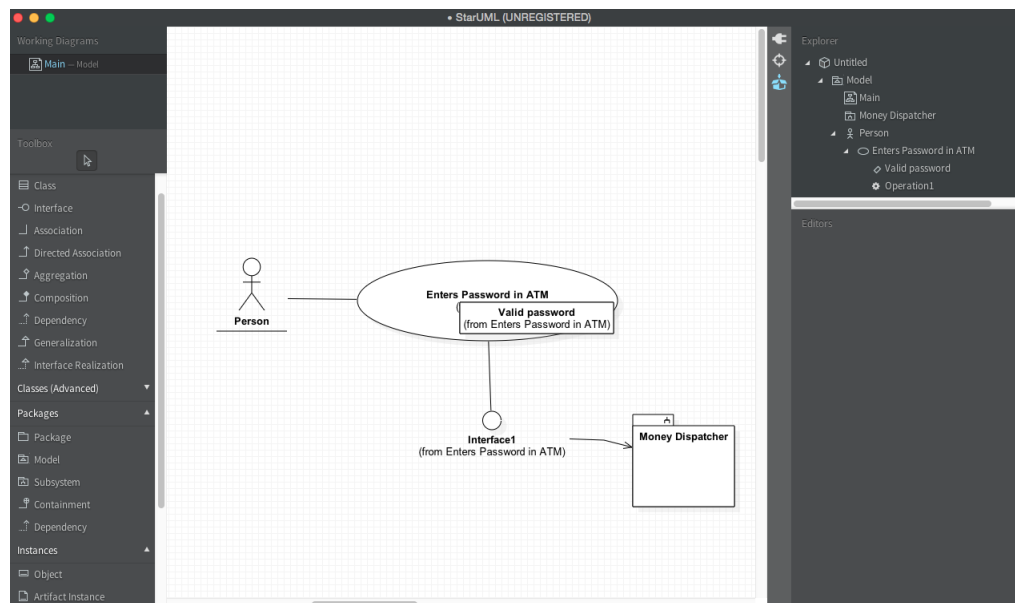# UML Tools

Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a general purpose modeling language in the field of software engineering. It is a key aspect in the initial phase of software design development cycle. It can be used to model your project, providing high-level requirements and a framework for implementation.
The following are the UML tools available for free:

1 StarUML

StarUMl is a popular free UML tool with easy to use interface. The following are the instructions to download the same:

1. Visit `http://staruml.io` for a general overview of the software.

2. Depending on your machine install StarUML from `http://staruml.io/download`. It downloads an executable application, so there mostly won't be any issues with this step.

3. Launch StarUML.

4. You can run StarUML in the evaluation version with no time limit. The evaluation version should be sufficient for the requirements of the course.

5. A snapshot of the StarUML application with sample example UML diagram (poorly implemented) is illustrated below and `http://staruml.sourceforge.net/docs/user-guide(en)/toc.html` provides further detials for your reference.

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2   Visual Paradigm

Visual Paradigm provides a good environment for UML and State machine diagrams. The community version of Visual Paradigm is free to use. The following are the instructions to download the same:

1. Visit `http://www.visual-paradigm.com` for a general overview of the tool.

2. The community version can be downloaded at `http://www.visual-paradigm.com/download/community.jsp`

3. Since it is a community version the activation is not required.

4. A quick start guide available at `http://images.visual-paradigm.com/quickstart/vpuml_quickstart.pdf` with illustrative examples will help you out.

3   Other Tools

Various other UML tools are available, however only for a trial version or requires download through the university software service.

1. **Microsoft Visio:** `https://account.engr.arizona.edu/msdn_aa.php`. Click on the link mentioned and sign in using your University of Arizona, NetID and Password. Once signed in you will be able to download Microsoft Visio. The link `http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/visio-help/create-a-uml-use-case-diagram-HP081550218.aspx` will give a basic introduction for the same.

2. **IBM Rational Rhapsody:** IBM Rational Rhapsody is available at the link `http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/downloads/r/rhapsodydeveloper/`. However, only an evaluation version is available and requires an elaborate signing up for it.