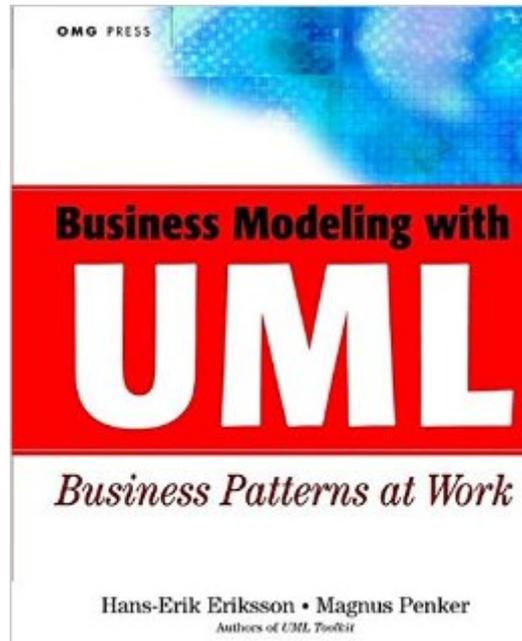


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Business Modeling With UML: Business Patterns At Work



Synopsis

"An excellent hands-on book for practitioners eager to document the internal structure and everyday workings of business processes. This clear and practical book belongs on the shelf of everyone dedicated to mapping, maintaining, and streamlining business processes." -Richard Mark Soley, Phd, Chairman and CEO, OMG "Eriksson and Penker have not just written another patterns book; this is a significant contribution to the key field of business-IT alignment. While capturing profound academic insights, what makes the book so refreshing from a practitioner's viewpoint is the richness of accessible, down-to-earth examples and its pragmatic, unpretentious style."-Paul allen Principal of CBD Strategies and Architectures, Sterling Software "UML may have been designed by and for software engineers, but Eriksson and Penker have defined a practical extension to UML for describing business processes. They put this extended UML immediately to use with a gallery of common business patterns that should jump start any BPR effort."-Philippe Krchten, Director of Process Development Rational Software "This book is a marriage between proven business modeling concepts and the techniques of UML. It provides real-world strategies for developing large-scale, mission-critical business systems in a manner accessible to both software and business professionals."-ScottW. Ambler, Author of Process Patterns Following up on their bestselling book, UML Toolkit, Hans-Erik Eriksson and Magnus Penker now provide expert guidance on how to use UML to model your business systems. In this informative book, key business modeling concepts are presented, including how to define Business Rules with UML's Object Constraint Language (OCL) and how to use business models with use cases. The authors then provide 26 valuable Business Patterns along with an e-business case study that utilizes the techniques and patterns discussed in the book. Visit our Web site at www.wiley.com/compbooks/

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Customer Reviews

One of the weaknesses of the Unified Modelling Language is its relatively limited support for modelling at the Enterprise level, especially to accurately model business processes. The UML purists believe that everything should be reduced to Use Cases, while these authors recognise that much more is necessary. The book covers five quite distinct topics: 1. An introduction to business modelling and UML, explaining the problems the authors want to help solve, and describing each of the relevant techniques of UML, 2. A proposal for a group of extensions to UML (using that language's own established extensibility mechanisms) so that it can better model business processes, 3. A description of the variety of views and models which will be required to establish a comprehensive understanding of the business, or at least part of it, 4. A repository of "business patterns", which you can use to model the business, 5. A comprehensive worked example. Each of these is quite detailed. In particular, the book contains probably the best introduction to the Object Constraint Language (OCL), and its use to model business rules, that I have read anywhere. The sections on how to do business modelling are also very good, as are the introductions to the relevant UML techniques. The "Eriksson-Penker extensions for business modelling" are important because several UML-based case tools have now implemented them as an emerging standard for business process modelling with UML. If you want to fully understand how these work, this is the book to read. The business patterns are more of a "curates egg". Some are extremely useful, and others innovative which could easily solve your problems where there is an accurate match. That said, some are less good and seem to state the obvious, although with patterns it is always difficult to know if you are judging some harshly simply because you are so familiar with them and other readers will get more value. Some of the pattern explanations are a bit repetitive, and the "examples" often sound very artificial, but overall they are useful, and a single one which solves a real business modelling problem for you will justify the rest. At over 400 pages, some of which is occasionally slightly slow and ponderous this is not an ideal book to read from cover to cover. But it is definitely one to study, focusing on whichever topic is most relevant to you at any time, and I can happily recommend it.

Sometime ago I have been wondering if somebody will try to bridge the gap between business

modeling (the one used by consultants) and software engineering. It would certainly make it easier for people to understand and explain business operations. This book is an application of the UML into the realm of business modeling. It is very good in the sense that it explains and goes through the patterns that form business models. The introduction on UML is pretty short and concise, so if you are new to it try using "Applying UML..." book to get an introduction. Be prepared to sit down and spend some time reading, since the material can be a little bit daunting to try to understand and remember all the patterns available. Overall, I wish I had this book for Systems Analysis instead of the outdated software engineering books that we used.

Being relatively new to business modelling in the eCommerce arena, I purchased this book with the aim of guiding me to a consistent diagrammatical notation/methodology for functional requirements. Whilst many customers are still more comfortable with the old flow chart and DFD, I was able to at least apply some of the principles behind the notation. I showed someone else in our workshop sessions and they took the details so they could purchase their own copy. I have compared notes with a few others and find that they either have the book or have at least seen it. I would recommend this to someone in the same situation as I was - relatively new to business modelling, yet not naive wrt analysis and design methodologies. For those who are old hands it might still be worth a look.

While I didn't really enjoy UML Toolkit I do enjoy this book. The presentation and writing styles are same between books however, which are very structured and easy to follow however. This book does a wonderful job of discussing the "design patterns" around the activities of a business, this is it's strength. While I haven't yet mapped these out in UML to a business I think they can stand on their own outside of UML. UML just makes the flow more understandable. Overall the design patterns are enough to recommend it. Very novel and useful!

I am looking for a book that would be able to flesh out proper business processes utilizing well defined modeling language/framework. Although UML is extremely useful for software development, the author's work did make its case stand with me on UML's usefulness as business process modeling tool. The examples are too simplistic and the suggested modeling diagrams are far too cluttered for a business personel to understand. (Cluttered diagrams on a simple example) The book would be better if it had a growing case study and used real world examples and diagrams.

Considering that that the "UML Toolkit", although now dated, is a useful book, I was expecting quite a lot from "Business Modeling with UML". However, it seems like the authors couldn't make up their mind about what to focus on. The core of the book, the Eriksson-Penker business extensions, make up for a mere twenty pages of the book, and the rest of the book is spent discussing various patterns, business rules and the UML in general. Many of the subjects discussed are based upon earlier works, and treated a bit too lightly, imho. Similar to just watching the highlights on sportscenter, it just doesn't tell the whole story. There are also a number of (minor) syntactical errors in the chapter dealing with OCL, which somewhat confuses things for the reader. Despite this, not all is bad with the book. The E-P Business Extensions are useful, and their creation of four business views (similar to the 4+1 view of software architecture) is indeed a good one. The book also fills a void in the UML and RUP, which is well needed, so by all means, take a look at it.

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