



Bachelor Project Proposal 2008/2009

Process Collaboration Platform

Introduction

Business process models help organizations to document and understand their operations and pinpoint where organizational change is needed. Furthermore, process models are used as early requirements documents in software development or customization projects. In this context, the Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN) is the de-facto standard for process modeling.

The Business Process Technology group has created a web-based modeling framework, called Oryx (see <http://oryx-editor.org>). Oryx is an online platform for modeling processes in, e.g., BPMN, as well as for sharing and publishing processes.

Many organizations seek to increase their knowledge in process modeling and are adopting BPMN as modeling language. This explains why many process modelers are looking for guidance to learn BPMN, enhance their knowledge and discuss best practices. By extending Oryx to become a process collaboration platform, we want provide a community for process modelers. Currently, there is no comparable platform out there to do this. We aim to join the best approaches from online platforms, Web 2.0 communities and our teaching expertise.

Objectives

The goal of this project is to develop a concept for an online process collaboration platform and implement a prototype based on the Oryx editor.

As a first step, you will analyze how community platforms work. You will also familiarize yourself with the Oryx editor, its software architecture, and its underlying technology. Furthermore, you will interview potential users of the platform such as process modelers (from newbies to experts) and trainers to get a deeper understanding of common scenarios and demands.

During the requirements engineering phase you will iteratively develop early, low-fidelity prototypes. They will be the base for discussions with potential users. We will use core concepts of the design thinking process with end user involvement and many iterations in during early project stages. In this phase you will be coached to optimally gather requirements in user interviews.

In a subsequent step, you will derive the technical requirements for the envisioned process collaboration platform. Finally, these will be implemented and the platform will be made available.

Some of the questions that will have to be answered are:

- What can we learn from existing online platforms?
- Why and how does the community process work? How to support it?
- How to guide and connect people learning BPMN?
- How to version processes and visualize process evolvement to end users?



Organization

The project will be carried out by a group of five to eight students starting from September 2008 until end of June 2009. The project will be carried out at the HPI in Potsdam. Project partner will be Camunda Services GmbH, Potsdam. Cooperation with Camunda will make sure that the project is performed in an industrial setting, and project results will be relevant.

Prerequisites

The students are supposed to be familiar with the following topics:

- BPMN and other process modeling techniques, as taught during the Process Oriented Information Systems classes (e.g., POIS 1)
- Requirements engineering
- Web application development and internet technologies

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