Top 10 Reasons for WayPointer

1 Get return on your investment in platform, process and tools

Why do people and organizations make investments in application platforms, development processes and modeling tools? In the end, they are all, of course, searching for a way to make their system development more efficient. While a modern process, tool-set, and application platform can be instrumental in achieving this, it just doesn't come automatically when you sign the check for these products. Many organizations find that it takes a lot of discipline, commitment and persistence to reap the anticipated benefits. Far too many organizations go astray and never get there, resulting in many organizations claiming to use the UML and a modern process while in reality much of their investments in tools and process have become shelf-ware. Moreover, investments in training become "intellectual shelf-ware" when you resort to ad-hoc solutions. It is, of course, a problem in itself to spend money on something that is not put to use. What is even more serious, you will never get the benefits that you were hoping for. Our experience shows that it is just too hard to make it all come together. To reach the sought-after benefits, it is important that:

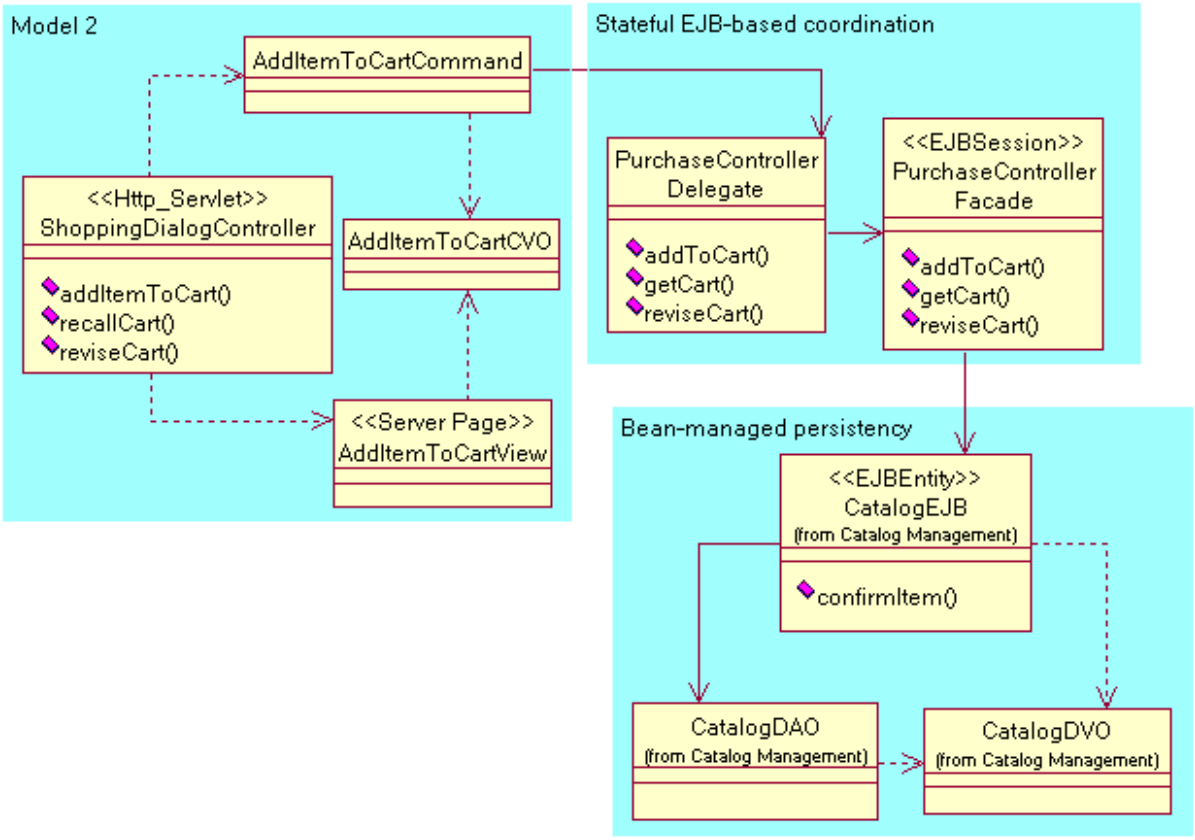
- Everyone has a good and shared understanding of the technologies in question
- A shared design-style is used
- You use the process in the right way, not too heavyweight, not too lightweight
- Everyone uses the platform in an agreed and consistent fashion
- You keep it this way over time, when the initial enthusiasm for adopting new technologies has faded

With WayPointer, you get the piece that makes the puzzle complete, understandable and cohesive. This comes at a fraction of the cost that most organizations spend on training and mentoring without getting the results they were hoping to achieve.

2 Get proven expertise on building J2EE systems

WayPointer supports you in building J2EE systems by offering a set of designs that deals with typical challenges when designing for the J2EE platform. These designs consist of one or more common design patterns and mechanisms promoted by Sun in combination with usage of the platform itself.

Unlike other design outlining and pattern insertion tools, WayPointer makes goal-oriented suggestions about which design to employ in a certain situation. This is done based on the requirements and roles of the classes in the design that you currently are working with; it is also sensitive to architectural design decisions such as what design mechanisms to use. The result is that correct and relevant J2EE patterns and mechanisms are composed into complete design solutions.



3 WayPointer is adaptable to how you work

Out of the box, WayPointer's 800+ rules support a ready-to-use process suitable for most organizations. If necessary, it is possible to specialize WayPointer further in two different ways:

- Modification of agent settings: Agent settings are various parameters that determine how WayPointer behaves. There are today more than 130 agent settings that effect different aspects of WayPointer ranging from naming conventions to wide-ranging reconfiguration of the process to be supported.
- Advanced users can develop support for proprietary methodologies using the same tools that the Jaczone development team uses to develop rules and agents.

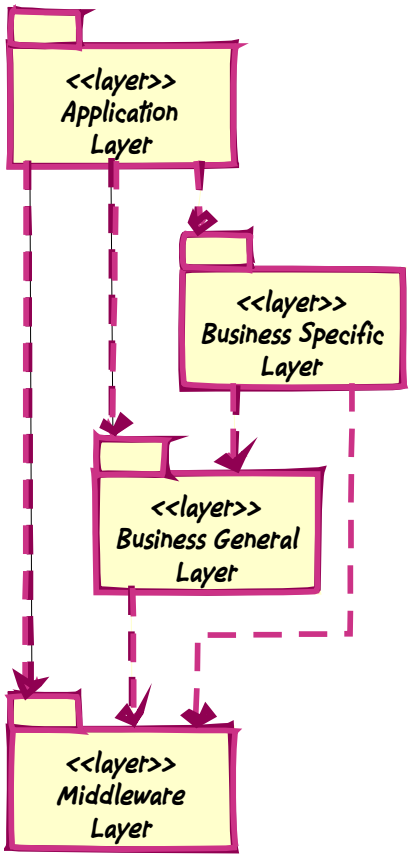
4 Cut training costs

- The Rational Unified Process has more than 2500 web pages
- The UML defines more than 150 concepts
- There are more than 15 different so-called "Core J2EE design patterns"
- There are more than 1,900 different books about Java

It is a daunting task to acquire a working knowledge in all these disciplines through traditional training . Even if you do, you still have to put the pieces together into a working solution on your own. WayPointer changes this all around so that you only need minimal introductory training in these different subjects. Starting from there, WayPointer will support you in using the different technologies at the same time as you are building the system. While WayPointer provides detailed advice and references to background information for the less experienced user, it still allows the experienced user to work quickly and "skip over" detailed descriptions. For the experienced user WayPointer is a power tool for quick and accurate J2EE design. For the less experienced WayPointer acts as a mentor providing just-in-time on-the-job training.

5 Get your architecture under control

Architecture is still a bit of black magic and few people can really say what constitutes a good architecture and what issues it must address. WayPointer's support for architecture is based on the Rational Unified Process and extended with ideas from the work on architecture at the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) at Carnegie Mellon University. On top of that solid foundation, we have added our own experience harvested from a number of J2EE projects.



6 Make each individual more productive

WayPointer is goal-driven and activity-aware resulting in WayPointer knowing what you are working with and why. Based on this WayPointer allows you to do more with less compared to working with a traditional modeling tool. When changing or adding model elements WayPointer can, based on the current activity and goals provide additional automation and services compared to traditional tools.

Moreover, WayPointer takes care of a lot of tedious details automatically, for example:

- Making sure that your model is correctly organized
- Naming and creating model elements and documents correctly
- Placing model elements in the right places
- Updating diagrams as necessary

Freeing you up from these routine tasks makes it possible for you to spend more time on the actual design and implementation of the system.

7 Encourage a common design style

If you ask ten different software developers to create a UML model for a particular problem, it is likely that you will end up with ten quite different models. In addition, it is likely that the developers will have some difficulty in understanding each other's models and you can be assured that there will be a long debate about what the "correct" model should look like. Consistency rules and guidelines in WayPointer promotes a common design style which allows an organization to focus on the real work, i.e., modeling, building and deploying systems as opposed to discussing the use of the UML. Moreover, this makes it easier for different individuals to understand each other's models since a common style and a common set of naming conventions are used.

8 Make project status accessible and transparent

WayPointer makes it possible for a project manager to create a detailed view of a project by consolidating the state of work from multiple project members. For example, if you have multiple users working with the activity Class Design, you can create a unified view showing the complete state of the Class Design activity for the current iteration. This comes without any specific entry of status information by the project members. Few things are more boring and feel as unproductive as writing status reports. With WayPointer, you don't have to!

9 Get improved quality

WayPointer takes care of many tedious details automatically and alerts you on potential quality issues in your model. WayPointer also is a kind of "model unit test" tool helping you to do a self-assessment of the quality of the model. Additionally, if your situation so requires, WayPointer provides support for more formal design reviews where you capture review comments directly in WayPointer and get a structured review protocol with full traceability to your UML model. Review comments can also be transferred to an external issue tracking system.

10 WayPointer is easy to deploy

It is easy to get started with WayPointer. Most users become productive with WayPointer in less than one day and there are just a few concepts that you need to understand. Running a few short on-line tutorials will get you up to speed and then you are ready to start working.

As WayPointer does not introduce any new artifacts in addition to those already in use (models, source code, etc.), it has no impact on configuration management or document handling procedures. In addition, this absence of new artifacts means that no assets are permanently tied to WayPointer, thereby making WayPointer a risk free proposition.

WayPointer is architected to work with different modeling tools. Today WayPointer is integrated with Rational Rose and Rational XDE. As WayPointer works the same for these different tools it is actually so that WayPointer will simplify the transition from Rose to XDE.

WayPointer is available in four different configurations, meaning that you can select to deploy different products for different projects or roles, resulting in lower cost compared to getting the full product for every user.

For a comparison of the different products please refer to the Product comparison sheet.