

Bprime Collaboration

Capture and communicate software requirements that match business processes

Bprime is a business modeling and process analysis tool that promotes the collaborative development of model assets during a requirements and design engagement. Bprime is highly customizable and lightweight. Bprime models are easily shaped and can easily adjust to both changes in the analysis domain and the intended solution goals.

Bprime has the ability to bring together a wide variety of analysis artifacts (documents, models, and requirements used to design business systems) through a shared project structure. Because of this, development teams and organizational members are easily able to understand and review business requirements, processes, system workflows and operational environments at every step of the software development life cycle.

How It Works

Conceptually, the problem space is divided into packages that are called model files. The model files are then tied together by a common project structure. Within this project structure, members of a project (contributors and leaders) can share and view files.

Collaboration using Bprime leverages four model capabilities: Model Creation, Model Elaboration, Model Collaboration and Model Integration.

- **Model Creation**

A model is created by a lead analyst or architect who defines the initial model structure. The initial model structure then serves as the backbone for the documents generated from it. To involve other contributors or viewers, the lead analyst creates any number of project and model files based on the initial model. These project files

and constituent model files are then shared with the members of the project via a file repository. The Engineering, Client, and Analysis spaces are bought together into one analysis model that can be shared amongst team members.

- **Model Elaboration**

Each contributor manages the packages assigned to them in their model files. Within the packages, contributors can create and make available analysis artifacts to other team members who are working on any project that references the same model files.

- **Model Collaboration**

Two modes of file operations are typical:

1. **Simple file mode:** allows users to work on many model files independently of each other (i.e. one user to a model file). In this mode, single file updates are common.
2. **Advanced file sharing mode:** a model file within a package may be worked on by multiple users. In this mode, shared file updates need to be handled as “merges” in the repository. The lead analyst can structure and assign packages in a way that reduces or eliminates the need for advanced file sharing.

- **Model Integrations**

Analysis artifacts from the various model files of a project are automatically integrated to create an aggregate model view. External links allow rapid traversal to supporting documentation, and provide a means to associate notes about the linked information. The aggregate view and links make it easy to find information contributed by other team members.

Benefits

- Pool Collective Insights

Bprime supports collaboration on a project consisting of multiple model files; model elements can be shared by reference between model files.

- Partition and Simplify

An analyst using Bprime separates key business processes and system concerns using a package structure and modeling paradigm suitable for the domain.

- Round-Trip Business Process Analysis

As new information becomes available, the analysts can easily add partitions and packages to reflect the new understanding.

- Bring together analysis assets within the analysis model

Bprime enables the creation of models that are integrated with supporting documentation, making it easy to find all the important information relating to a business process.

- Create Domain-specific model extensions

Bprime is fully extensible and can be easily customized by adaptable plug-ins for specific user group analysis environments.

- Make what is known visible

An analyst using Bprime can quickly and routinely share what is known with all stakeholders. Bprime brings together a wide variety of analysis artifacts directly within the analysis project model, allowing for rapid fact checking and decision making.

- Integrate Existing Analysis Assets

Bprime plugins can allow process design and

analysis assets to integrate with any tool or data source that can aid in understanding and support of the design and development process.

- Maintain Information Freshness and Accuracy

Model files and other analysis assets can be served remotely via HTTP. The analysis modeling team can work in the configuration that suits them best (locally, grouped, or distributed), as Bprime will integrate and share their contributions.

- Leverage Industry Standards and Systems

Bprime is supported using any standard file-based version control system. This flexibility allows users to combine Bprime collaboration with the Web-based Distributed Authoring and Versioning (WebDAV) protocol and further leverage popular file versioning and sharing systems such as Subversion (SVN) and Microsoft SharePoint.

- Utilize Public and Private Workspaces

Analysts can work 'privately' on their part(s) of the solution (i.e., within their private model files) and then 'publish' the model artifacts by dragging them into a file referenced by a project that is available to the rest of the project team.

About Ensemble

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