To create a graphical view of an application that can be used before and during coding, many development teams turn to Unified Modeling Language (UML). This software technology can often help to streamline the planning, design and construction of software and business systems. In the area of UML, look no further than Sparx Systems.

“We focus on creating innovative modeling solutions based on UML 2.1 and its related specifications,” says Sam Mancarella, Chief Technical Officer. “Sparx Systems, as an active Contributing Member of the Object Management Group, is committed to expanding the potential of model-driven development based on open standards.”

Sparx Systems (www.sparxsystems.com) offers a product suite that comprises its flagship product, Enterprise Architect, and MDG Integration for Eclipse, a plugin that brings Enterprise Architect’s model-driven analysis and design capabilities right into the Eclipse environment.

Enterprise Architect enhances all aspects of the development lifecycle. Its integration with the Eclipse environment provides access to system models in an environment already familiar to the user. Integrating UML into the development team’s existing tool chain, Enterprise Architect enables managers to capture project requirements, perform project risk analysis, allocate work assignments to colleagues, monitor progress and generate documentation.

Within Enterprise Architect, architects can document high-level application structure and behavior, persistence models and deployment structures. They can also import and analyze legacy code for reengineering. Developers and coders can then use these models, integrated within the Eclipse environment, to facilitate building their application.

Meanwhile, testers can use Enterprise Architect within the Eclipse environment to describe unit and system tests for specific artifacts or across the entire UML model. They can derive JUnit-compatible test cases from the model, then execute and capture the results of those tests.

MDG Integration for Eclipse and Enterprise Architect are unparalleled in their end-to-end traceability, scalable team-oriented modeling environment and rich productivity tools. With the ability to capture and trace development from early analysis and requirements gathering right through the design and construction phases, integration can become a valuable part of the team experience, helping managers, analysts, architects and developers share a common vision and build the right software efficiently and clearly.

With MDG Integration, UML models for analysis, design and development work are easily navigated within the Eclipse IDE. Likewise, source code can be visualized through reverse-engineering tools, and a dynamic debug facility can convert running Java code into UML sequence diagrams. Team communication is further enhanced with built-in discussion forums, security, version control and customizable views.

Both Enterprise Architect 6.5 and MDG Integration for Eclipse 1.0 are now available, with active development of the products continuing in 2007. “Sparx Systems is committed to providing the Eclipse community with all the benefits of an integrated approach to modeling and design,” Mancarella says. “Our integration of Enterprise Architect and Eclipse delivers this capability in a unique and intuitive way.”

Sparx Systems integrates Enterprise Architect into Eclipse, bringing UML 2.1 to your favourite IDE

- Navigate and refine the development model using UML
- Allow model and code to become one
- Generate template driven Rich Text or HTML reports
- Share blueprints between project team members
- Fast-track development with MDA transforms
- Model database schema, WSDL, and XSD documents

Download Your Free 30 Day Trial of MDG Integration for Eclipse at:
www.sparxsystems.com/eclipse