

Language Extensions

1. What is the goal? Language extensions in the form of:
 - ▶ extensions that translate to Alloy
 - ▶ extensions that go beyond a translation to Alloy (probabilistic, fuzzy logic, temporal logic, arithmetic)
 - ▶ orchestrating analysis in Alloy
 - ▶ Alloy as an intermediate language
2. Why isn't this already done and what are the challenges?
 - ▶ code base wasn't built as an extensible system
3. What are the promising approaches?
 - ▶ Java APIs
 - ▶ meta-languages such as Rosette for using Racket
 - ▶ language/semantic engineering frameworks

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4. What are the potential risks and costs?
 - ▶ Java APIs will help for smaller extensions, but don't help much for new backends
 - ▶ language engineering frameworks enable more extensibility but start-up cost is high
5. What are the success criteria?
 - ▶ extensions become independent of current code
 - ▶ e.g., Electrum, DynAlloy as independent jars
6. What are the concrete action items?
 - ▶ Peter: Java API + javadoc docm to maven central
 - ▶ Perhaps make an independent jar of Electrum
 - ▶ Nancy: syntax of Alloy in xText is available