

Overview
Version 0.8

Unified Method

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Overview

This series of documents describes the Unified Method,* a method for specifying, visualizing, and documenting the artifacts of an object-oriented system under development. The Unified Method represents the unification of the Booch and OMT methods as well as the best ideas from a number of other methodologists. By unifying these two leading object-oriented methods, the Unified Method provides the basis for a *defacto* standard in the domain of object-oriented analysis and design founded on a wide base of user experience.

Our focus in this current series of documents is upon the modeling constructs and notation that form the basis of the Unified Method. We specify the modeling constructs in a formal metamodel. It is this metamodel and its corresponding notation that are candidates for standardization, for they specify the semantics and representation of models, which are the primary tangible artifacts that can be manipulated and exchanged by a development team. At some future time, we will describe a unified process, although this is far less urgent, since a common notation is amenable to many different development processes, depending upon the nature of the system being developed and the business factors and culture that shape the development organization itself.

In the future this series of documents may culminate in one or more books, possibly including a work similar in spirit to Stroustrup's *Annotated C++ Reference Manual*. For now, these documents collectively serve as the defining reference for the Unified Method's metamodel and notation.

Our current collateral comprises five documents:

Read Me First	This is the document you are reading now, which serves as a road map to the other documents.
Metamodel Guide	This document describes the formal model that underlies the Unified Method, presented both in prose as well as in the unified notation itself. This document is not intended as a means of learning the Unified Method, but rather serves as a concise and unambiguous definition of its modeling constructs.
Notation Summary	This document summarizes the unified notation, and provides a mapping from Booch and OMT to the unified notation. A number of sample diagrams are included.
Reference Manual	This (currently incomplete) document will eventually provide a complete reference to the modeling constructs that form the Unified Method, and is intended for the expert user and tool builder. In contrast to the Metamodel Guide (which may eventually be integrated into the Reference Manual), this document provides a layered discourse that covers the entire unified metamodel and notation, including the

* This is a temporary name for this work; it may be renamed in a future version of these documents.

definition and semantics of every model element, plus commentary that provides rationale for and hints to users and tool builders. *(to be completed)*

User Guide

This (currently incomplete) document provides a number of use cases for the unified notation, as well as (eventually) a most-common-first walkthrough of the unified notation, approachable by novices. The intent of this document is two-fold: to help users learn and transition to the unified notation by offering the solution of a number of common modeling problems using the unified notation; and to illustrate for advanced users some idioms of usage that might not be immediately apparent but which illustrate how to solve important problems without the need for additional notation. The use cases in this document also provide us a means of validating the unified metamodel against a number of common and real uses. *(to be completed)*

You are reading draft versions of these documents. The Metamodel Guide and Notation Summary are relatively complete, although their style and coverage will likely be improved in the future; the Reference Manual and User Guide are mostly incomplete, but are offered here to solicit feedback as to their form, scope, and content. As such, everything is subject to change, pending a wider public review as well the opportunity to experiment with how best to present the syntax and semantics of the elements of the Unified Method in a simple yet complete fashion. For now, comments on these documents should be sent directly to both of its authors, preferably via email:

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The purpose of these early documents is to obtain feedback from a wide audience. We will evolve the documents over the next several months in response to feedback, in preparation for more formal standardization efforts. We expect to have a final version of the Unified Method suitable for standardization by the middle of 1996.