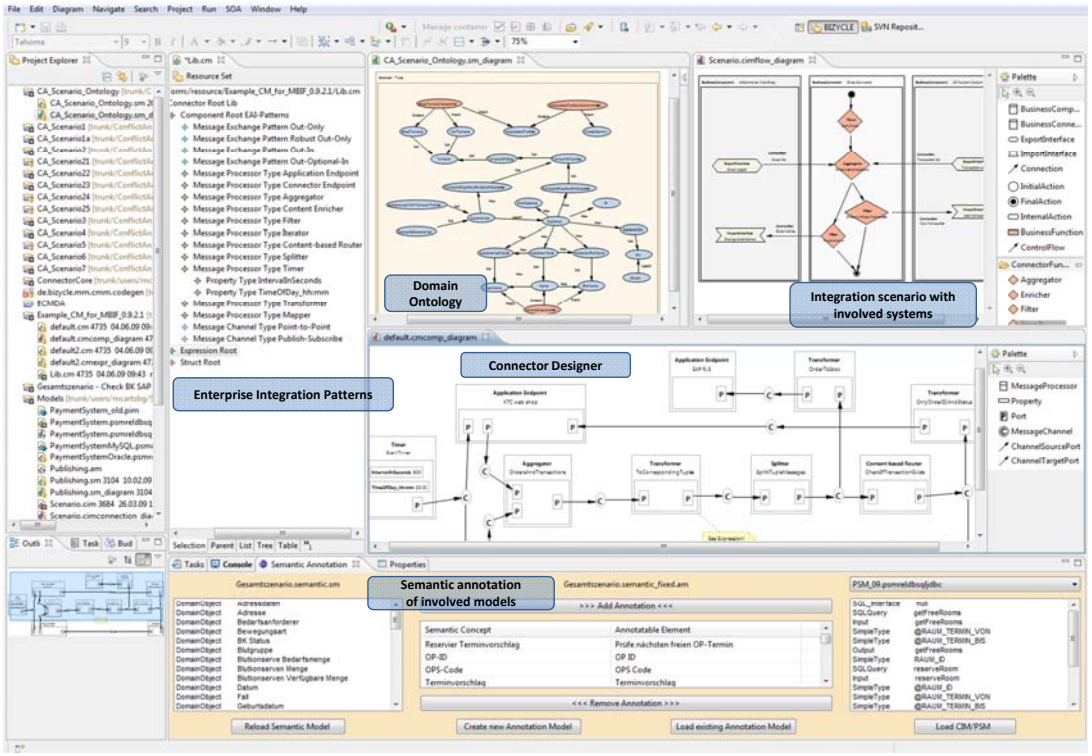


- GlassFish ESB
  - Sun-BPEL for business logic
  - Java BPEL extension for EAI patterns
  - Message- and service-oriented realization
  - Standardized target environment => portable code generators
  - Powerful QoS/management support
- Model interpreter
  - Independent Java component
  - EMF and Java Reflection for PSM interpretation
  - Low target system requirements
  - Supports online model changes

Model-based Integration Framework (MBIF)



- Subversion
  - Versioning support for all kinds of artifacts
  - Teamwork support
  - Supports artifact metadata
- Jena framework
  - Based on RDF and MySQL
  - Supports artifact relations for consistency preservation
- Apache Maven
  - Artifact relation management
  - Artifact life cycle/build management
  - Existing integration with SVN



Publications

- *Semantic Annotation and Conflict Analysis for Information System Integration*, H. Agt. G. Bauhoff,, R. Kutsche, N. Milanovic, J. Widiker, *Proc. MDTPI-Workshop @ 6th ECMDA*, Paris, France, 2010
- *Executable Domain Specific Language for Message-based System Integration*, M. Shtelma, M. Cartsburg and N. Milanovic, *ACM/IEEE 12th Int. Conf. on Model Driven Engineering Languages and Systems (MODELS),* Denver, USA, 2009
- *Model-based Interoperability of Heterogeneous Information Systems: An Industrial Case Study*, N. Milanovic, M. Cartsburg, R. Kutsche, J. Widiker, F. Kschonsak, *Proc. 5th ECMDA*, Enschede, Netherlands, 2009
- *Model-based Semantic Conflict Analysis for Software- and Data-Integration Scenarios*, H. Agt. G. Bauhoff, J. Widiker, R. Kutsche, N. Milanovic, *Tech Report 2009-7, TU Berlin*, 2009
- *Metamodeling Foundation for Software and Data Integration*, H. Agt, G. Bauhoff, M. Cartsburg, D. Kumpe, R. Kutsche, N. Milanovic, *Proc. 8th Int. Conf. on Inf. Syst. Technology and its Applications (ISTA), at UNISCON 2009*, Sydney, Australia, 2009
- *Model & Metamodel, Metadata and Document Repository for Software and Data Integration*, N. Milanovic, R. Kutsche, T. Baum, M. Cartsburg, H. Elmasgünes, M. Pohl, J. Widiker, *Proc. ACM/IEEE 11th MODELS*, Toulouse, France, 2008
- *BIZYCLE: Model-based Interoperability Platform for Software and Data Integration*, R. Kutsche, N. Milanovic, G. Bauhoff, T. Baum, M. Cartsburg, D. Kumpe, J. Widiker, *Proc. Workshop on Model-Driven Tool- and Process Integration, 4th ECMDA*, Berlin, Germany, 2008
- *Model-based Software and Data Integration*, Kutsche R., Milanovic N. (Eds.), Conf. Proceedings MBSDI, Berlin, Germany, *Springer Verlag*, 2008
- *(Meta-) Models, Tools and Infrastructures for Business Application Integration*, Kutsche R., Milanovic N. *Proc. 7th Int. Workshop on Conceptual Modeling Approaches for e-Business* (*EComo 2008*), Klagenfurt, Austria, 2008

BIZWARE @ TUB 2010 - 2013

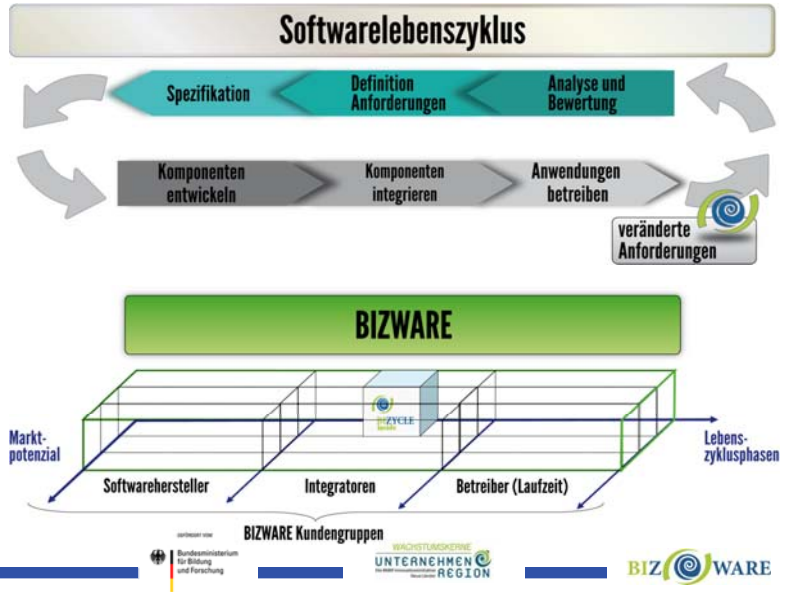
BIZWARE

Domain Specific Languages
"Methods, Languages, Tools and Infrastructure for the Model and Software Factory of the BIZWARE Regional Project Group"

Our Project team @ TU Berlin:

Dr. Ralf-D. Kutsche, Dr. Nicole Natho
Henning Agt, Yan Li (partially), Yuexiao Li
+ many part-time students:
Amauri Albuquerque, Andreas Büscher, Nico Franzeck, Amir Matallaoui, Silvia Sandy-Martinez, Kamran Mohtadi, Lakshmi Vuyyuru, Andreas Wolf

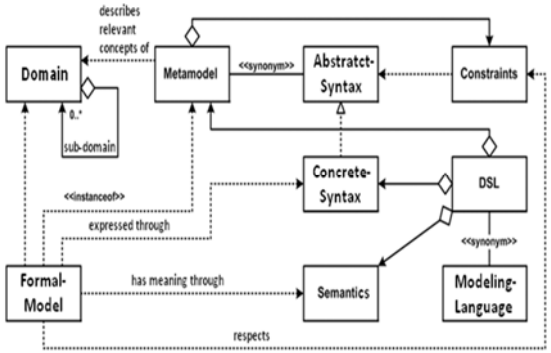
BIZWARE – Solution for the Complete Software Life Cycle



What are Domain Specific Modeling Languages?

- Small modeling languages, tailored for a specific domain
- Domain specific (graphical) notation
- Easier modeling for domain (NOT modeling!) experts
- Reuse, Combination, …

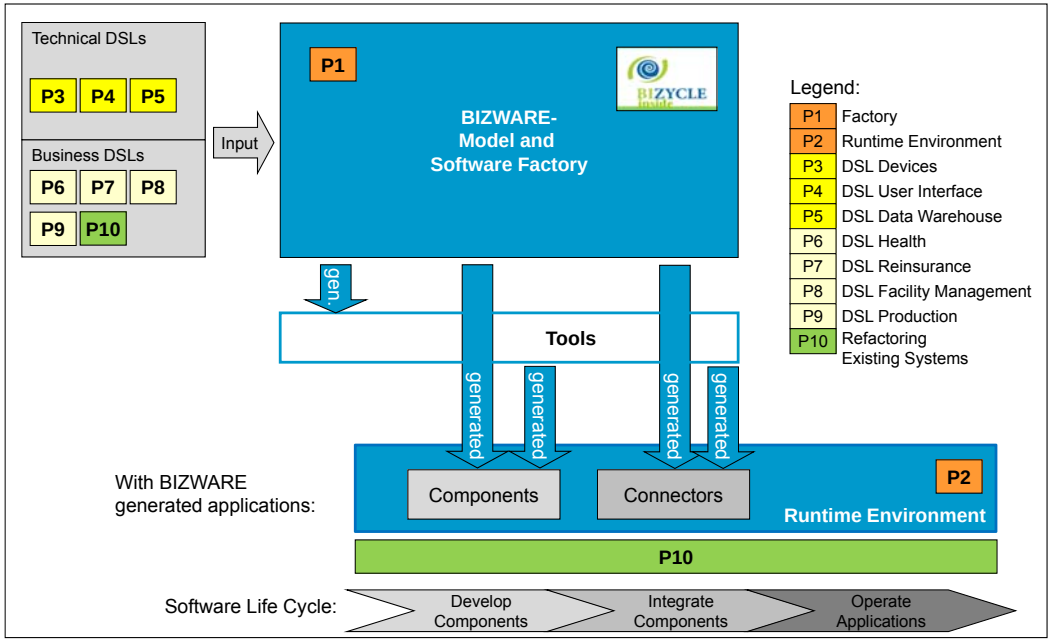
- Defining an DSML:
  - Abstract syntax
  - Concrete syntax
  - Language constraints (Semantics)



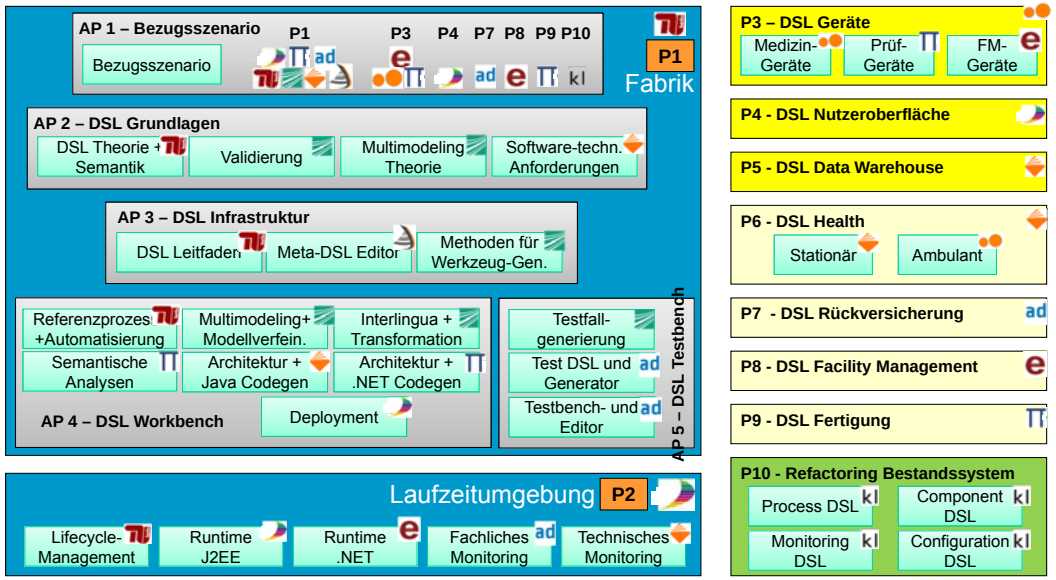
General Purpose Mod. Languages (like UML) vs. DSLs

UML and DSL: the Lego Metaphor

- UML is like a pile of basic LEGO blocks with few colors, sizes and shapes
- DSL is like the special LEGO kit for Medieval Knight Castle
- With the basic LEGO kit you can build only average castles
- With the special Castle kit you can build excellent castles
- On the other hand, with the basic LEGO kit you can also build average cars or planes
- But with the special Castle kit you can build only really terrible cars or planes



BIZWARE Project Partner Organization



BIZWARE

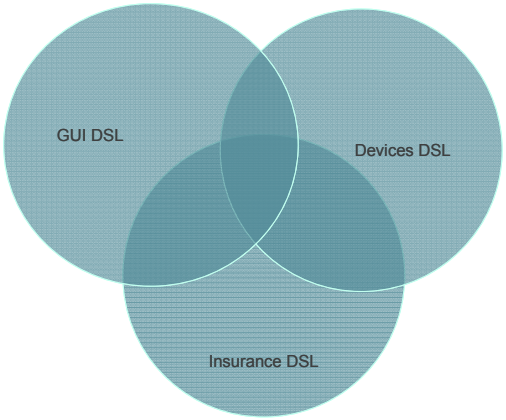
Protopype of a DSL for GUIs
- Graphical User Interface Development based on Wireframes –

BIZWARE TU berlin akquinet

Collaboration TU Berlin and Akquinet/Tech@Spree

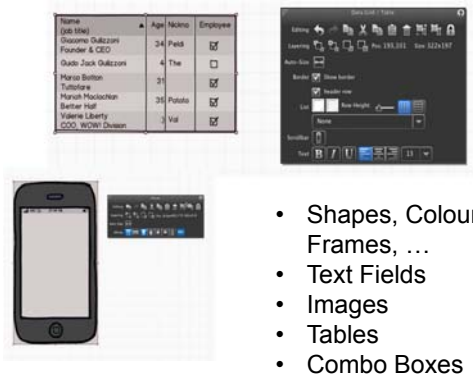
BIZWARE GUI DSL & Other DSLs

… finally, GUIs to be integrated with insurance applications and mobile devices…



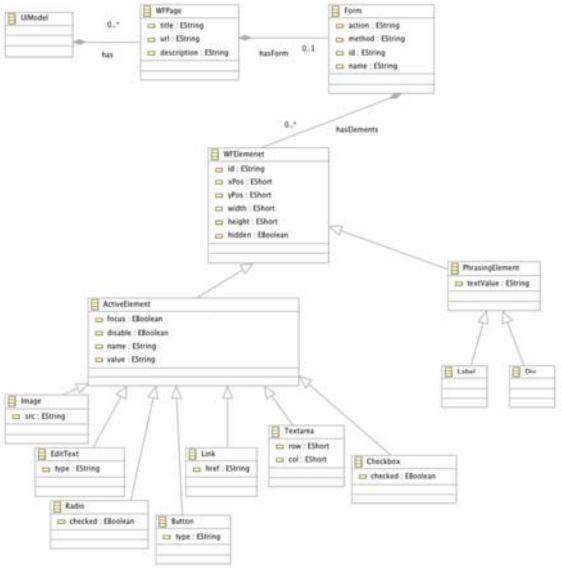
GUIs in Different Devices / Basic GUI Elements

Classical computers, tablets, smart phones,
technical controllers, healthcare devices, etc. …

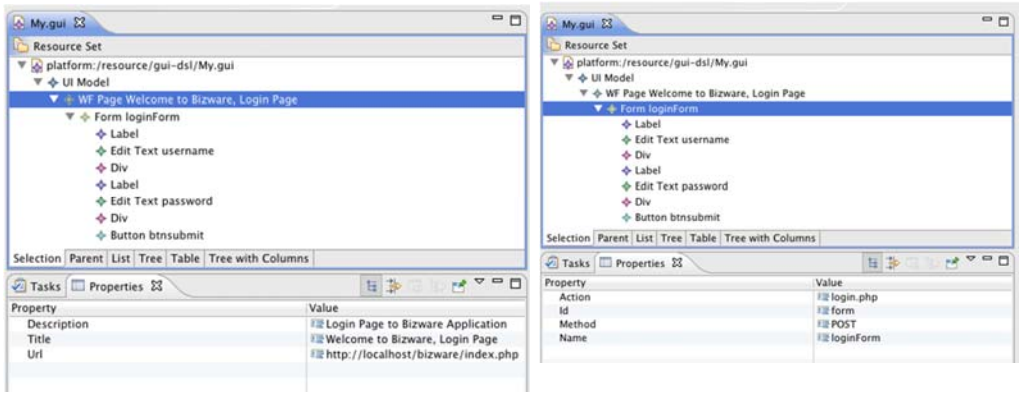


- Shapes, Colours, Frames, …
- Text Fields
- Images
- Tables
- Combo Boxes
- Buttons
- ...

GUI Meta Model



Abstract Syntax



Abstract Syntax

Our Application

```
UIModel:
    'uimodel' name = ID
    '{'
        wfpage += WFpage*
    '}'
;
```

Wireframe Page

```
WFpage:
    'wfpage' name = ID
    '{'
        'title' title=STRING';'
        form += Form*
    '}'
;
```

```
Form:
    'Form' (name = ID)?
    'method' method =STRING
    'action' action =STRING
    ('class' style = STRING)?
    ('id' id = ID)?
    '{'
        (wfelements += WfElements";")*
    '}'
;
```

```
WfElements:
        Button | Input | Radio | Checkbox| TextArea | SelectBox | DataEntry | Img | Link | YNQuestion | Div | Label
;
```


Abstract Syntax (cont'd)

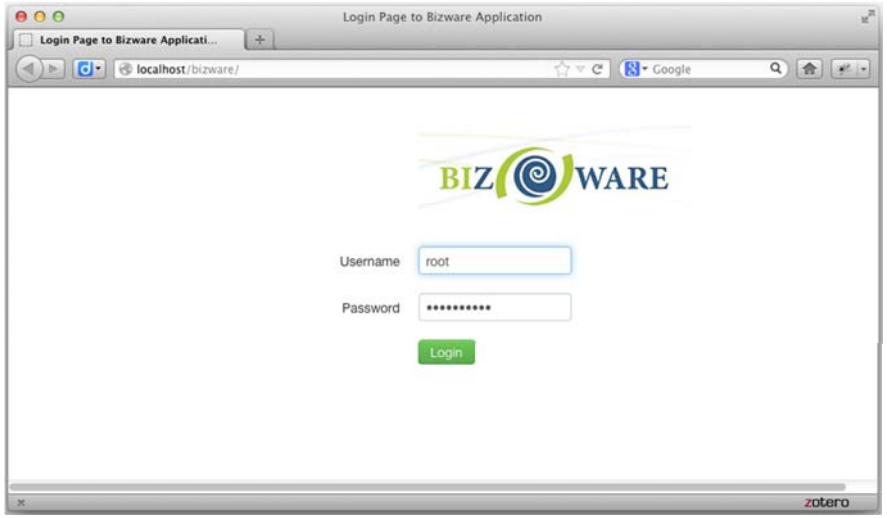
```
DataEntry:
    'dataEntry' (name = ID)?
    ('id' id = ID)?
    ('text' text = STRING)?
    type = (TextArea | SelectBox | Input)
;
```

Enter Your name:

```
dataEntry enterName text "Enter Your name" input required Text;
```

```
<div class="row" class="control-group">
   <div class="span4" class="control-label"><span name="L;enterName" id="L;" class="">Enter Your name:</span></div>
   <div class="span5"><input class="input-large" name="l;enterName" id="l;" type="text" required placeholder""></div>
</div>
```


Example - Login Page



BIZWARE

Case study: Domain specific language in facility management (DSLFM)

BIZWARE eTASK Service-Management

Master thesis Kamran Mohtadi

Definition: Facility Management

- "Facility management is a profession that encompasses multiple disciplines to ensure functionality of the ***built environment*** by integrating people, place, process and technology." (International facility management association)
- Dimensions of facility management according to European Network of Facility management / Standard EN15221: (http://www.eurofm.org/knowledge/en15221/)
  - Space and infrastructure
  - People and organization

in detail:

- **Cleaning services**
- **Pest control**
- **Catering & vending services**
- **Furniture procurement**
- **Office supplies**
- **Maintenance**
- **Logistics**
- **Event management**
- **Energy management**
- **Utilities**
- **Landscaping & parking**
- **Design and construction services**
- **Lease**
- **Rental & space management**
- **Corporate real estate services**
- **Workplace management**
- **Safety & security services**
- **(internal) Relocation services**
- **Document management**
- **Hospitality/reception management**
- **Travel services**
- **Property administration**

Computer Aided Facility Management (CAFM)

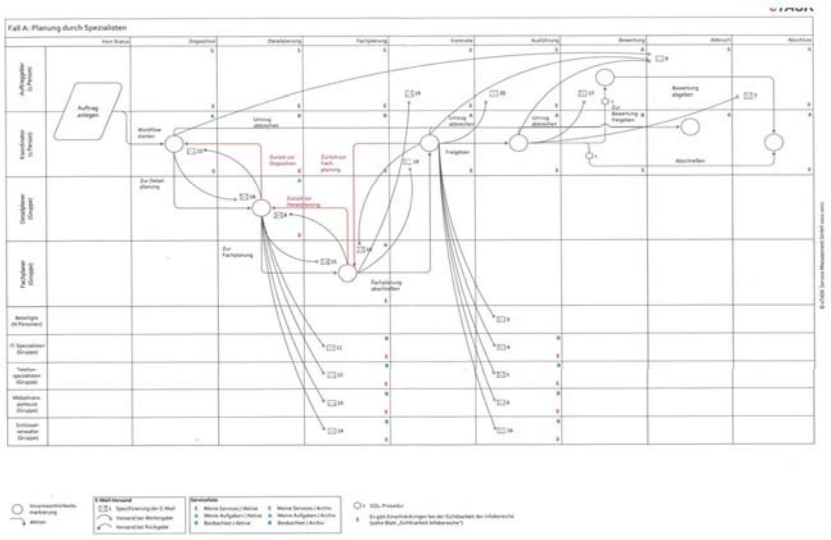
- CAFM (Computer Aided Facility Management Software) or TIFM (Total Integrated Facilities Management Software) software supports the specific processes of facility management and also the people involved in these processes
- Core processes supported in CAFM systems:
  - Stock documentation, land management, move management, contract management, rent management, operating cost management, cleaning management, key management, energy controlling and maintenance management.
- eTask.FM-Portal: central platform structure as the basis for the connection of all other modules.
- eTask.FM-Portal is based on several data tables, which store data regarding processes, people, emails, activities, …

Case study: DSLs in Facility Management (DSLFM)

- Status before introducing DSLFM:
  - **Central database is configured manually for each new process**
  - **Manual configuration according to MS Visio based process / data flow diagrams called "Infographs"**
  - **Infograph models widely accepted within the company and by the customers**
- Problems:
  - **Manual configuration of the database for each scenario change is time consuming and error-prone**
  - **Identification of similar processes**
- Goals of the master thesis:
  - **Automation of database configuration**
  - **Keeping the graphical notation of Infograph models**
  - **"Real" modeling environment including code generation (MS Visual Studio)**

Case study: DSLFM – Infograph models

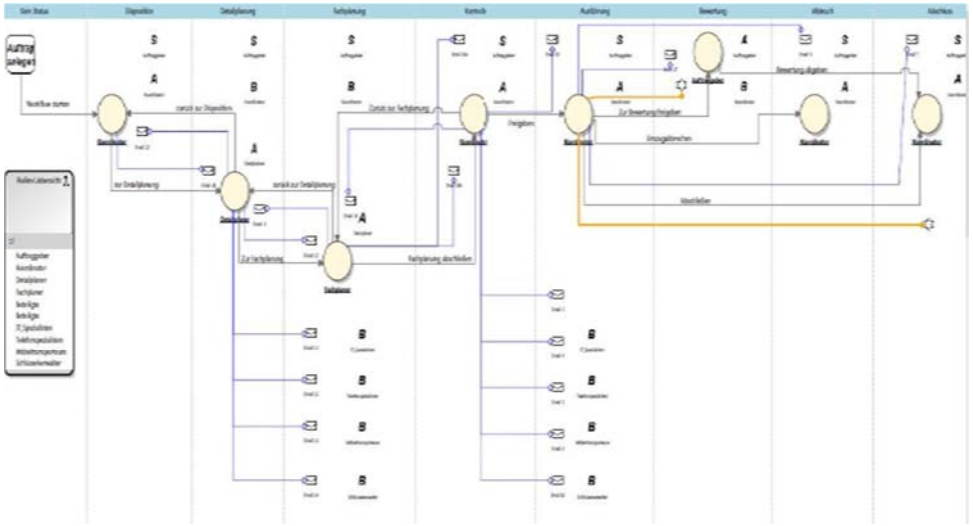
- Domain analysis through Infograph models and additional data from eTask



Results: DSLs in Facility Management (DSLFM)

- DSLFM / Model transformation from Infographs to “real” FM Models in MS Visual Studio
  - A Domain Specific Language for Facility Management
  - Developed in MS Visual Studio DSL Tools
  - Similar GUI to Infograph models
  - Proved to automatically generate in the biggest given scenario up to 11000 lines of SQL code for database configuration
  - Avoidance of errors through constraints and validity checks
  - Already in productive use by eTask in a few scenarios, replacing infograph models and manual configuration of the eTask.FM-Portal DB

Results: DSLs in Facility Management (DSLFM)



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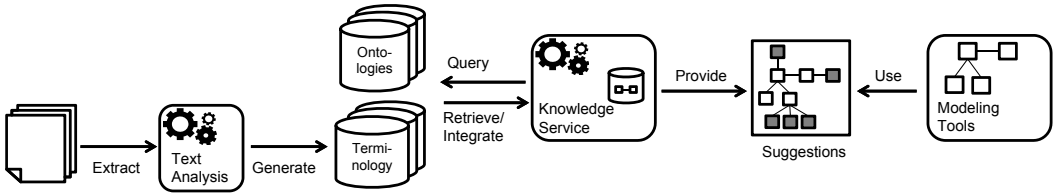
BIZWARE

Automated Construction of a Large Semantic Network of Related Terms for Domain-Specific Modeling
@ CAiSE 2013, Valencia, Springer LNCS 7908

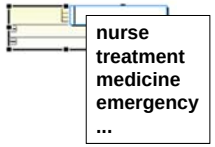
Forthcoming Ph.D. thesis Henning Agt

Research Goals for Henning Agt's PhD Thesis

- **Vision 1: Provide automated suggestions of semantically related model elements for domain modeling** (focus on domain terminology and conceptual design)
- **Vision 2: Try to remove errors from domain models** (focus on relationships)



- Requirements for the intended application
  - Dictionary of terms
  - Relations between terms
  - Query interface and ranking functions



Summary BIZWARE Strategy

- Continuation of the experiences in BIZYCLE on a new basis:
  - Addressing the complete software development cycle, but (feasible) restrictions of manageable domains: analysis, requirements definition, specification, design, development, integration, operation, evaluation, etc.
- Focus on the foundation of domain-specific languages:
  - Meta modeling, model instantiation, model transformation, multi modeling, model integration, semantic modeling (ontologies, semantic annotations, etc.), test generation, process support

BIZWARE – Research results

Diploma and Master Theses 2011 - 2013

- **Michael Stollhans** (Diploma thesis, TU Berlin, Oct. 2011, Advisor: Dr. Ralf-D. Kutsche) "Modellierungsmethodik für fachliches, domänenspezifisches Monitoring "
- **Benedict Wandelt** (Diploma thesis, TU Berlin, June 2012, Advisor: Henning Agt) „Metamodelle und Ontologien für domänenspezifische Sprachen“ .
- **Amir Matallaoui** (Master thesis, TU Berlin, Feb. 2013, Advisor: Dr. Nicole Natho) „Domain-Specific Languages: Development Guidelines & Tool Support Comparison“ .
- **Lakshmi Vuyyuru** (Master thesis, Univ. Potsdam/TU Berlin, March 2013, Advisors: Dr. Nicole Natho, Dr. Ralf-D. Kutsche/TUB, collab. Prof. Tiziana Margaria/Univ. Potsdam) „Re-establishing Vertical Consistency Between Meta-Models and their Corresponding Models“ .
- **Kamran Mohtadi** (Diploma thesis, TU Berlin, April 2013, Advisor: Dr. Ralf-D. Kutsche) „Development of Domain Specific Languages in the Software Industry - a Practical Case Study”.
- **Silvia Teresa Sandy Martinez** (Master thesis, UPC Barcelona/TU Berlin, July 2013, Advisors: Henning Agt, Dr. Ralf-D. Kutsche) “Patterns in Domain Models”.

BIZWARE – Research Results

Scientific Conferences 2011 - 2013

- H. Agt: Supporting Software Language Engineering by Automated Domain Knowledge Acquisition. MODELS 2011 Workshops Wellington, New Zealand, Oct. 16-21, 2011. Proc. LNCS 7167, Springer 2011
- H. Agt, R. Kutsche, T. Wegeler: Guidance for Domain Specific Modeling in Small and Medium Enterprises. SPLASH '11 Workshops; Portland, USA, Oct. 22 -27, 2011.
- H. Agt, R. Kutsche, N. Natho, Y. Li: The BIZWARE Research Project. In: Model Driven Engineering Languages and Systems MODELS 2012, 15th Int. Conf. - Exhibition Track, Innsbruck , Austria, Sept. 30 - Oct. 05, 2012.
- H. Agt: SemAcom: A System for Modeling with Semantic Autocompletion. In: Model Driven Engineering Languages and Systems MODELS 2012, 15th Int. Conf. - Demo Track, Innsbruck, Austria, Sept. 30 - Oct. 05, 2012.
- H. Agt, R. Kutsche: Automated Construction of a Large Semantic Network of Related Terms for Domain-Specific Modeling. In: Advanced Information Systems Engineering CAiSE 2013, 25th Int. Conf., Valencia, Spain, June 17-21, 2013.

AGENDA

- My Personal History & Background
- Focus Area: Model Based Software & Data Integration
  - Languages and Models (… the basics …)
  - Metalanguages and Metamodels, i.e. „playing with languages“
- Project Experiences 2007 thru 2013
  - Application towards Business Scenarios (… software and data integrators: only SMEs !!)
  - BIZYCLE: Model Based Software & Data Integration
  - BIZWARE: Domain Specific Languages
- My Present Work: Teaching Relevance of MBSDI and Future Project Perspectives

Personal Intro / related to IT4BI

- **Dr. Ralf-Detlef Kutsche** *has a position as 'Academic Director' in the Database and Information Management (DIMA) group at TU Berlin (previously CIS group, since 1994), and as research coordinator at different Fraunhofer institutes for applied research (now: FOKUS)*

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- **Member of the IT4BI steering board / selection committee since 2012**
- **Teaching activities @ TU Berlin:**
  - Advanced Information Modeling (Bachelor CS, TCS, BI, et al.)
  - Heterogeneous and Distributed Information Systems (Master CS, TCS, BI, IT4BI, et al.)
    - Development and integration of modern distributed, heterogeneous information systems based on the concepts of
      - metamodel (i.e. language), model and data integration
      - software architecture and interoperability, based on classical middleware ideas and patterns
      - metadata management for Business Intelligence.
  - Basic Courses in Programming and Databases (Bachelor CS & BI)
  - Modeling Seminars & Student Projects (Master CS, TCS, BI, et al.)

My Modeling Background / History

- Lectures in Information & Software Modeling / Student Projects
  - Grundlagen der Informationsmodellierung (TU Berlin, since 1994)
  - Information Modeling (Univ Jönköping, 2003, 2004)
  - Advanced Modeling (TUB, since 2008; HCMUS, VietNam, since 2010)
  - Heterogeneous Distributed Information Systems HDIS (TUB, since 1996)
- Projects for Industry and Public Services (FIS / HDIS, since 1989)
  - Health Care (German Heart Center Berlin, TMF Clinical Studies, …)
  - Environmental Information Systems („Landesumweltinformationssysteme“)
  - European Migration Network (Society: Migration & Asylum, Politics, …)
  - Consultancy for Software Enterprises (Software Modeling, …)
- Industrial Cooperation Projects: BIZYCLE & BIZWARE
  - SME project partners in the areas of: Health Care, Production/Logistics, Facility Management, Publishing, Finance, … (funded by German gov.)

Some Topics for forthcoming Masters &PhDs

Modeling Semantics / Creating Ontologies:

- Semantic Support for Domain Modeling (cf. Running PhD thesis Henning Agt)
- Semantic Annotations for Information Integration / Metadata

Modeling Language Design:

- Graphical Domain Languages (Graphical DSMLs)
- Concrete Syntaxes based on Icons / Drawings / Domain Knowledge
- Refinement Techniques for Graphical Languages