Live Business Process Collaboration

Introduction

The Business Process Technology research group focuses on modeling, analyzing and enacting business processes. Three years ago, a bachelor project started what became Oryx, the Open Source business process management platform, www.oryx-project.org. Last year's bachelor project team created a Web 2.0 community platform for people to co-create, share and discuss process models with others, www.bpmn-community.org. While this platform provides advanced collaboration features, there is little support for real-time collaboration on modeling business processes.

In the proposed bachelor project we intend to add collaboration aspects to Oryx. Due to the ever increasing complexity of business processes and the different stakeholders involved, we believe that collaboration is an essential aspect in business process modeling. In order to add collaboration to Oryx, modern collaboration platforms and technologies will be evaluated, ranging from collaboration frameworks like Google Wave to communication platforms like MS Sharepoint and CentralDesktop. After developing the requirements and deciding on the technology used, collaboration functionality for Oryx will be designed and implemented. Collaborative Strategies is a technology company focusing on collaboration; it will serve as industry partner to provide real-world grounding in all phases of the project results.

Objectives

You will start with studying collaboration concepts in the literature and by evaluating the technologies mentioned above. In parallel, the Oryx architecture has to be investigated with regards to reusing existing features and improving deficiencies in prospect of new or matured technology. Techniques to conduct human interaction in a collaborative setup will be investigated, e.g. discussion/chat, model elicitation and negotiation, and model documentation. Conceptual ideas will be complemented by prototypes. We will have constant feedback cycles with the industrial partner to achieve relevant results.

Prerequisites

Participating students are expected to provide the following qualifications:
- interest in business process management and current web software technology
- interest in studying how software systems can be used to support the collaboration of people
- familiarity with programming languages like JavaScript, Python, Java

Contact

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