

Enterprise Modelling and Information Systems Architectures

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The third generation of this advanced modeling tool doesn't just convince with its high flexibility and stability, but also offers a worldwide unique solution for team orientated modeling with its intelligent integration of a configuration management system.

Yet it still retains its original core: a **language independent modeling tool**. The modeling language used has no limitations. If it is the extension of simple languages, the simplification of complex languages or the development of entirely new modeling languages: By the view creation, the use of **multilingual models** and the integrated consistency check, the modeling is not only more fun, but also the flexibility enables a far more effective and efficient modeling.

In the third generation a real explosion of innovations was added: Flexible interfaces enable the perfect **integration into existing software architectures**, scaleable servers offer control, safety and flexibility. Not only the **versioning of the models** is unique, but also the possibility of merging different versions in one new model. Through this real teamwork is now possible.

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Editorial Preface

Enterprise modelling has been at the core of 'Wirtschaftsinformatik', the German version of Information Systems, for long. Research on enterprise modelling includes the design of modelling languages and corresponding methods, as well as their application, e. g. for developing and analysing reference models. In addition to conceptual models in Software Engineering, enterprise models may comprise abstractions that do not primarily serve to support software development. Instead, they can include models to foster organisational or strategic analysis – usually in conjunction with the analysis and design of supporting information systems. A pivotal idea of enterprise models is to integrate various perspectives on an organisation, thereby promoting a tight integration of business processes and information systems as well as reducing communication barriers between business people and IT professionals. The community that works on enterprise modelling comprises mainly researchers from Information Systems, but covers also the interface areas to its neighbouring disciplines Computer Science and Business and Administration.

The Special Interest Group on Modelling Business Information Systems (SIG-MoBIS) within the German Informatics Society (GI) is a community of about 500 researchers and practitioners. It is dedicated to promote research on various aspects of enterprise modelling and information systems architectures. For this purpose, it serves as a forum to spirit the exchange of ideas and experience between academia and practice. Originally, the activities of SIG-MoBIS were restricted to German speaking countries. Regular workshops were held in German only, the community's newsletter ('Rundbrief') was published in German, too. Last year, we decided to open our activities to an international audience. This is mainly for two reasons. Firstly, from a scientific viewpoint, it is hardly acceptable to stop the exchange of ideas at language barriers. Secondly, during the last years, enterprise modelling has gained increasing awareness on an international scale. Therefore, we decided to replace the previous newsletter with an international journal. Considering the large number of journals in Information Systems, this might be regarded as a redundant effort. However, despite the plethora of journals, there is hardly a journal with this specific focus that appreciates constructive ('design-oriented') research methods. In Information Systems as it is common in the US, the main focus is on empirical research methods, which are deployed to test hypotheses on the development,

introduction and effects of information systems in organisations.

We believe that design-oriented research is an important supplement – and often a preferable alternative – to the dominating paradigm in Information Systems. Therefore, the journal *Enterprise Modelling and Information Systems Architectures* is intended to provide a forum for those who prefer a design-oriented approach. As the official journal of the SIG-MoBIS, it is dedicated to promote the study and application of languages and methods for enterprise modelling – bridging the gap between theoretical foundations and real world requirements. The journal is not only aimed at researchers and students in Information Systems and Computer Science, but also at information systems professionals in industry, commerce and public administration who are interested in innovative and inspiring concepts.

The journal's editorial board consists of scholars and practitioners who are renowned experts on various aspects of developing, analysing and deploying enterprise models. Besides Information Systems, they cover various fields of Computer Science. Currently, the majority of the board members are from Germany – reflecting the relatively high popularity of enterprise modelling in this country. We hope, however, to change this ratio over time.

The journal's first issue features five articles that have been selected as outstanding papers from the workshops *Meta-Modelling and Corresponding Tools* (WoMM'05), *XML for Business Process Management* (XML4BPM'05) and *Event Driven Process Chains* (EPC'04). The article 'What is needed in a MetaCASE Environment' by Steven Kelly et al. focuses on requirements for meta-modelling tools. The paper contributed by Håvard D. Jørgensen et al., 'Collaborative Modelling and Metamodeling with the Enterprise Knowledge Architecture', presents a meta-modelling framework that emphasizes the use of views to represent different levels of abstraction. Two papers, by Jan Mendling et al. and Nicolas Kuntz and Ekkart Kindler, are addressing Event Driven Process Chains. Benjamin A. Schmit and Schahram Dustdar present an approach to the model-driven development of Web Service transactions.

I hope you enjoy reading our new journal. Any comments both on articles as well as on the journal itself are appreciated.

Ulrich Frank