

IBM

**Moderator: Angelique Matheny
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12:00 pm CT**

Operator: Good afternoon. My name is (Melissa) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the How-to Guide on Rational Method Composer Plug-Ins.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speaker's remarks, there will be a question and answer session.

If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press then number one on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question, press the point key.

Thank you. Ms. Matheny you may begin your conference.

Angelique Matheny: Thank you (Melissa). Hello and welcome everyone to this Rational Prox to you teleconference, as (Melissa) stated. Today's topic is how to guide on rational method composer plug-ins.

I'm Angelique Matheny with IBM Rational and I'll be your host for today's call. Today's session will give you an overall of how to customize or build

your own plug-ins with rational method composers, explain how you can learn more about our RMC and answer any questions you may have about building plug-ins using RCM and RUP.

We have an excellent speaker for today's topic, Bruce – I'll say it again, Bruce MacIsaac. Bruce is the development manager for the rational united process. He is coauthor of Agility and Discipline Made Easy, Principles from Open Up. He co-developed the initial contribution of Open Up to Equips Process Framework. He has over 20 years of software development and process development experience.

Now we do want to keep the session fast moving and interactive, so during his presentation, Bruce will frequently open up the call for Q&A. These calls are really for you to get your questions answered, but our expert Bruce, so write those questions down as you think of them and jump right in.

So let's get started. I'll turn it over to Bruce.

Bruce MacIsaac: Okay. Thank you everyone for joining this telecom on the How-Do Guide on Rational Method Composer Plug-ins. Because I wasn't sure of the background of the audience, I have a brief presentation that I'm going to give, and hopefully, you'll all received it. It was sent out this morning to those people that have been registered.

What I will be doing is going briefly through this presentation, just to give you people an overview of what is rational method composer, the basics to building plug-ins, and where you can learn more about rational method composer or RMC.

And really what I'd like to hopefully focus the rest of the session on, is any questions you may have, because they may be a number of you that have used RMC before and you have some issues that you want to discuss and I'd like to help you and spend as much time on Q&A as possible.

So I'm going to start with slide four, which is what is rational method composer? And rational method composer is really made of three things. There's a process often too, which is the tooling that lets you manage, author, configure, and deploy processes, either for a whole organization or for an individual team.

It's also library process assets that you may take a number of the pieces of method that are within the RMC product and leverage that and build on it to build your own processes.

And RMC also includes the RUP which is the really the leading software development methodology in the marketplace today. And you can leverage the predefined processes for a small, medium, and large projects, as well as add in contents for things like business modeling and (SOA) development and so forth.

So the Rational Method Composer includes the RUP so some people have been confused about what happened to RUP because RUP used to be the product. We've generalized the product, so that you have a product for offering your own messages, as well as configuring RUP based processes.

So moving onto slide five. Just a little bit of motivation for why process is important. We believe that process is important for knowledge transfer, to make sure that an organization retains and its knowledge and passes it from project to project.

Consistency, not only for a clear and consistent communication within a team, but also consistency across an organization so that projects can be compared to one another. Also to help team members to understand what their responsibilities are and how they should be relating to other team members.

Predictability. We want – an organization typically has certain objectives like focusing on risk reduction. They have to insure proven recipes for success that they'd to replicate. And also to make sure that projects are remembering to stop and measure things and make decisions to reduce surprises to the project life cycle.

Quality is a big issue. Having a roadmap of how you are going to deliver value to the customer. And also, by leveraging the latest and best practices, you get best better value for your money, or better software economics.

Moving to slide six. This is just an agenda slide to tell you that the next topic that I'm going to talk about is really the basics of building plug-ins.

So how do you build a plug-in to RMC? Slide eight. The first step is you need to decide, well what are the pieces of methodology that I'm going to require? And the base unit in RMC is called a plug-in and plug-ins can be stand alone or they can depend on one or more other plug-ins.

Plug-ins organized in a library. And really the decision you're making at this point when you're building a plug-in architecture, is are you going to build on RUP? Are you going to take some set of RUP plug-ins and then add your own plug-ins to expand what already there? Or are you building your own process library from scratch, you need to build a lot of the base elements yourself

about how you're going to, you know, what are your basic work products and what are your basic reasonable patterns and so forth?

And you need to decide what new plug-ins you're going to need. So, for example, if you have a number of different kinds of projects or processes, but they have some common content and you'd might build some plug-ins for those. If you have – and typically you'll have some unique contents for specific types of projects and you want plug-ins for those.

So just thinking about whether the units and the coupling and cohesion of method content is one of the first things that you need to start thinking about.

On slide nine, gives you an idea of what the next step is, which is creating method content. So essentially you're going to create tasks, roles, work products and guidance. Work products are the information that you produce or consume, things like documents or models or even things like decisions.

Roles, who are the people that are going to do the work? Who's going to responsible for completing the work? What are the skills that they require?

Then there's the tasks which are the steps for actually doing work. And guidance, templates, guidelines, concepts, check lists, things of that nature.

And these are the basic elements from which we build a process. An RMC is a form filled way of developing method content, so you open a task and you put in information like what's the name of the task, what is the discrete description for the task, what's its purpose. You can add the steps for the task and you can add relationships, like what is the role that's going to perform the task? What are the input work products? What are the output work products? Things of that nature.

So it's fairly straight forward. You fill in the forms and you've defined all of these individual elements.

Moving to slide 10. The next step is to start thinking about configurations and processes. So how are you going to combine these task, work products, and roles into some kind of flow? And so you think about, okay, I want to build a flow for this type of project, so these are the plug-ins I'm going to need. So you select plug-ins and packages from a configuration.

And then you would think about perhaps the work flow. What is the sequence in which things will be performed? How do I want to organize them maybe in hierarchies or work break down structures? So that's this next step.

Moving onto slide 11. Now that you have the basic work flows or break down structures defined and you've decided, you know, what configurations you're going to use for which kind of project, you then look at things like, okay, how am I going to customize this for my organization?

So there's other things you may want to do. For example, you may want your own introductory welcome page. Welcome to My Company's Unified Process. And you may add your own categories and views, so organizing information a little bit differently than how it might be RUB if you were building a couple of RUPs.

There's a lot of customization capabilities within RMC. You can change the banners. You can change where the feedback emails go. You can change the page styles. So there's a lot of customization that you can do on the published Web site that you produce.

And moving on staff – slide 12. The next step is well, you're going to make this content available, so you publish it to a Web or to a document. Both are possible. Typical things that people will do, is they'll usually publish to a Web to print data (unintelligible) pages, or they'll publish to a Word file, so that they can put it on a server and people can share one version of a public Web site, so that everyone's accessing the same contents.

So some of the things you'll see on a published Web site. You'll see a tree browser on the left to help you find individual elements. There's a button for giving feedback, so if you have comments on a page, you can click on that and send an email to someone saying, "This is something I'd like changed on this page", or maybe you just want say, "Wow, what a great page."

Bread crumbs to give you an idea where you are. There's an – an on a particular page, you'll see the content that you've developed plus any generated information that can come from the linkages between method content.

So for example, you may have indicated on a task what role performs it. If you go to the role page, you'll also see the tasks that the role performs. So, typically you'll enter on the form only one direction of the relationship, but when you go to the other elements, you'll see the inverse relationships.

So having that information in the public focus, so it's very useful from a navigation prospective.

So you can find out from the work product what tasks are using it, or consuming it. You can find out from a role what work products its responsible for, and so forth.

So, essentially what this gives you, is it gives you a very structured repository of your process including work flow information and any policies you may have and so forth.

So that was a very brief overview of how you might go through creating method content with RMC. But really you probably need more than this, and so where can you learn more?

In the slide presentation, I give a link to the developer work Web site for RUP and RMC. And just to give you an idea of some of the information that's available there, there is a trial download of RMC and RUP, so if you have not seen either of those and you want to just give them a try, you can download them for free and use them, I believe, it's for one month.

There's online help, which can be quite useful in getting started. Also on that same developer work page, there is the RMC E-Kit and it includes a recorded presentation that walks through in much more depth than I'm able to today of how you might build plug-ins with RMC. There's also articles there, case study information, and so forth.

There are courses. And I highly recommend that if you're serious about building plug-ins and processes in RMC, that you take some of these courses. There's Web based training on the Rational Unified Process. There is also instructor live training on Rational Unified Process.

There is a course, (PRJ350), an essentials of IBM Rational Method Composer and that's instructor led as well. And there's also many courses on particular process content topics like modeling or requirement standards under your development. These won't help you build a plug-in with RMC, but they will increase your knowledge or a particular process area.

So if you weren't aware of it, we have quite a number of courses there as well.

You can get to all of these things from the Developer Work Web site. Sometimes they're a bit tricky. If you click on, for example, the course for a link, it'll take you to the course work for all of rational, not just the RUP and RMC courses, so you'll have to search or navigate your way through until you find the Rational Method Composer course or the RUP course that you might be interested in.

Certainly, there are professional services and there's a link on that same Developer Work page that tells you how you can find out more about getting professional services. So our field folks can help you customize the Rational Unified Process or help you build your own from scratch.

There are also forums. So if you're interested in interacting with topics other RMC customers and you want to share your experiences, what works for you, any issues you might be having, it's a great way to get some quick and easy help, but also some unbiased information from other people that are using the products.

So I highly encourage people to leverage the forums, ask questions, and that way, you know, you can get into some lively discussions and find out a lot more then you could from any one on one approach.

Also on that same page, is lots of articles and assets, points to books, and points to many articles on both, you know, basic articles about the product and also very in-depth topics as well.

So that is essentially all the information I have to present. I wanted to give people a baseline. And what I'd like to do is open the –open this for questions. So please feel free to ask questions, by, I think it's – how do you do it again. Let me just look it up.

Operator: Star one for any questions.

Bruce MacIsaac: There we go, star one for questions. So please – and to star one, if you have some questions.

Operator: Okay. Hold for just moment for your question.

Your first question comes from (Anthony Coleman).

(Anthony Coleman): Hi. I have a question about changing the page styles. Can you change the whole entire look and feel or can you change the (CSS) that is a part of the published knowledge base?

Bruce MacIsaac: Yes you can. It's – the published web site's all driven by an (XML) style sheet. And I know where there's an article on that topic. I'm not sure if it's posted on Developer Works or where. But if you'd like to send me an email, I can find that article and I will email it to you.

(Anthony Coleman): Great. And you're email address is on the...?

Bruce MacIsaac: It's on the slide deck on the second to last – on the very last slide.

(Anthony Coleman): Okay. Great. Thank you.

Bruce MacIsaac: You're welcome.

Operator: Again to ask a question, press star one on your telephone keypad.

I'm showing at this time, there are no other questions.

Bruce MacIsaac: Since that's all the questions, I'll ask and answer a couple of things that I've found are frequently asked questions. But please do jump in if you have any questions of your own.

One question that I'm often asked is, "What's the relationship between the RAC Unified Process and the Open Up or Eclipse Process Framework?"

And just for those of you that haven't heard of it, the Eclipse Process Framework is an open source project. It's part of the Eclipse community and it's- what we've done is IBM donated a very small amount of RUP, about, I don't know, less than 10% of RUP to the Eclipse community and created with the help of that community a very small version of RUP targeted to small agile projects.

So it's very good for, you know, if you have a small project and you want to be following very agile principles, that's a very excellent starting point. If you want to scale from there, then you're better off going with the RUP Tech Small Project, which starts to address issues like, for example, requirements management, issues like, how do you deal with multiple builds and staging builds and things of that nature.

So as you scale up, certainly that's where the value of RUP really comes clear.

So I wanted to give some people an idea of what open up was and our plans are to build the next version of RUP on top of that open up base, so you'll find

that there will be a core of RUP content that will be this agile base and the evolving RAC Unified Process will be built on top on that.

So that's a typical question that I get asked, so I thought I would ask and answer it myself.

But please, if you have of your own question, please jump in.

Operator: And we do have a follow-up question from (Anthony Coleman).

Bruce MacIsaac: Oh great.

(Anthony Coleman): Hi again. This is more of a legal question and hopefully, you can answer it, because I really can't get a straight answer from anyone else. If I've published a knowledge base and I put it up on an Internet site or an Internet site, will I have a licensing – are there any licensing issues involved, because basically, you know, you could have the whole world looking at my, you know, published content?

Bruce MacIsaac: Yes. So the – it depends the source of the content. If it's the RAC Unified Process content, the license states that you need to have a license for every user of that content. So you need to work with your field services rep to really assess what is an appropriate number of users, given of how you've made the information available.

If it's your own content, there's no restrictions whatsoever.

(Anthony Coleman): Okay. And if I – so if I use any of the RUP content then, that slides over into, you know, possible licensing issues is what you're saying?

Bruce MacIsaac: Yes. That's right.

(Anthony Coleman): Okay. All right. Thank you.

Bruce MacIsaac: You're welcome.

Operator: And there are no further questions.

Bruce MacIsaac: Okay. Another question I've been asked before is, "What's the relationship between a RUP and (JAZZ)?"

(JAZZ) is Rational's new collaboration and work item planning framework. And I'd just like people to know that our plans are to integrate (JAZZ) and RMC as much as possible, so that the process that you follow in the (JAZZ) framework is the same process that you authored in RMC.

So the idea would be that the various work flows that you author in the Rational Method Composer are actually the work flows that get automated through the (JAZZ) framework.

Also, when you think of the activity- the tasks that you're creating in RMC, these tasks and possible higher level groupings of them as activities, also are a template for work items that you might create in a (JAZZ) project.

So this is really for me is a very exciting thing, because it means that the process instead of just being descriptive, is something that it becomes real and active and drives what you do everyday.

So that's an exciting thing that's certainly coming down the pike.

So I just wanted people to be aware of that. And I'll just pause, incase there's any other questions.

Operator: And you do have another follow-up from (Anthony Coleman).

(Anthony Coleman): Yeah. Where can I find the information on creating this work file and – so that I can put the – my site up on a server?

Bruce MacIsaac: Well to be honest, the published Web site is just – is ordinary HTML. So, essentially you do whatever the server that you're using requires to post a Web site.

I can ask the question from people that have done it before, and again, if you want to send me an email reminder, I'll – I can check to see what people have actually done with this specific, you know, HTML server and get you that information.

(Anthony Coleman): So it doesn't necessarily – you don't necessarily have to produce a work file in order to put it up on the server?

Bruce MacIsaac: No. In fact, what I typically do, I just put – I put it on a shared directory and people just access it.

(Anthony Coleman): Oh. Okay.

Bruce MacIsaac: It's as simple as that. The only time you might want to use the server, if you're, you know, if that's how your server works. But you don't have to use a work file.

(Anthony Coleman): Oh. Okay. All right. Thank you.

Bruce MacIsaac: You're welcome.

Operator: At this time, there are no audio questions.

Bruce MacIsaac: Okay. So – in general people have asked questions about, “Well how many RMC licenses do I need?” So I'll just ask and answer that question myself, because it's a common one.

You do need an RMC license for each person's authoring content. So today, RMC and RUP are a single license thing. So you have as many RMC licenses as you have authors, but also users of content.

That's something that we're looking at changing in the future, so that we might have a separate tooling license then a separate content license, but today it's a single license.

So, for example, if you're authoring your own content from scratch, you might only need a few licenses, because you're dealing with, you know, a few number of authors, but a large audience of consumers. If you're using the RUP content, then you need a license for each full time user of that content.

So this is something where they're certainly volume discounts available in all kinds of special situations, so I would highly recommend you talk to your IBM sales rep and, you know, find out what's a suitable usage pattern for you and I'm sure you can work some sort of arrangement.

Okay. So I'll pause. Is there any questions?

Operator: At this time, there are no questions.

Bruce MacIsaac: Okay. Well, I think it says no more questions. We're coming on the half hour, so we – I'll hand it back to the moderator then to close the session.

Angelique Matheny: Well thank you very much Bruce. This was a very valuable session and we appreciate you sharing you knowledge and experience on today's topic.

If you would like to listen to this conference again or share it with your colleagues, this will be made available for replay in MP3 format, in the next few days.

Check out the Rational Talk to You Page at ibm.com/rational/talk. This link also includes the other titles in the series. We've completed the 2000 series, so look for the calls in the Rational Talk to You Series in early 2008.

Again, I'd like to thank our speaker today, Bruce MacIsaac for being with us to talk about how – the How-To Guide on Rational Method Composer Plugins. Bruce thanks for coming and being able to join us and taking time out of your busy day.

Bruce MacIsaac: Okay. Thanks to everyone for attendance.

Angelique Matheny: We would also like to thank you our audience for your interest in IBM. We hope to see you back for another one of our events in the near future. Thank you very much. Talk to you soon.

Operator: Thank you for participating. You may now disconnect.

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