BRIDG Deprecation Policy

During the process of harmonization or of model maintenance, the BRIDG SCC periodically makes representational changes to the model. Most of these changes involve additions to the model, but some involve moving a concept or otherwise altering existing semantics to make the model more robust or more accurate. The BRIDG SCC recognizes that occasionally BRIDG model elements are identified that are no longer needed, were erroneously added or came from source models that have since deprecated the source model element. The following process describes how such situations will be handled starting with BRIDG release 3.0.3.

When an item is identified as no longer needed, as erroneously added, or as coming from a source model that has since deprecated the source model element, the BRIDG SCC will perform the due diligence required to determine whether or not the item is truly obsolete. This effort may include, but is not limited to, tracing the mapping tags to the source model and the appropriate mapping spreadsheet, researching related changes in the model change list, and discussing the item with a point of contact for the originating project if one can be identified. If this research effort does not bring to light a current reason for retaining the model element, the SCC will mark the attribute, association or class in the BRIDG UML model using the “DEPRECATED” stereotype. This visually sets an item apart from the other items in the model and alerts potential users that the item will be dropped in a future release.

The SCC will also move any tags still needed to an appropriate location in the model (if they are not already there). The corresponding elements in the RIM-based BRIDG representation might also be updated to include an implementation note indicating that the element is considered deprecated. The element will be published in the next release of BRIDG in this deprecated status – still available if needed but clearly indicating the SCC’s intent to drop the element at a later date.

The model element will then be retained in the BRIDG model for 1 year after its first release in this deprecated status. Any project team or BRIDG model user who has a use case for retaining the model element may contact the BRIDG SCC ([bridgTHC-L@list.nih.gov](mailto:bridgTHC-L@list.nih.gov)) to schedule a meeting to discuss their requirement. Any deprecated items that are subsequently deemed useful after all will be restored to non-deprecated status and published as such in the next release of the BRIDG model. Any items that have spent one year in the deprecated status with no requests to restore them will be dropped from the model all together in the first release of BRIDG after the one year mark.

