# Kuwaiba Open Inventory User's Manual

Neotropic SAS 27.07.2016

## Contents

## **Document History**

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Introduction	1
Connection to the Server	2
Data Model Manager	4
Containment Manager	7
Navigation Tree Relationship and Special Children Explorer	<b>9</b> 11
List Type Manager	12
Default and Rack Views  Default View	13 13 14
Physical Connections           Example 1	16 16 19
SDH Networks Module	27
Audit Trail	28
Service Manager	29
Contract Manager	30
Task Manager Manager	31

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## Introduction

Kuwaiba sees an inventory system as a living entity, not growing only in terms of size, but also in structure and intelligence. The main reason is that business requirements change constantly and therefore, the application must ready to respond to new scenarios. One of the key concepts that can help you unlock the potential of Kuwaiba is the **data model**. It provides a simplified representation of the network and the business from an operational point of view. It can be seen as the skeleton that supports the application, but a skeleton from which you can add, remove and change elements as you go. Later in this document you will be able to see what tools you can use to manage it. For now, just keep in mind that the better you design your data model and the more you get to know it, the more you will take advantage of the application.

Having said that, you will find four types of resources in a typical data model:

- **Physical:** Equipment, pipes, cables, fiber optics, facilities, parts and in general every physical asset from a port to a building.
- Logical: These are all the resources related to non-tangible technology assets. In this group fits timeslots, virtual circuits, VLANs, disk space, available bandwidth, etc.
- Other Non-physical: mostly software-related assets, such as licenses or virtual machines.
- Administrative: These are all those related to administrative tasks, human resources or commercial management. Customers, their services, SLAs (and related parameters like availability or throughput), sales and technical staff assigned to those services, vendors and states belong to this category.

The Kuwaiba desktop client is a set of views (trees, topologies, editors) that allow to put together these elements based on business rules and user-defined models. Kuwaiba extends the concept of **CMDB** (Configuration Management Database, a place where you store objects that can hold configuration information or be subject to configuration themselves -so called Configuration Items- and their relationships) and enables you to perform network design tasks, support capacity management and provisioning workflows and assist field and customer service teams to improve response times.

Kuwaiba helps you model your network according to your needs, no matter if you're an ISP, a carrier or just a guy with a large (or small!) IT infrastructure to manage. It's open source, under active development and new models are added every release. You can contribute to the project by providing technical insight on a particular technology, testing, translating or just sending your feedback through forums<sup>1</sup> and mailing lists<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Forums https://sourceforge.net/p/kuwaiba/discussion/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>mailing lists https://sourceforge.net/p/kuwaiba/mailman/

## Connection to the Server

The first thing you will see when opening the client is the window in the figure 1. The default user and password are **admin/kuwaiba**.



Figure 1: Authentication window

The default connection settings should be enough if the server is running on the same computer the client is. If that's not the case, open the Connection Settings window (figure 2).

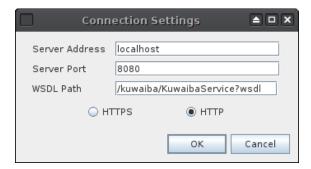


Figure 2: Connection Settings window

- Server Address Refers to the server IP address or canonical name.
- Server Port is the port Glassfish (the application server) is listening to.
- WSDL Path is the path within the application server the web service interface definition can be found. Usually this value should remain unchanged.
- Protocol is the transport protocol to be used. By default is HTTP, but is highly advisable to request your administrator to setup a secure connection, otherwise your credentials will be transmitted in plain text over the network.

Except for the password, the last successful settings will be saved upon clicking OK.

#### Important

If you are unsure if the server is reachable from your location, open a browser and type the address: http://[server\_address]:[server\_port]/[wsdl\_location]

You should see a large XML document.

### Troubleshooting

• For a Can't contact backend error, check the Administrator's Manual Troubleshooting section.

• If you get a **Connection refused** error, check the connection settings and verify that the server is reachable and there isn't a firewall blocking the traffic to it.

Once you are logged in, you will see only the dashboard page and a toolbar (figure 3).



Figure 3: Main toolbar

The toolbar contains the most frequently used tools. Here is an overview of what cab you do with them:

Search objects with the Query Manager Refresh the current view 0 Refresh local cache Default view for an object. Also, the rack view for rack objects Create automation tasks (beta version) (1) See the changes made to inventory and application objects • Manage users and groups Change the data model **@** Manage how objects can be created inside others 0 Create new list types **+** Freely design network topologies **O** Main tree used to explore physical assets Create and manage objects that don't fit in the navigation tree Manage client, services and resources associated to them

Table 1: Toolbar items

## Data Model Manager

One of the key features of Kuwaiba is that it is completely object-oriented<sup>3</sup>. It means that every business (Router, City, Port) and application (users, types) element is represented by an **Object** in the application and these objects are in turn product of an reality abstraction called **Class**. Likewise, every attribute is a **Field** in a class. The set of classes, attributes and relationships between them is called data model. There's a default data model, but you can customize it depending on your needs by adding, removing and modifying classes. To achieve this, use the Data Model Manager module (figure 4). The data model is represented as a tree because it's a hierarchical

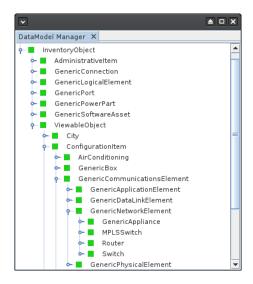


Figure 4: Part of the data model tree

structure. Technically, it's a class hierarchy<sup>4</sup>. The top of the hierarchy (**InventoryObject**) is the most general type of element in the data model and its subclasses represent all the possible elements that will be treated as inventory assets. As you dig deeper into the tree, the classes become more and more specialized and each level inherits the attributes of the parent classes. This kind of structure has two purposes: First, it helps you to organize your classes based on what characteristics they have in common. Secondly, as you will see later in this manual, you can apply operations over top level classes, and they will be propagated to all subclasses. Another root of the data model tree is **GenericObjectList**, and its subclasses are all possible list types (see more details on the subject in the chapter **List Type Manager**).

#### **Important**

The **Properties** window allows you to modify the attributes of a selected object in a tree, list or view. If not already open, it's available from the Windows  $\rightarrow$  Properties menu.

The properties of a class can be edited by using the **Properties** window, selecting the class from the tree (see figure 5). The property sheet is divided in two sections:

• General: Contains the intrinsic properties of the class: name (can contain only letters and numbers with no special characters or blank spaces). The display name of the class, that's how the will be displayed everywhere else (useful for internationalization purposes, for example) and can contain any kind of UTF-8 character. A description (useful to document the data model). If the class is abstract (abstract classes cannot be instantiated, they're only used to give consistency to the data model). The attribute countable is not used currently,

 $<sup>{}^3{\</sup>rm Object\text{-}oriented\ Programming\ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Object\text{-}oriented\_programming}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Class Hierarchy https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Class\_hierarchy

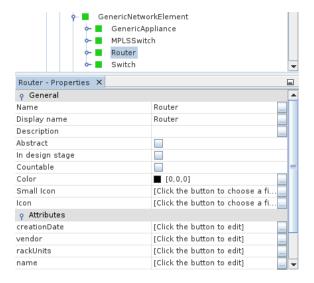


Figure 5: Properties of class Router

but it should be used to mark classes whose instances can have graphical representations, but they're not really part of the inventory, such as **Slots**. **In Design Stage** is just a way to mark a class as part of an ongoing data model intervention, and thus, classes with that attribute set to true can not be instantiated. **Color** is the color of the default square icon used to display the object in a tree or view. This icon will be used as long as the **Small Icon** attribute is null. **Small Icon** is the icon that will be used in trees and its size can't exceed 16x16 pixels. **Icon** is the icon used in views, and has a maximum size of 32x32 pixels.

### **Important**

- All user-created classes are set In Design Stage = **true** by default. You won't be able to create objects of these classes until you set it to **false**.
- As a convention, all abstract classes have the prefix Generic. Note that a few core classes (like InventoryObject or true) are abstract are the exception to this rule. You, however, should try to follow this convention as much as possible.
- The second section contains the class fields (attributes). In the figure 5, class Router has six attributes: name, state, conditions, vendor, serial Number and creation Date. Click the button next to the attribute name to customize it (see figure 6).

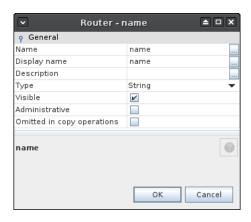


Figure 6: Properties of attribute name in class Router

In this window, you can modify the attribute's name, display name, description, type (the drop-down list will show you primitive types -String, Integer, Float, Long, etc- and all available non-abstract list types). When you change an attribute's type, all existing instances will be modified to reflect the change, which means that the values of the modified attribute will be converted to the new type if possible (say, from Integers to Strings). If the conversion is not possible, the new value will be set to null. You can also manage the attribute visibility. Attributes marked as "Administrative" will be shown in a separate tab in the object's property sheet. Sometimes, there are attributes that are used only for administrative purposes and might confuse the end user if mixed with the regular attributes. Finally, you can choose what attributes shouldn't be transferred from one object to another in a copy operation.

### **Important**

- You may lose information when changing an attribute's type. make sure the conversion to the new type is possible before you do it.
- Although there's a Cancel button at the bottom of the window, it does not really work. When you perform a change, it's saved immediately.

You can also create and delete classes and attributes by right-clicking a class node (see figure 7) New subclasses inherit the parent class attributes. Classes with instances or subclasses can not

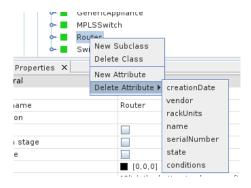


Figure 7: Class Router context menu

be deleted (this is a feature to avoid unintended loss of data). Also, attribute **name** can not be deleted.

**Important** It's highly recommended **NOT** to rename abstract core classes, as some of them are used internally to support many features and renaming them may turn the system unstable.

## Containment Manager

Another key concept in Kuwaiba is containment. It consists of the ability to define what kind of objects can be created within others. For example, a **Country** can be inside a **Continent**, but can't be inside a **Rack**. A **Port** is usually within a **Board**, and not inside a **City**. These business rules can be defined using the Containment Manager.

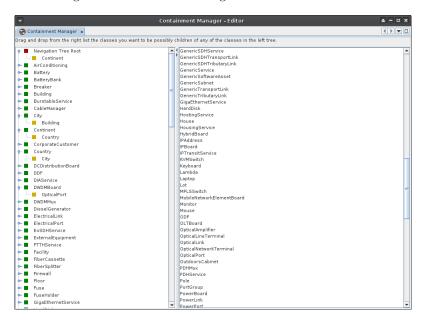


Figure 8: Containment Manager main window. Zoom in the image to see the details

The main window is divided in two panels (see figure 8, zoom in the image to see the details). The one on the left is a tree that holds all the classes plus the **Navigation Tree Root**. The children of the left-side tree node are the possible classes that can be contained. In the figure 8 there are five nodes expanded: **City**, that has one node inside: **Building**. That means that below a given city, you will only be able to add **Building** objects. Likewise, inside a **Continent** you can only create instances of **Country**, and inside those instances, only objects of class **City**. Under the root of the Navigation Tree, only instances of **Continent** are to be created. Finally, only **OpticalPorts** are supported under **DWDMBoards**. If for your operation Continents are not relevant, or if your routers do not have boards, but only ports, simplify the hierarchy as much as you want to meet your needs. To remove a possible children class, just right-click on it and select "Remove", and instances from that class will no longer be available to be added under the parent class, though the objects created already will remain linked to the respective parent objects.

### **Important**

- To avoid adding one by one many classes to a parent, you can use the flexibility of the data model as a hierarchical structure. For example, a **Rack** may contain within many types of equipment (routers, DDFs, switches, battery banks, etc). Instead of adding one by one each of these classes, you can add a common super class and all of them will be added automatically. For this example a common super class for most of those classes could be **GenericCommunicationsElement**.
- To search for a particular class, just select any node in the desired side of the panel and type the first letters of the class name. If there are many occurrences of the term, jump from one to another using the F3 key.
- The changes are applied immediately, however, if you happen to not see them reflected, press the Refresh Cache button in the main toolbar (see table 1).

## **Navigation Tree**

This module presents in a tree fashion the physical objects of your inventory organized according to the containment hierarchy defined with the tool described in the previous chapter (see **Containment Manager**). Just like the Data Model Manager, the Properties window will display

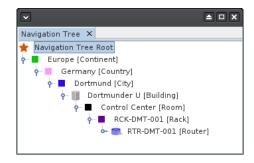


Figure 9: Navigation tree showing objects with default and user-defined icons

the attributes of the object selected in the Navigation Tree. These attributes match the visible attributes defined in the **Containment Manager**. Every change is automatically committed to

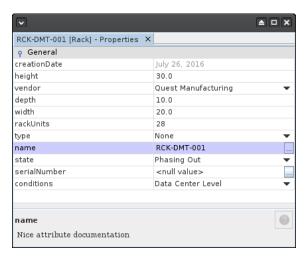


Figure 10: Properties of a selected Rack object

the database once you hit the Enter key. When editing dates, you need to select another attribute to commit the changes instead of pressing Enter. In the **Containment Manager** you can also configure what labels will be displayed instead of the actual names of the attributes and the help string in the lowest part of the window.

Every node has a set of actions, some will be active for all objects, some depend on the type of element that is selected. In the figure 11 you can see the actions enabled for a **Rack** object.

- New Object: The list of object types that can be contained for the selected element type according to the configured Containment Hierarchy. In this case, a Rack can only contain Routers.
- Copy: A plain copy operation.
- Paste: A plain paste operation. You can only paste objects where it is allowed according to the configured Containment Hierarchy.
- **Update:** Update the node information. Useful when a changed has made to the object from a external source (e.g. another user) or if you create a new list type affecting one of the

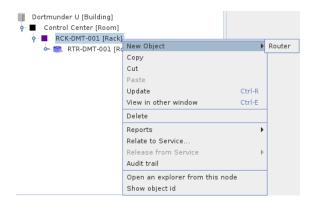


Figure 11: Properties of a selected Rack object

attributes of the selected element. In this case, if you, for example, create an instance of **EquipmentVendor** (this will add a new entry to the **vendor** attribute list)

- **Delete:** Deletes the object. Tis will fail if the object has an incoming relationship, for example, a **Port** connected to a cable.
- Reports: The reports associate with this class. In this case, Rack has a report called Rack Usage. If no reports are associated, the option will appear grayed out.
- Relate to service: All inventory objects can be associated to an existing service. See more details in the chapter Service Manager.
- Release from Service: Removes the association between an object(resource) and a service. If the object is not related to any service, this option will appear grayed out.
- Audit Trail: This will display all the audit trail entries for the selected object, that is, all the changes made to the it.
- Open an Explorer from this Node: Opens a navigation tree whose root node will be the selected object. Useful when you want to explore an object with a many containment levels below.
- Show Object Id: Shows the database id of the selected object. Useful for troubleshooting purposes. It will also show the object's complete containment structure.



Figure 12: Object id action on the selected Rack object

### **Important**

- Remember that you can always open the Properties window by selecting the main menu option Windows → Properties.
- You can change the name of an object in-line by pressing F2 on a selected node.

### Relationship and Special Children Explorer

Apart from the main navigation tree, there are also two explorers that are very useful to navigate through domain-specific models. Both explorers are located in the Tools  $\rightarrow$  Navigation menu.

• Relationship Explorer: Allows to see the special relationships of the selected object. When an object makes part of a domain-specific model (SDH, Physical Connections, MPLS, Software Licensing, etc) there are special bounds to other objects called relationships they have names documented on model-basis, and they can be seen using this explorer. In the figure 13, it is depicted an OpticalPort with two relationships, one called endpoint a used in the Physical Connections model and it indicates that this port is the endpoint to a physical connection, probably a fiber optic. It also has a relationship called uses, which makes part of the Service management model. It indicates that the service called PDH Service-01 uses that port as a resource.

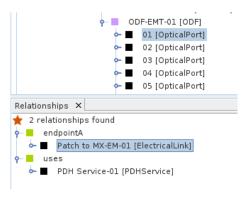


Figure 13: Special relationships of the selected OpticalPort object

• Special Children Explorer: The special children are children as in the containment hierarchy concept, but used in domain-specific models, which gives them particular behavior depending on the situation (that is, they can't be handled as simple objects in the navigation tree, because, for example, deleting them may require to perform other tasks but just removing the object from the database as they make part of a complex workflow). This is the case of the cables inside a conduit connecting two buildings. You can find more details about this scenario in the chapter Physical Connections.

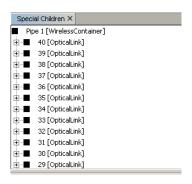


Figure 14: Fibers inside a container between two buildings

# List Type Manager

### Default and Rack Views

### **Default View**

A view is a graphical representation of an object. There are many types of views, because an object has different perspectives, for example, a service object may have a view showing all the resources associated to it, a second view showing how all those resources are connected and a third showing statistics about such service. All instances (objects) of subclasses of **ViewableObject** have a default view that displays the direct children of the selected node. Most objects, except logical and administrative assets and a few physical ones such as slots and ports are subclasses of **ViewableObject**. To access a default view, just open the Default View window (see Toolbar items) and select a node in the navigation tree.

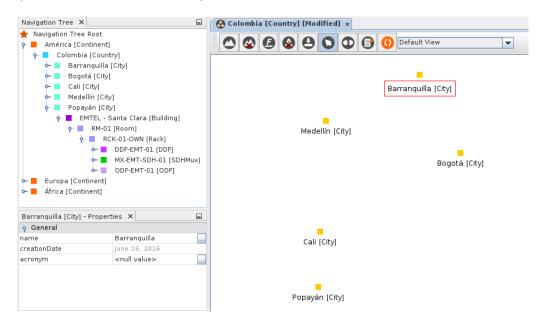


Figure 15: Default view of the selected Country object

In the default view, you can move and connect the nodes, add a background and export the view. It is particularly useful at Room and City levels, because it will allow you to see how the children elements are located geographically (e.g. buildings) or in an enclosed space (racks in a data center as seen in figure 16).

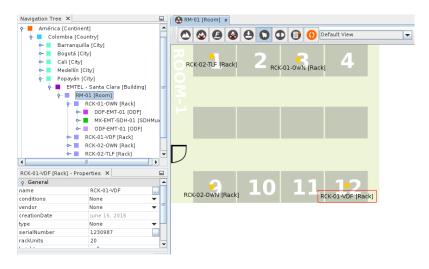
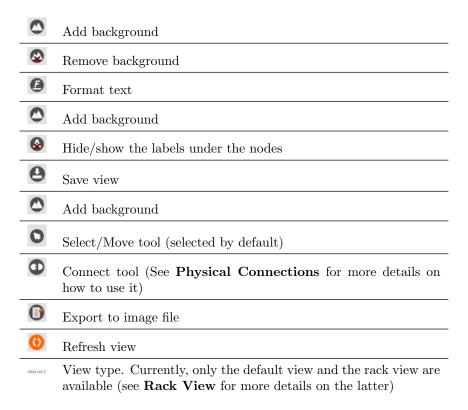


Figure 16: Default view of the selected **Room** object

The figure 17 shows all general purpose tools available in this window.



Figure 17: Default view toolbar



#### Rack View

This view works only with objects of class **Rack** or its subclasses. It shows how the elements contained within the selected object are organized, based on their positions and number of rack units used.



Figure 18: How to find the rack view in the toolbar

For this view to be correctly built, two conditions must be met:

• The rack must have its **rackUnits** attribute set to a valid integer value. This attribute stores the total number rack units supported by the rack. Typical values are 20, 28, 34, 40 or 45.

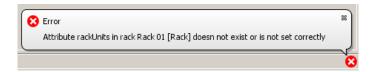


Figure 19: Error displayed when the rack does not have a valid value of rack units

• The attributes **rackUnits** and **position** must exist and set to valid values in the elements contained inside the rack. **rackUnits** in this case, makes reference to the number of rack units occupied by the contained element, while **position** is the start position of the contained element, 1-based, numbered from top to bottom. Your equipment vendor usually provides this value.

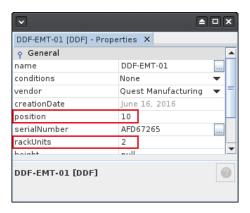


Figure 20: Attributes correctly set in a DDF contained inside a rack

### **Important**

- The attribute names (rackUnits, position) are case sensitive and must be integers.
- Some elements you want to create inside a rack **might not** have those attributes by default, so you will need to create them using the Data Model Manager.

If all values are correct, the view should look like this:

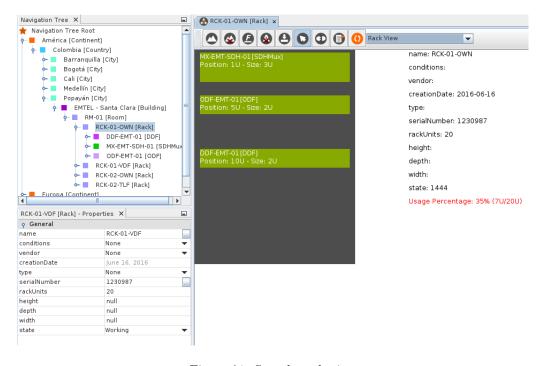


Figure 21: Sample rack view

## **Physical Connections**

The Physical Connections toolkit is tightly integrated to the default view module. With Kuwaiba you can create physical layer connections using cables, fiber optics or radio links very easily, navigate through the connections and inspect the resources in use.

Before presenting the tools provided by the application, let's first clarify and introduce some concepts. This module deals solely with L1 topologies. It's only about cables, ports, etc. The data model provides four types of entities to represent physical layer elements:

- Connections: These are all point-to-point physical links. In the current data model, there are three types of connections: **ElectricalLink** (for electrical connections like coaxial, twisted pairs and the like), **OpticalLink** (for fiber optics) and **RadioLink** (for radio links -Microwave links, mostly-).
- Containers: All objects that can be used to contain, wrap and protect connections (understanding *Connection* as defined above). There are two types of containers: WireContainer (used to contain all kind of cables -wires and fibers-, like pipes, conduits, ditches, etc) and WirelessContainer (used to contain radio channels or carriers).
- Nodes: These objects are endpoints to *Containers*. In the default data model you will find classes like: Tower, Warehouse, Facility, Shelter, Building, Floor and Room, but in general, any subclass of GenericPhysicalNode can be a so called *Node*. Endpoints: These objects are endpoints to *Connections*. In practice, they're always some kind of Port (in the data model context, this means all subclasses of GenericPort).

In summary, you can only connect *Nodes* using *Containers* and *Endpoints* using *Connections*. To create new connections, select in the **Navigation Tree** an element and try to connected the desired children using the Default View. For example, if you want to connect two buildings, select the city which is the parent for both. Likewise, if you want to connect a router to an ODF, you probably will have to select the room or the rack they are located. In short, select the nearest common parent between the two elements you want to connect.

#### Important

You can also create power connections with this approach.

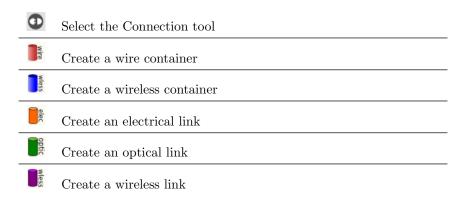


Table 2: Connection tools

Let's put together all this concepts with some examples.

#### Example 1

In this example, we will create a direct connection between two routers in the same room, but in different racks using a CAT-5 patch as shown in the figure 22.

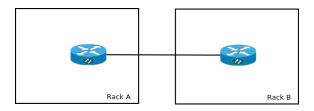


Figure 22: Connection diagram for example 1

Let's consider the layout in figure 23

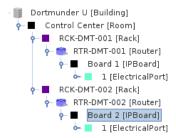


Figure 23: Containment layout for example 1

1. Select the nearest common parent in the navigation tree (in this case the **Room** called Control Center), and using the select tool, change the default position of the nodes

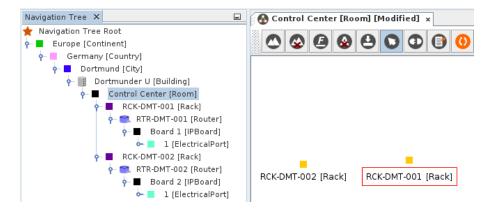


Figure 24: Racks in the room

2. Using the **List Type Manager**, create a list type called *CAT-5* under **ElectricalLinkType**. Following a similar procedure, you can create the different types of electrical connections depending on your network (POTS, coaxial, etc). We will use this later.

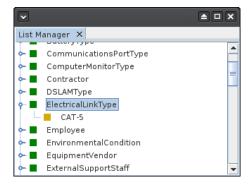


Figure 25: Creating the link type

3. Activating the connection tool, click on one node and hold, dragging the mouse until you reach the second node. Make sure you also select the type of connection you want to create, in this case, an **ElectricalLink** (a patch cable).

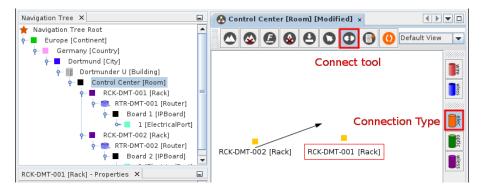


Figure 26: Creating the connection

4. This will open a wizard where you should select the endpoints of the connection (the end ports)

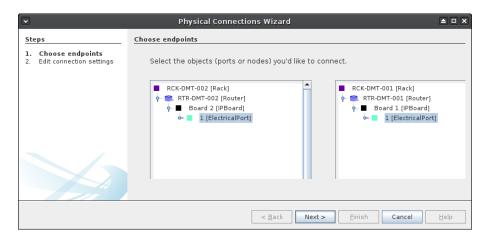


Figure 27: Connection wizard, step 1

5. In the next step of the wizard, you have to fill in the basic information about the connection: its name and type. Use the type we just created in step 2.



Figure 28: Connection wizard, step 2

And that's it. Double-clicking the connection will add a control point to it. You can add as many as you want, and control its route. The Properties window will get updated accordingly if you select the link or a node.

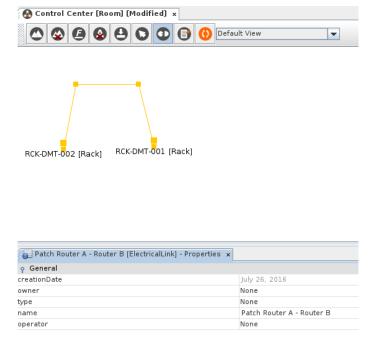


Figure 29: Final result

### **Important**

Don't forget to save the view using the icon 
in the toolbar, so your positioning changes are stored.

### Example 2

The second example is more complex. We will connect two buildings with a conduit that contains fibers. In each building there's a router and an ODF, one of the fiber pairs connecting the buildings, will be linking the two ODFs, and then, from the ODF, we'll patch our way the routers.

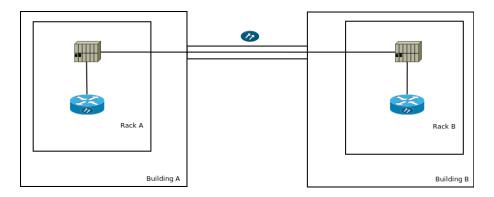


Figure 30: Connection diagram for example 2

We will use a similar containment layout for this example, just adding a couple ODFs.

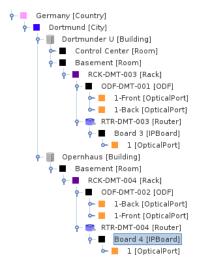


Figure 31: Containment layout for example 2

1. First, we must make the initial arrangements. In this case, we will use a Google maps image as background for the city (the nearest common parent) and locate the buildings. We also select the connection tool and the type of connection, which will be a **WireContainer** this time.

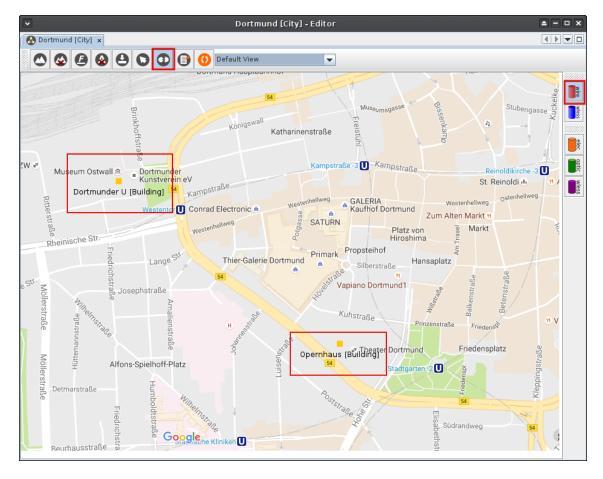


Figure 32: Buildings in the city

2. Since this time we are creating a **WireContainer**, the list type for it must be created under **WireContainerType**. Using the List Type Manager, add this entry:



Figure 33: reating a connection type

3. Just like we did in the past example, let's start the connection wizard, but this time the endpoints will be the buildings instead of the ports (remember that we are creating a container here).

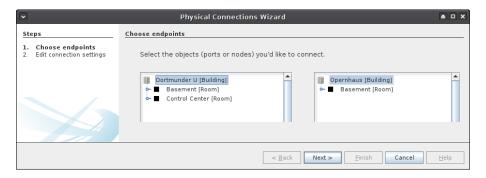


Figure 34: Connection wizard, step 1

4. In the second step, we fill in the basic fields, but in addition to what we had seen already, it's also necessary to provide information about what's gonna be contained inside the **Wire-Container** and how many of those elements are to be created. Since this example is about connecting fibers, we select **OpticalLink** in the field *Children type* and 20 in *Num of children* just for the sake of the example.



Figure 35: Connection wizard, step 2

5. Using the Select tool, modify the route of the connection. Now the container has been created successfully.

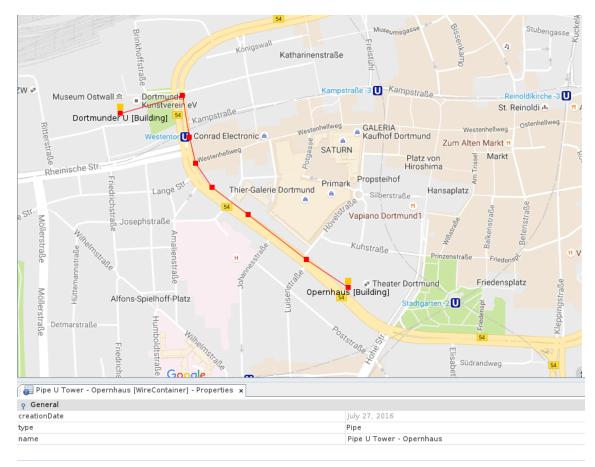


Figure 36: Final result

6. Once the container has been created, we can now connect a pair of fibers to each side's ODF back port (note the naming used for the ODF ports in the figure 31). To start a wizard to perform this operation, right-click the container and select the option *Connect links...* 



Figure 37: Container's contextual menu

7. This open a window divided in three panels. The side panels let you choose what ports do you want to connect to the fibers in the container. In this example, we will connect the first pair to the ports labeled as *Back* in the ODFs. You can select multiple ports and fibers and connect them at the same time (use the SHIFT key for multiple selection). Note that it's not necessary to connect both sides. Push the *Connect* button on the lower part of the central panel to finish the procedure.

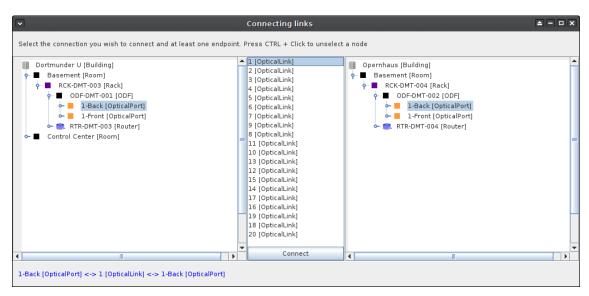


Figure 38: Connecting links

#### **Important**

• In optical connections, Rx and Tx ports are treated as a single port and a pair of fibers, are actually represented as a single **OpticalLink**.

It's possible to explore the contents of a container and see to what fiber the ports are connected to using the explorers in the menu  $Tools \rightarrow Navigation$ . In the figure 39 you will see the Special Children explorer when the container is selected in the view. In the figure 40, the relationship explorer shows the connections of one of the ports in the ODF when selected in the Navigation Tree.

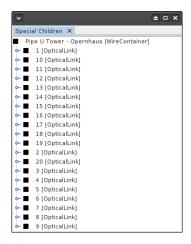


Figure 39: Exploring the container's contents

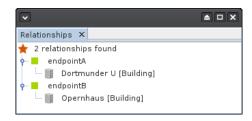


Figure 40: Exploring the container's relationships

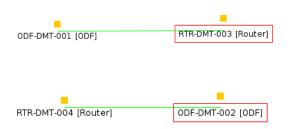


Figure 41: Optical patches between routers and ODFs

8. Now we will create an optical patch on each building between the routers and the 1-Front ports of their respective ODFs in a similar way we did in the **Example 1**.



9. There's still one last step: The ports 1-Front and 1-Back in each ODF are not yet bridged. To do this, we just have to right-click any of the two ports on each ODF and select the option Connect Mirror Port.... A mirror port is basically a direct connection between two ports. A cable is a separate object in Kuwaiba, a mirror connection is not even an object, is just a relationship between a port an another with the same parent (that is, a sibling). You can see it as a backplane connection.

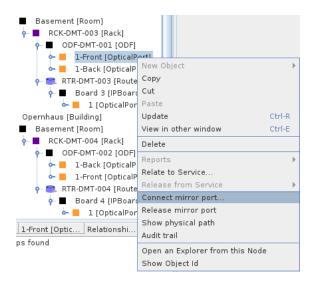


Figure 42: Mirror connection menu

This will open a window where you can select what port do you want to be mirror of the selected one. Since 1-Front ports only have one sibling (1-Back), that's the only option available.



Figure 43: Mirror connection details

Once the port is mirrored, you can see a new relationship in the relationship explorer when selecting any of the ODF ports in the **Navigation Tree**.

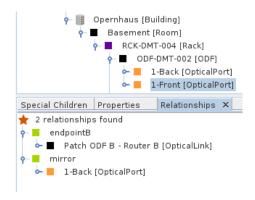


Figure 44: Mirror connection relationship

To release a mirror port, select the option from the context port's context menu.



Figure 45: Release mirror connection menu option

A nice feature in Kuwaiba is the ability to see the path of a physical connection as long as there's continuity. In our example, there is continuity between the port in the router A (RTR-DMT-003) and the port in the Router B (RTR-DMT-004), that is, there are no active elements in between. To see the trace, right-click on any of the ports involved in the connection and select the option Show physical path. The figure 47 show the physical path between Router A's port and Router B's

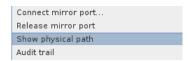


Figure 46: Physical path menu option

port. The port in red is where the trace begins.

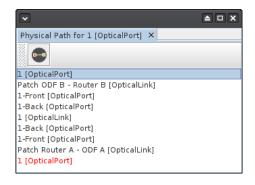


Figure 47: Physical path details

And pressing the button out will get a graphical representation, easier to understand.

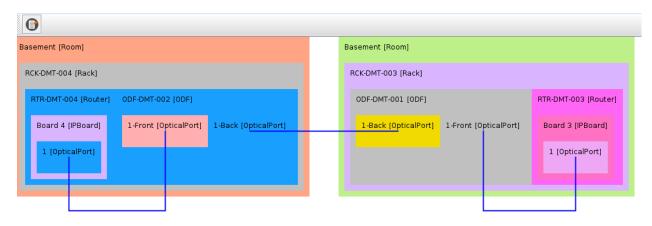


Figure 48: Physical path graphical representation

# SDH Networks Module

# Audit Trail

# Service Manager

# Contract Manager

# Task Manager Manager