



UML TUTORIALS

THE BUSINESS PROCESS MODEL



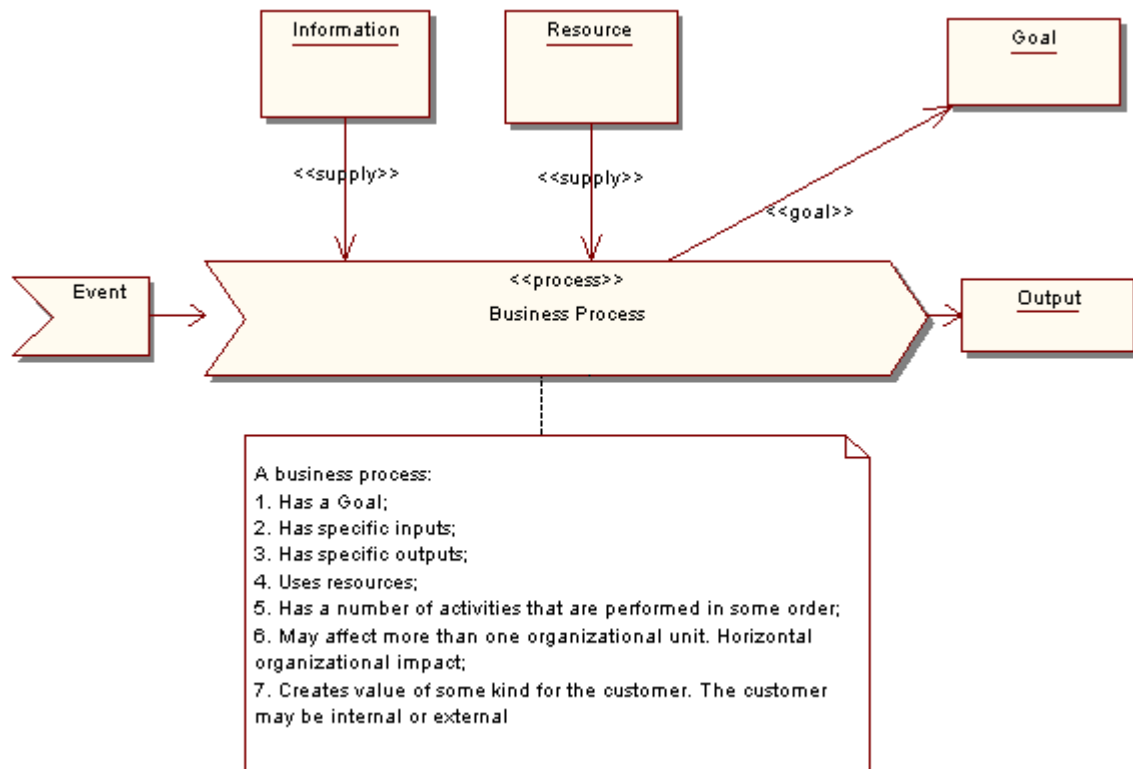
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The Business Process Model

An introduction to the terminology and icons used in the Business Process Model. Provides a quick introduction to some Unified Modelling Language (UML) concepts and how they are applied in Enterprise Architect's Business Process Model.

A business process:

1. Has a Goal
2. Has specific inputs
3. Has specific outputs
4. Uses resources
5. Has a number of activities that are performed in some order
6. May affect more than one organizational unit. Horizontal organizational impact
7. Creates value of some kind for the customer. The customer may be internal or external.



Process Models

Business Process

A business process is a collection of activities designed to produce a specific output for a particular customer or market. It implies a strong emphasis on how the work is done within an organization, in contrast to a product's focus on what. A process is thus a specific ordering of work activities across time and place, with a beginning, an end, and clearly defined inputs and outputs: a structure for action.

Connections

- Supply link from object *Information*. A supply link indicates that the information or object linked to the process is not used up in the processing phase. For example, order templates may be used over and over to provide new orders of a certain style - the templates are not altered or exhausted as part of this activity.
- Supply link from object *Resource*. An input link indicates that the attached object or resource is consumed in the processing procedure. As an example, as customer orders are processed they are completed and signed off, and typically are used only once per unique resource (order).
- Goal link to object *Goal*. A goal link indicates the attached object to the business process describes the goal of the process. A goal is the business justification for performing the activity.
- Stateflow link to object *Output*
- Stateflow link from event *Event*. A stateflow link indicates some object is passed into a business process. It captures the passing of control to another entity or process, with the implied passing of state or information from activity to activity.

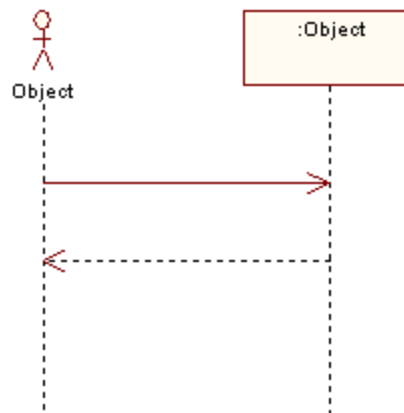


Figure 1 : Workflow

Goal

Object:

A business process has some well defined goal. This is the reason the organization does this work, and should be defined in terms of the benefits this process has for the organization as a whole and in satisfying the business needs.

Connections

Goal link from activity Business Process. A goal link indicates the attached object to the business process describes the goal of the process. A goal is the business justification for performing the activity.

Information

Object:

Business processes use information to tailor or complete their activities. Information, unlike resources, is not consumed in the process - rather it is used as part of the transformation process. Information may come from external sources, from customers, from internal organizational units and may even be the product of other processes.

Connections

Supply link to activity *Business Process*. A supply link indicates that the information or object linked to the process is not used up in the processing phase. For example, order templates may be used over and over to provide new orders of a certain style - the templates are not altered or exhausted as part of this activity.

Output**Object:**

A business process will typically produce one or more outputs of value to the business, either for internal use or to satisfy external requirements. An output may be a physical object (such as a report or invoice), a transformation of raw resources into a new arrangement (a daily schedule or roster) or an overall business result such as completing a customer order.

An output of one business process may feed into another process, either as a requested item or a trigger to initiate new activities.

Connections

Stateflow link from activity *Business Process*

Resource**Object:**

A resource is an input to a business process, and, unlike information, is typically consumed during the processing. For example, as each daily train service is run and actuals recorded, the service resource is 'used up' as far as the process of recording actual train times is concerned.

Connections

Supply link to activity *Business Process*. An input link indicates that the attached object or resource is consumed in the processing procedure. As an example, as customer orders are processed they are completed and signed off, and typically are used only once per unique resource (order).