**Experiment No. - 7**

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**Aim:**

To construct Component Diagram and Deployment Diagram to depict the structural view of the system.

**Theory:**

# **Component Diagrams**

Component diagrams are different in terms of nature and behavior. Component diagrams are used to model the physical aspects of a system. Now the question is, what are these physical aspects? Physical aspects are the elements such as executables, libraries, files, documents, etc. which reside in a node.

Component diagrams are used to visualize the organization and relationships among components in a system. These diagrams are also used to make executable systems.

## Purpose of Component Diagrams

Component diagram is a special kind of diagram in UML. The purpose is also different from all other diagrams discussed so far. It does not describe the functionality of the system but it describes the components used to make those functionalities.

Thus from that point of view, component diagrams are used to visualize the physical components in a system. These components are libraries, packages, files, etc.

Component diagrams can also be described as a static implementation view of a system. Static implementation represents the organization of the components at a particular moment.

A single component diagram cannot represent the entire system but a collection of diagrams is used to represent the whole.

The purpose of the component diagram can be summarized as −

* Visualize the components of a system.
* Construct executables by using forward and reverse engineering.
* Describe the organization and relationships of the components.

## How to Draw a Component Diagram?

Component diagrams are used to describe the physical artifacts of a system. This artifact includes files, executables, libraries, etc

The purpose of this diagram is different. Component diagrams are used during the implementation phase of an application. However, it is prepared well in advance to visualize the implementation details.

Initially, the system is designed using different UML diagrams and then when the artifacts are ready, component diagrams are used to get an idea of the implementation.

This diagram is very important as without it the application cannot be implemented efficiently. A well-prepared component diagram is also important for other aspects such as application performance, maintenance, etc.

Before drawing a component diagram, the following artifacts are to be identified clearly −

* Files used in the system.
* Libraries and other artifacts relevant to the application.
* Relationships among the artifacts.

After identifying the artifacts, the following points need to be kept in mind.

* Use a meaningful name to identify the component for which the diagram is to be drawn.
* Prepare a mental layout before producing the using tools.
* Use notes for clarifying important points.

## Where to Use Component Diagrams?

We have already described that component diagrams are used to visualize the static implementation view of a system. Component diagrams are special type of UML diagrams used for different purposes.

These diagrams show the physical components of a system. To clarify it, we can say that component diagrams describe the organization of the components in a system.

Organization can be further described as the location of the components in a system. These components are organized in a special way to meet the system requirements.

As we have already discussed, those components are libraries, files, executables, etc. Before implementing the application, these components are to be organized. This component organization is also designed separately as a part of project execution.

Component diagrams are very important from implementation perspective. Thus, the implementation team of an application should have a proper knowledge of the component details

Component diagrams can be used to −

* Model the components of a system.
* Model the database schema.
* Model the executables of an application.
* Model the system's source code.

# **Deployment Diagrams**

Deployment diagrams are used to visualize the topology of the physical components of a system, where the software components are deployed.

Deployment diagrams are used to describe the static deployment view of a system. Deployment diagrams consist of nodes and their relationships.

## Purpose of Deployment Diagrams

The term Deployment itself describes the purpose of the diagram. Deployment diagrams are used for describing the hardware components, where software components are deployed. Component diagrams and deployment diagrams are closely related.

Component diagrams are used to describe the components and deployment diagrams shows how they are deployed in hardware.

UML is mainly designed to focus on the software artifacts of a system. However, these two diagrams are special diagrams used to focus on software and hardware components.

Most of the UML diagrams are used to handle logical components but deployment diagrams are made to focus on the hardware topology of a system. Deployment diagrams are used by the system engineers.

The purpose of deployment diagrams can be described as −

* Visualize the hardware topology of a system.
* Describe the hardware components used to deploy software components.
* Describe the runtime processing nodes.

## How to Draw a Deployment Diagram?

Deployment diagram represents the deployment view of a system. It is related to the component diagram because the components are deployed using the deployment diagrams. A deployment diagram consists of nodes. Nodes are nothing but physical hardware used to deploy the application.

Deployment diagrams are useful for system engineers. An efficient deployment diagram is very important as it controls the following parameters −

* Performance
* Scalability
* Maintainability
* Portability

Before drawing a deployment diagram, the following artifacts should be identified −

* Nodes
* Relationships among nodes

## Where to Use Deployment Diagrams?

Deployment diagrams are mainly used by system engineers. These diagrams are used to describe the physical components (hardware), their distribution, and association.

Deployment diagrams can be visualized as the hardware components/nodes on which the software components reside.

Software applications are developed to model complex business processes. Efficient software applications are not sufficient to meet the business requirements. Business requirements can be described as the need to support the increasing number of users, quick response time, etc.

To meet these types of requirements, hardware components should be designed efficiently and in a cost-effective way.

Now-a-days software applications are very complex in nature. Software applications can be standalone, web-based, distributed, mainframe-based and many more. Hence, it is very important to design the hardware components efficiently.

Deployment diagrams can be used −

* To model the hardware topology of a system.
* To model the embedded system.
* To model the hardware details for a client/server system.
* To model the hardware details of a distributed application.
* For Forward and Reverse engineering.

**Conclusion:**

The component diagram is a very important diagram that architects will often create early in a project. However, the component diagram’s usefulness spans the life of the system. Component diagrams are invaluable because they model and document a system’s architecture. Because component diagrams document a system’s architecture, the developers and the eventual system administrators of the system find this work product-critical in helping them understand the system.

UML deployment diagram is very important as it helps us visualize and helps us better understand the whole system. A simple and efficient UML deployment diagram greatly helps us make a visual diagram of how these hardware components are inter-linked, the relation between each hardware component, and how the software resides in these hardware components. Also, there are other types of UML diagrams that are important to understand for the efficient making of the systems.