

Enterprise architecture frameworks with semantic models as a foundation for complex networked operations

Process Modeling: ARIS (ARchitecture of Integrated Scenarios) / EPC (Event-Driven Process Chain) OMG's BPMN (Business Process Modeling Notation)

18.05.2009

## Agenda

- (I) Enterprise Architecture, TOGAF, UPDM (Arne, Ulf, Dima)
  - Zachman, TOGAF, MODAF/DODAF/NAF, MDA, UPDM Arne
  - Saarstahl SHAPE Dima
  - European ATM/SESAR Ulf
- (II) INFORMATION and ONTOLOGY MODELING (UML/ER, ODM/OWL with examples/tools) Arne (Ulf, Dima)
  - Conceptual Modeling, Information Modeling, Ontologies Ulf and Arne
  - ODM with OWL for semantic modeling (WSMT) Dima
- (III) PROCESS MODELING (EPC/BPMN with examples/tools) (Dima)
  - ARIS/EPC (Event-Driven Process Chains)
  - BPMN (Business Process Modeling Notation)

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- (IV) SERVICE MODELING and Interoperability (SoaML with examples) (Arne)
  - SoaML (Servic oriented architecture Modeling Language)
     Arne
  - Semantic annotations, SAWSDL, from existing system specifications to an ontology can support semantic interoperability

### Process Modeling: Definitions



"We define a process as a collection of activities that takes one or more kinds of input and creates an output that is of value for the customer" (Hammer, Champy 1993)

"The process means activities on the objects, its content is herewith activities and objects" (Nordsieck 1934)

"Under operational organization we understand the process of the task fulfillment under consideration of logical, personnel and space-time aspects" (Weidner 1990)

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#### **Process Modeling**

- Business processes are complex, and require people with various skills and abilities to work in a cooperative fashion
- Processes will not be efficient and effective unless:
  - They are clearly defined
  - Individuals are adequately trained in their roles
  - Individuals understand how their roles fit in the overall process
- Process Modeling tools provide a way to describe business processes

## Agenda



- Process Modeling
- Organizational and Operational Structure
- ARIS / EPC and BPMN:
  - Overview
  - Modeling Concepts





## Organizational and Operational Structure, Business Process

- **Organizational Structure:** static rules and hierarchies
- Operational Structure: time-logical activities for the task fulfillment of the enterprise
- Business Process: a sequence of enterprise activities, complete with regard to content, that produces values consumed by the customer

# Application Areas of Business Processes

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- Business Process Analysis in BPR-Projects
- Documentation of the Workflow (e. g. Reference models)
- Specification or Choice and Configuration of Software
- Specification of Workflows
- Simulation
- Project Management
- Process Cost Calculation

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## Business Process Classification

- After Correlation to Goals and Outputs
  - Main Processes
  - Service Processes
- After Execution Frequency
  - Routine Processes
  - Ruling Processes
  - One-Time Processes
- After (strategic) Value
  - Decision Processes
  - Execution Processes

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#### **EPC:** Overview

- Developed in 1992 in a project involving SAP at the DFKI Institute for Information Systems
- Based on Petri-Nets
- Doesn't require strong formal framework
- "Lean" modeling approach
- Purely chronological procedural sequence of process activities and events

(Dumas, van der Aalst 2005)



#### **EPC: Tools Examples**

- Industrial :
  - IDS Scheer ARIS Toolset and Business Architect
  - SAP EPC representations for business processes its software supports
- Research:
  - CIMFlex SHAPE project
  - KModeler Paderborn University, Germany



#### **ARIS EPC Modeling**





#### **CIMFlex EPC Modeling**



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## **EPC:** Event

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#### Event:

- An event describes a business-relevant occurrence at an object which either controls or influences the continuation of a business process.
- Events represent a state or status in the process
- Since an event generally has something to do with a "piece of data", i.e. a status description, events are originally assigned to the data view.
- Events act as triggers for activities, but are also based on preceding functions and therefore describe an event.
- Events are named using Object Past Participle

Object	Past Participle	Object 🔍	
Expense	Incurred		Incurred
Expense report	Approved		
Hard copy	Filed	Past Participle	

#### **EPC:** Function

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#### Function:

- A function is a technical task, a procedure, and/or an activity performed on an object to support one or more company goals.
- The function is a carrier of times and costs.
- Functions represent where change occurs in the process.
- Functions are named using Verb Object





# **EPC: Modeling Constructs**

- Logical Connectors:
  - Describe different forms of process branching
  - Split: The process splits its flow at this connector
  - Join: Part processes converge
- Types:
  - Conjunction ("and")
  - Disjunction ("exclusive or")
  - Adjunction ("inclusives or")
- Control Flow:
  - Reflection of the chronologically inherent flow of Events and Functions



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#### **EPC: Modeling Concepts**

- EPC follow an event-function-event structure
- EPC must begin and end with events
- Logical branches in the chronological flow of the process are represented by rules in the form of logical operators (AND, OR, XOR)
- Branching is done with three types of connectors:
  - AND
  - OR
  - XOR (exclusive OR)

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#### **EPC: Connectors Explained**

Name	Symbol	Significance when separating the paths	Significance when merging the paths
Exclusive OR	$\overline{\langle}$	<b>Only one</b> of the possible process paths must be followed	The following process flow will be initiated from only one of the possible process paths.
Open OR		At least one of the possible process paths must be followed	The following process flow will be initiated by <b>at least</b> <b>one</b> of the possible process paths.
AND		All outgoing process paths must be followed	All incoming process paths trigger the following process flow. If one of the paths has not yet been fully completed, then the process pauses at this point until all incoming process paths have been completed.

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## Possible Connector Combinations

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## **EPC: Modeling Rules**





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## **BPMN: Overview**

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- Notation Working Group formed in 2001
- Consisted of 35 companies, organizations and individuals
- BPMN released in 2004, adopted as OMG standard in 2006
- Purely graphical flow-chart based notation
- Single notation agreement between modeling tool vendors



## **BPMN: Tools Examples**

- Industrial (54 total implementing tools):
  - Objecteering
  - ARIS
- Research:
  - CIMFlex SHAPE project
  - YAWL Queensland University of Technology

#### Objecteering BPMN Modeling

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#### **CIMFlex BPMN Modeling**

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# Introduction Definition of BPMN

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#### Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN)

 BPMN provides businesses with the capability of defining and understanding their internal and external business procedures through a Business Process Diagram, which will give organizations the ability to communicate these procedures in a standard manner. BPMN also is supported with an internal model that will enable the generation of executable BPEL4WS.



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# Core Set of Diagram Elements



The core set of modeling elements enable the easy development simple Business Process Diagrams that will look familiar to most Business Analysts (a flowchart diagram)

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#### **BPMN Diagram elements**

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#### Task

- A Task is an atomic activity that is included within a Process. A Task is used when the work in the Process is not broken down to a finer level of Process Model detail.
- There are specialized types of Tasks for sending and receiving, or user-based Tasks, etc.
- Markers or icons can be added to Tasks to help identify the type of Task
- Markers must not change the footprint of the Task or conflict with any other standard BPMN element





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### Sub-processes

- Sub-Processes enable hierarchical Process development
- A Sub-Process is a compound activity that is included within a Process. It is compound in that it can be broken down into a finer level of details (a Process) through a set of subactivities
- For a collapsed version of a Sub-Process, the details of the Sub-Process are not visible in the Diagram. A "plus" sign in the lower-center of the shape indicates that the activity is a Sub-Process and has a lower level of detail
- For an expanded version of a Sub-Process, the details (a Process) are visible within its boundary
- There are two types of Sub-Processes: Embedded and Independent (reusable)



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#### Pool

- Pools represent Participants in an interactive (B2B) Business
   Process Diagram
- A Participant may be a business role (e.g. buyer or seller) or may be a business entity (e.g. IBM or OMG)
- A Pool may be a "black box" or may contain a Process
- Interaction between Pools is handled through Message Flow
- Sequence Flow cannot cross the boundary of a Pool (i.e. a Process is fully contained within a Pool)





#### Lanes

- Lanes represent subpartitions for the objects within a Pool
- They often represent organization roles (e.g. Manager, Associate), but can represent any desired Process characteristic
- Sequence Flow can cross Lane boundaries



#### Connectors



A Message Flow is used to show the flow of messages between two entities that are prepared to send and receive them

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An Association is used to associate data, information and artifacts with flow objects

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Message Flow 0-----D Association ---->

Sequence Flow

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### Gateways





- Gateways are modeling elements that
  are used to control how Sequence
  Flows interact as they converge and
  diverge within a Process
- All Types of Gateways are diamonds
  - Different internal markers indicate different types of behavior
  - All Gateways both split and merge the flow
- If the flow does not need to be controlled, then a Gateways is not needed. Thus, a diamond represents place where control is needed



#### **Exclusive Gateways**

- Exclusive Gateways (Decisions) are locations within a business process where the Sequence Flow can take two or more alternative paths. This is basically the "fork in the road" for a Process
- Only one of the possible outgoing paths can be taken when the Process is performed
- There are two types of decision mechanisms:
  - Data (e.g. condition expressions)
  - Events (e.g. the receipt of alternative message)
- They are also used to merge Sequence Flow
  - The merging behavior may change in the next version of BPMN

#### Semantic Exclusive Gateways, based d Days 2009 data

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- These are the most commonly used type of Gateways:
  - Can be shown with or without an internal "X" marker. Without is the most common usage

The Gateways (Decisions) create alternative paths based on defined conditions



#### Semantic Exclusive Gateways, based d events

- This type of Decision represents a branching point in the process where the alternatives are based on events that occur at that point in the Process, rather than conditions
- The Multiple Intermediate Event is used to identify this Gateway
- The Event that follows the Gateway Diamond determines the chosen path
  - The first Event triggered wins



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#### **Inclusive Gateways**

- Inclusive Gateways are Decisions where there is more than one possible outcome
- The "O" marker is used to identify this Gateway
- They are usually merging Inclusive Gateway



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## **Complex Gateways**

- Complex Gateways are Decisions where there is more advanced definitions of behavior can be defined
- The asterisk marker is used to identify this Gateway
- Complex behavior can be defined for both the merging and splitting behavior



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## **Parallel Gateways**

- Parallel Gateways are places in the Process where multiple parallel paths are defined:
  - They are not required for forking in most situations
  - They can be used for methodological purposes
- The "+" marker is used to identify this Gateway
- The Gateway is also used to synchronize (wait for) parallel paths



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# Complete Set of Diagram Elements, Events



 An Event is something that "happens" during the course of a business process. These Events affect the flow of the Process and usually have a trigger or a result. They can start, interrupt, or end the flow.

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#### Semantic Complete Set of **Diagram Elements, Gateways**

#### Gateways Exclusive Decision/Merge (XOR) Data-Based or Event-Based Inclusive Decision/Merge (OR) Complex Decision/Merge Parallel Fork/Join (AND) Norway Ulf Larsson, LFV, Sweden

Gateways are modeling elements that are used to control how Sequence Flows interact as they converge and diverge within a Process. If the flow does not need to be controlled, then a Gateway is not needed.

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#### **BPMN Modeling Example**

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#### EPC – BPMN Comparison Matrix



	eEPC	BPMN
Structuredness	0	0
Expressivness	0	X
Semantical Annotations	X	X
Analysability	X	X
Formalization degree	X	X
Information flow support	0	Ο

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## **EPC** – **BPMN** Mapping



Task

Start Event

End Event

Data-Based Exclusive Gateway

**Parallel Gateway** 

Inclusive Gateway

Sequence Flow

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# eEPC – BPMN Mapping



#### BPMN 1.0 – 2.0

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- 2 current proposals, discussing alignment,
  - One focusing on notation and the other on metamodel
  - Plan for completion in 2009
- Services architectures
- Participants architectures
- Data view?