UML (Unified Modeling Language) is a standardized visual modeling language used to depict a software system's design. It provides a common language and notation for software developers, system analysts, and end-users to communicate and understand software system architecture, behavior, and processes. UML diagrams depict structural and behavioral aspects of a software system and can be used throughout the entire software development lifecycle. UML was developed by a group of software professionals led by Grady Booch, James Rumbaugh, and Ivar Jacobson in the early 1990s.