

# **crystal-facet-uml documentation**

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**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> crystal-facet-uml documentation		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY	Andreas Warnke	2023-03-29	

**REVISION HISTORY**

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

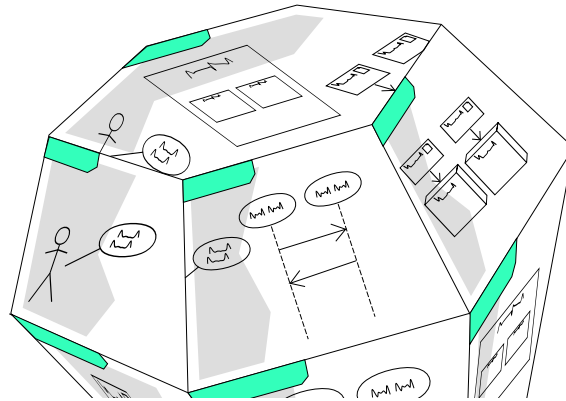
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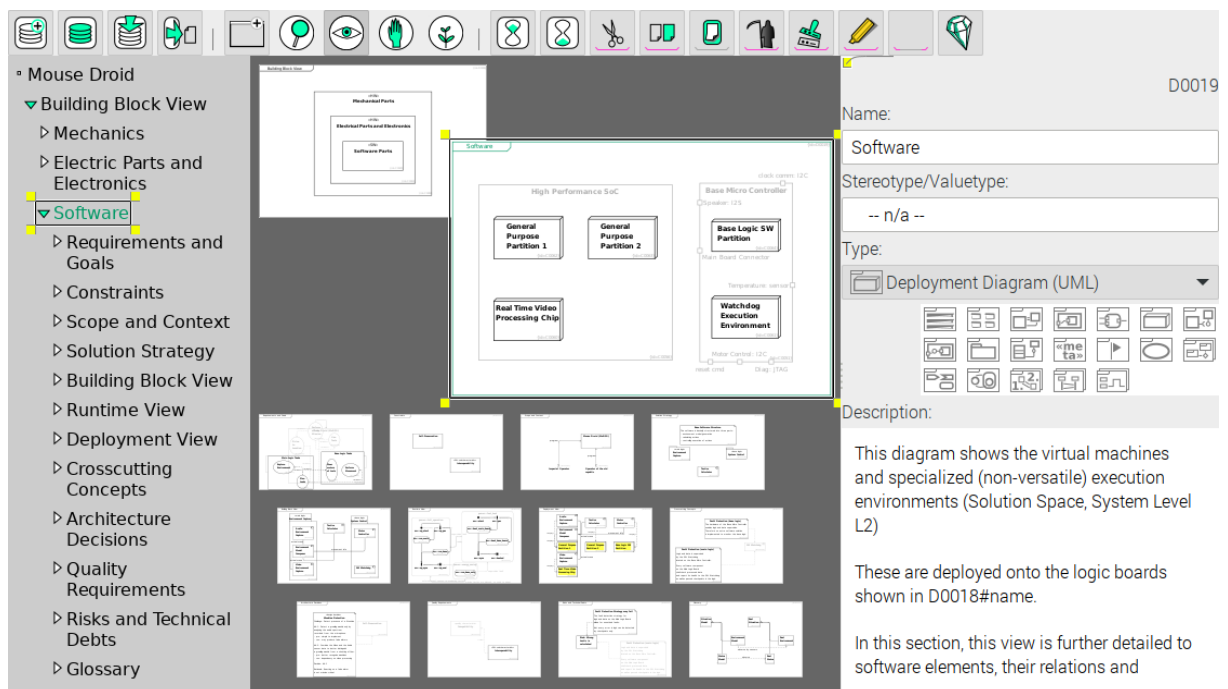


# 1 Introduction



crystal-facet-uml creates diagrams to document system and software architecture.

Like a crystal shows different facets of the same thing, this application shows different views of the same system.



## 1.1 Goal



As software architect, you create a set of diagrams describing use-cases, requirements, structural views, behavioral and deployment views.

crystal-facet-uml keeps element names and element hierarchies consistent. The tool exports diagrams in svg, pdf, ps and png formats to be used in text processing systems like DocBook, html, LaTeX. crystal-facet-uml exports the model to json and xmi format; json can also be imported. The json-based data file can be stored to git, branched and merged together with your source code. This tool runs on your local PC and is based on gtk (incl. glib, gdk, cairo, pango) and sqlite.

## 1.2 Features



crystal-facet-uml provides a graphical user interface to

- create, modify and delete diagrams,
- create, modify and delete UML/SysML elements,
- create, modify and delete relationships,
- cut, copy, paste elements between diagrams,
- undo and redo are supported,
- multiple windows can show different or same parts of the uml model,
- search for elements.

Diagrams are layouted part-automatically:

- The user chooses the relative location of elements towards others,
- crystal-facet-uml selects the exact locations of shown elements.
- The user controls the positions of messages/transitions in sequence and timing diagrams,
- crystal-facet-uml auto-layouts relationships in other diagrams.

crystal-facet-uml manages a meta model:

- Diagrams are organized as a tree, similar to a book's table-of-contents;
- Uml(TM)/SysML(TM) elements exist only once even if shown in many diagrams;
- Relationships and features are consistent between all diagrams;
- Diagram-local messages/transitions are supported in scenario-based interaction diagrams: sequence, communication, timing, interaction overview.

Diagrams can be exported as

- images: pdf, ps, svg, png,
- text: utf-8, DocBook, xhtml,
- machine-readable model: json, xmi(TM).

crystal-facet-uml can also be started from command line

- to export all diagrams automatically or
- to import a previously exported json file or
- to check and repair database files.

## 1.3 Usage Overview



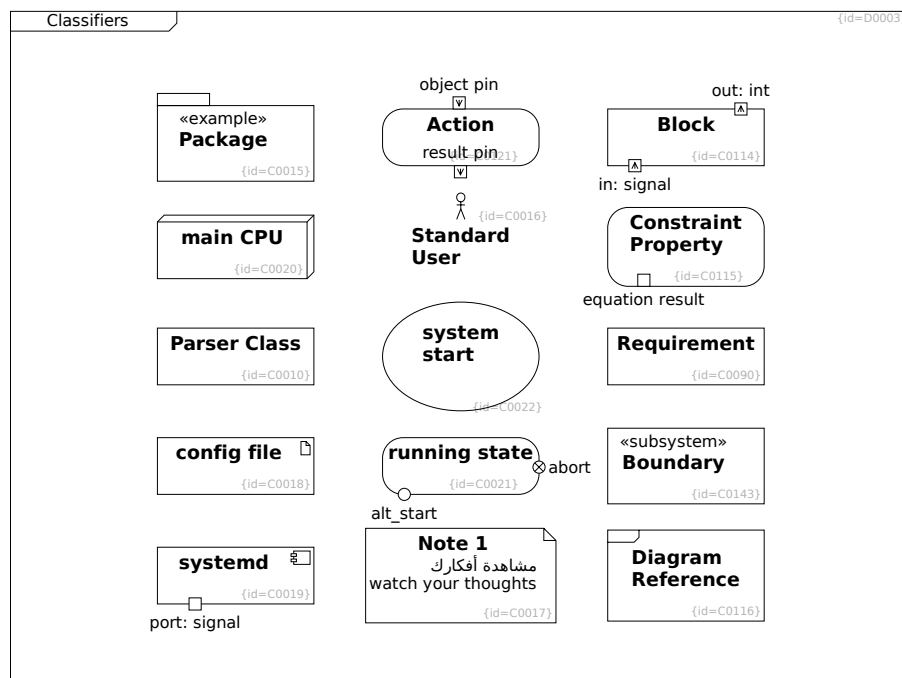
crystal-facet-uml can be started in graphical mode (see Section 3) or from command line (see Section 6).

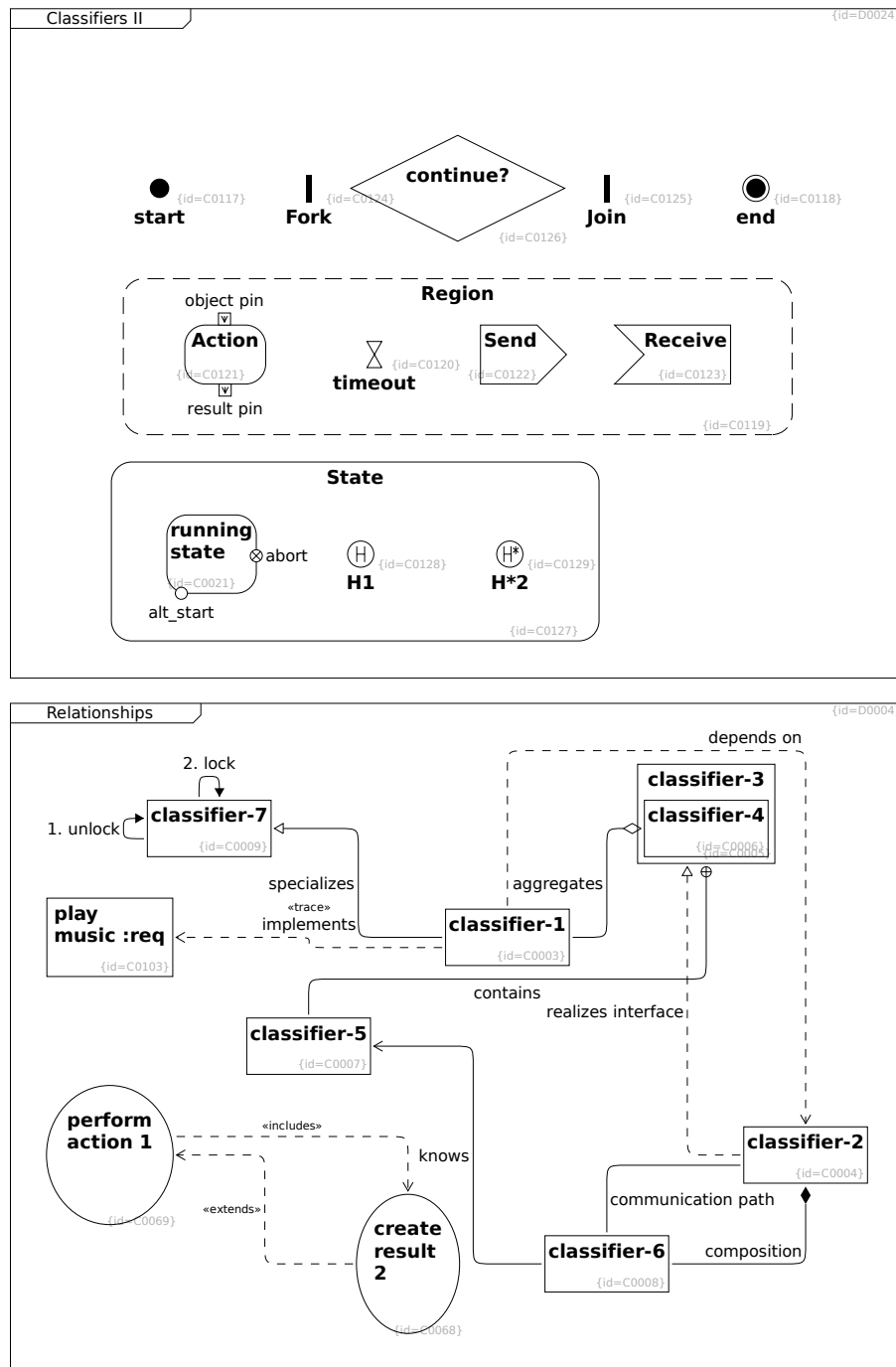
## 2 Example Diagrams

This sections presents the features of crystal-facet-uml.

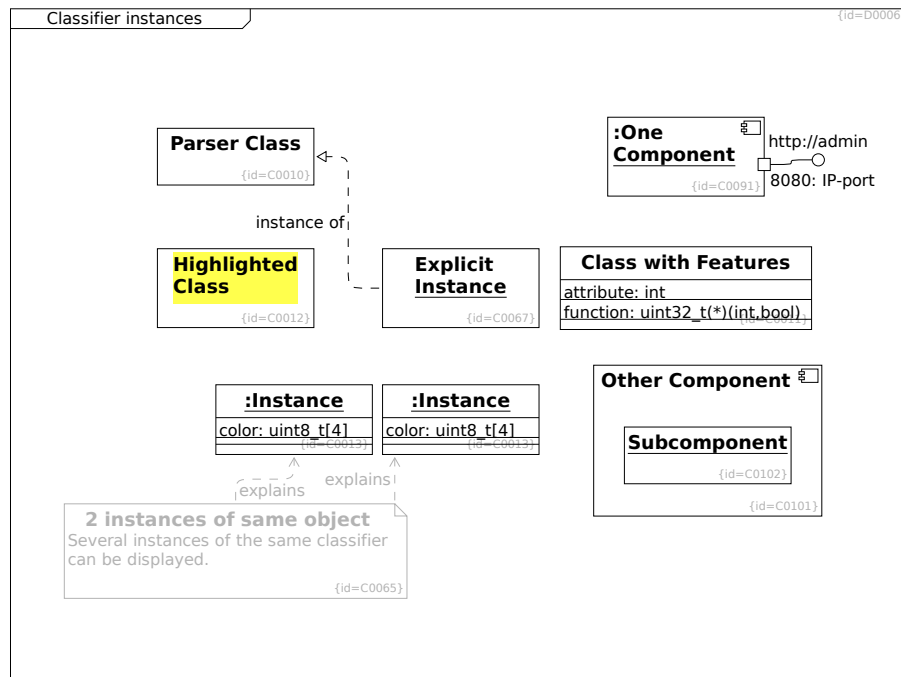
### 2.1 Feature List

This section lists what kind of elements crystal-facet-uml can draw in diagrams.



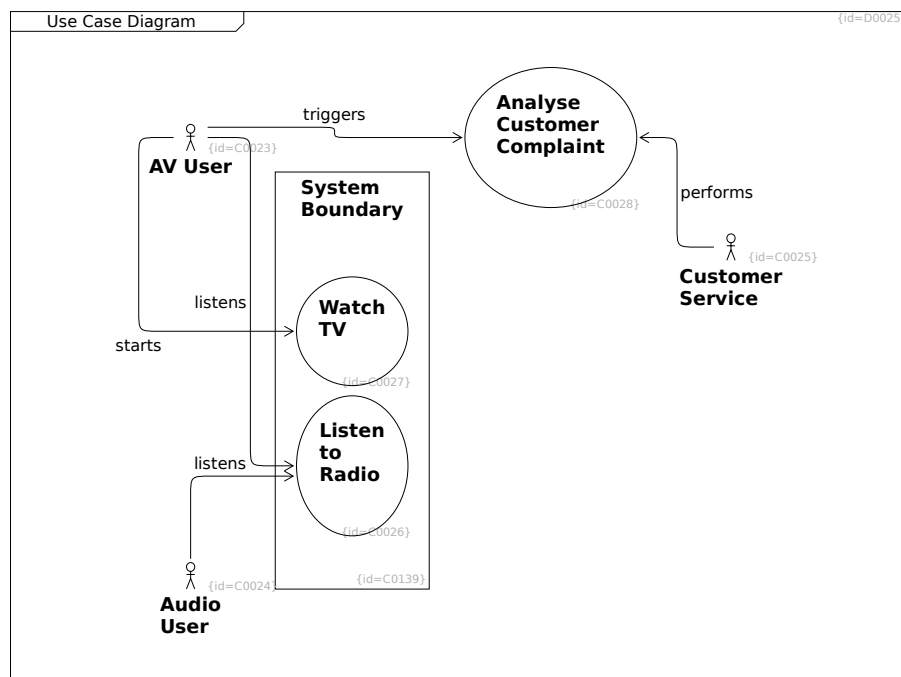


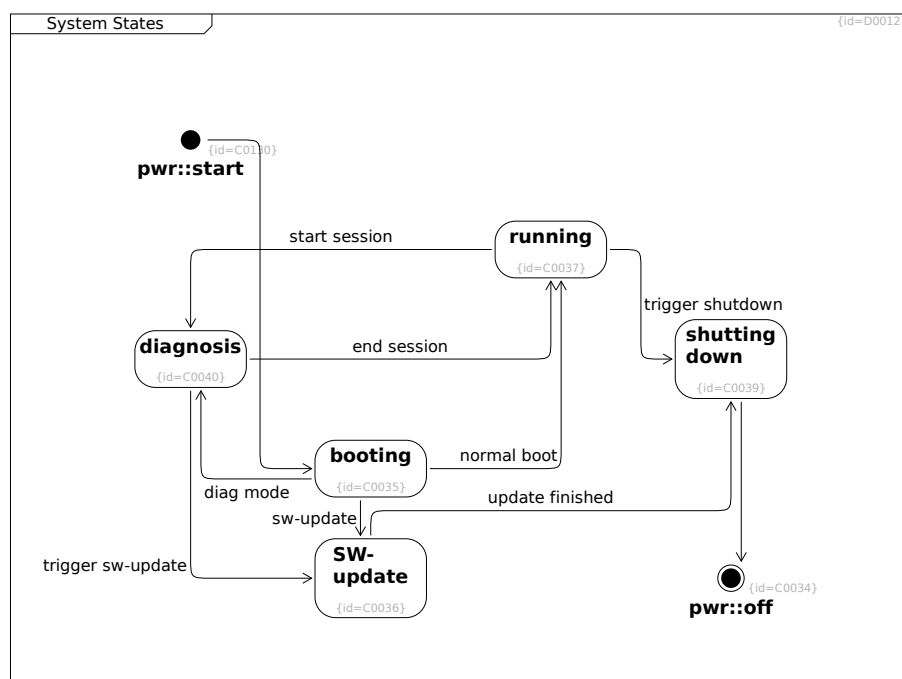
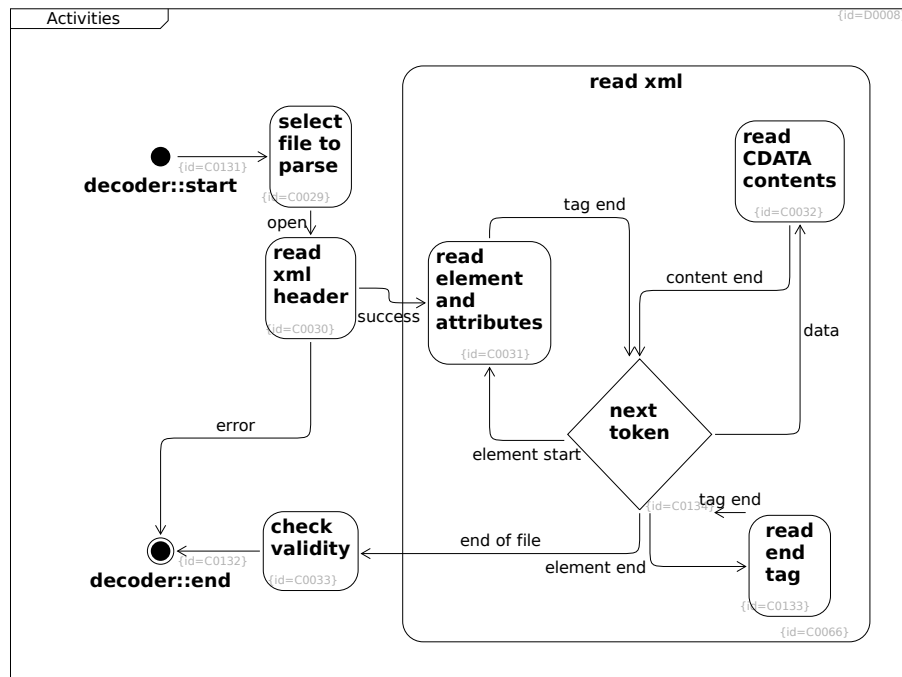


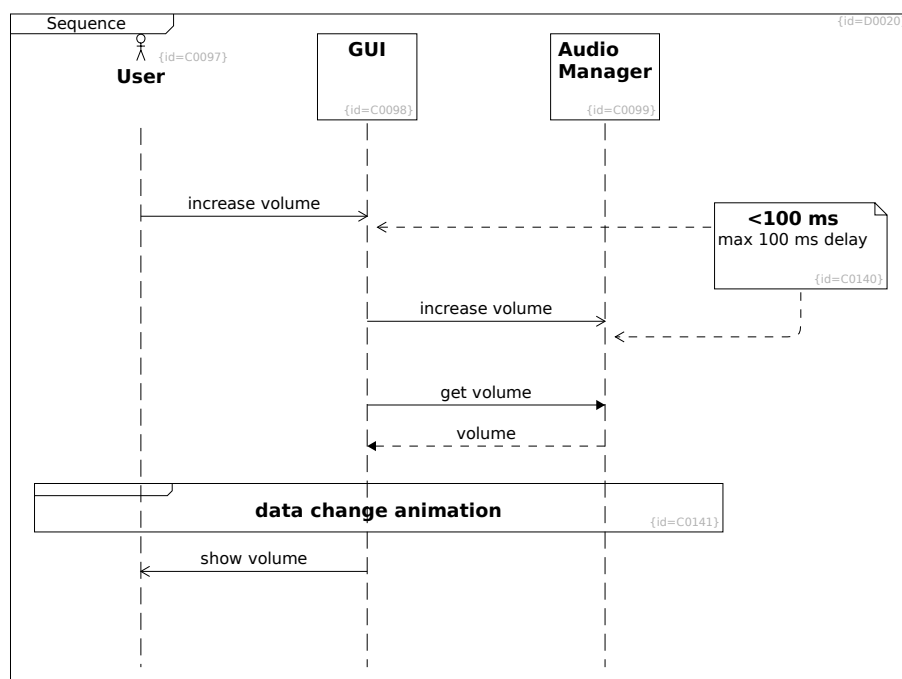
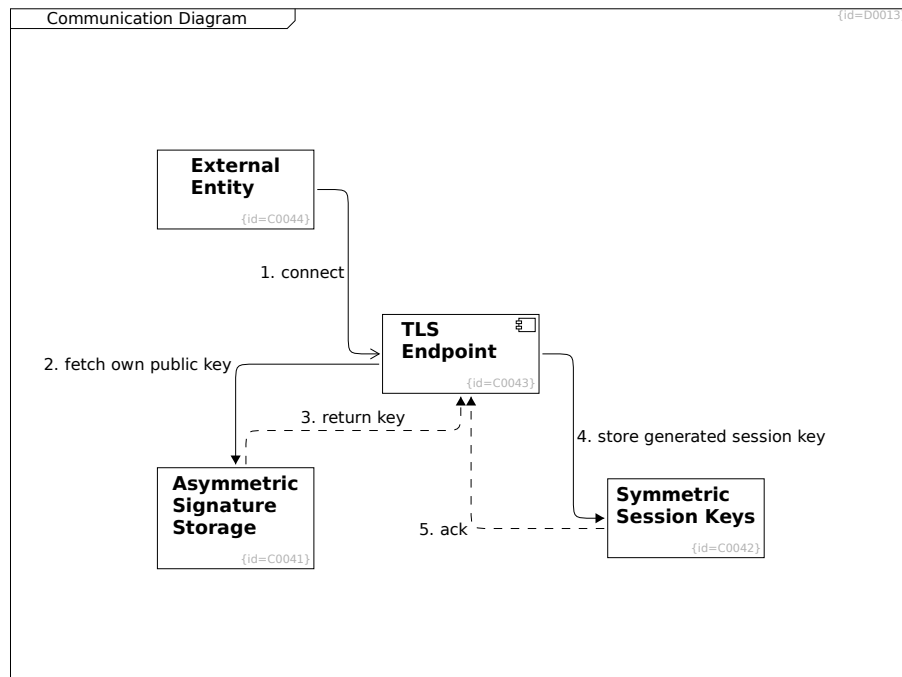


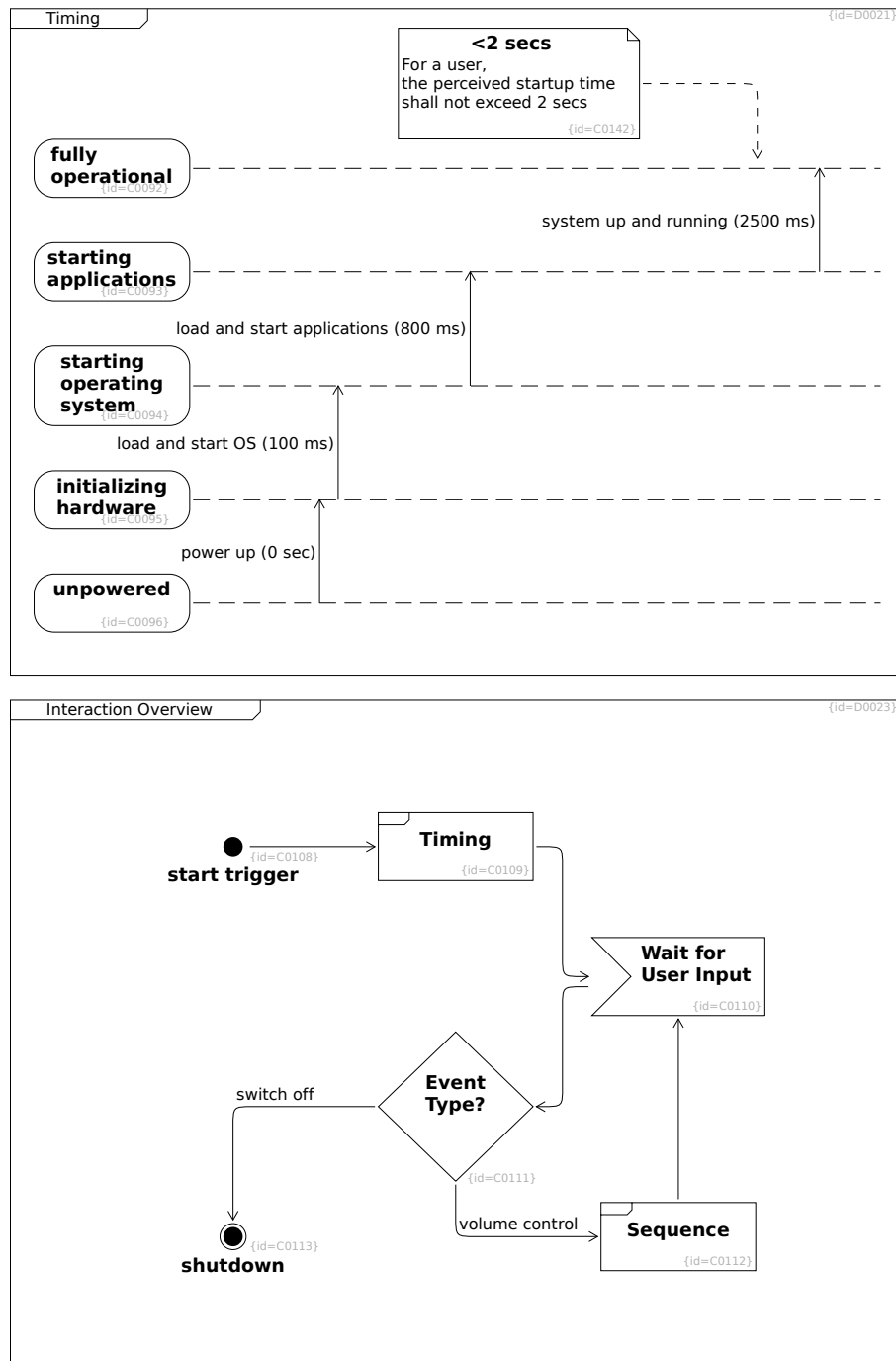
## 2.2 Example UML Behavioral Views

This section lists what kind of elements crystal-facet-uml can draw in diagrams.



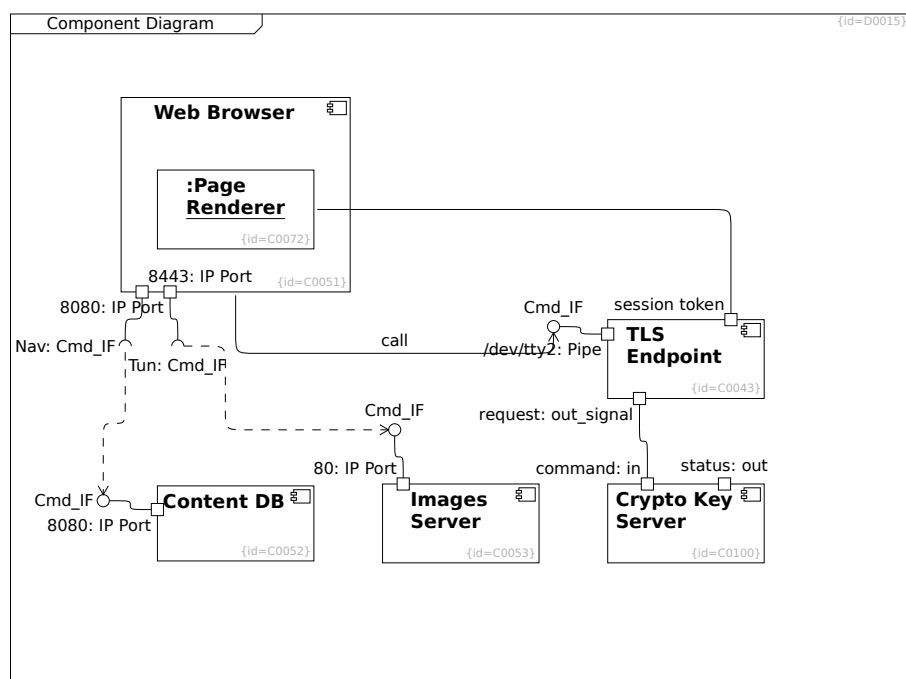
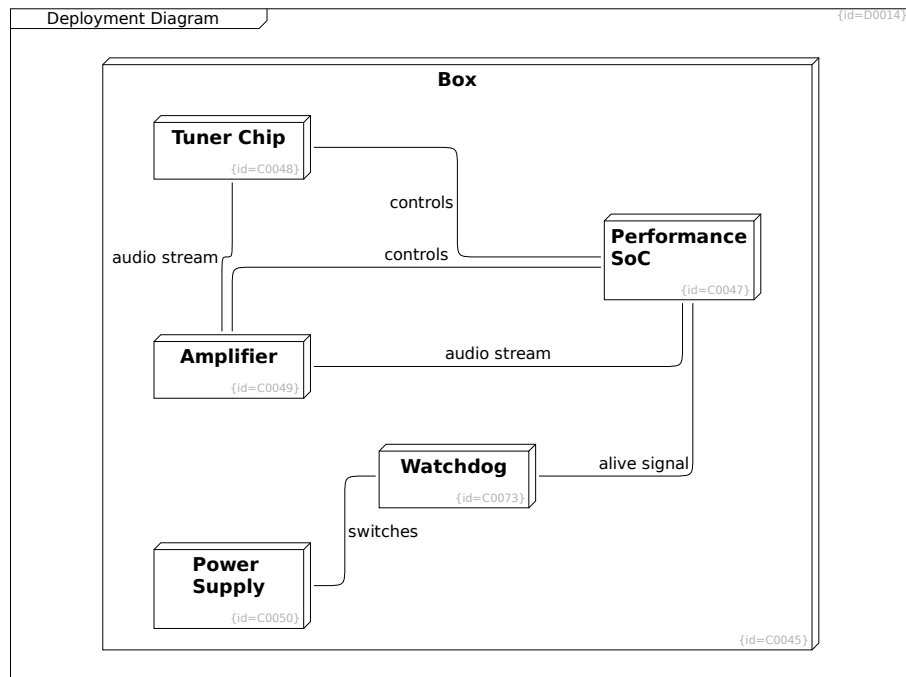


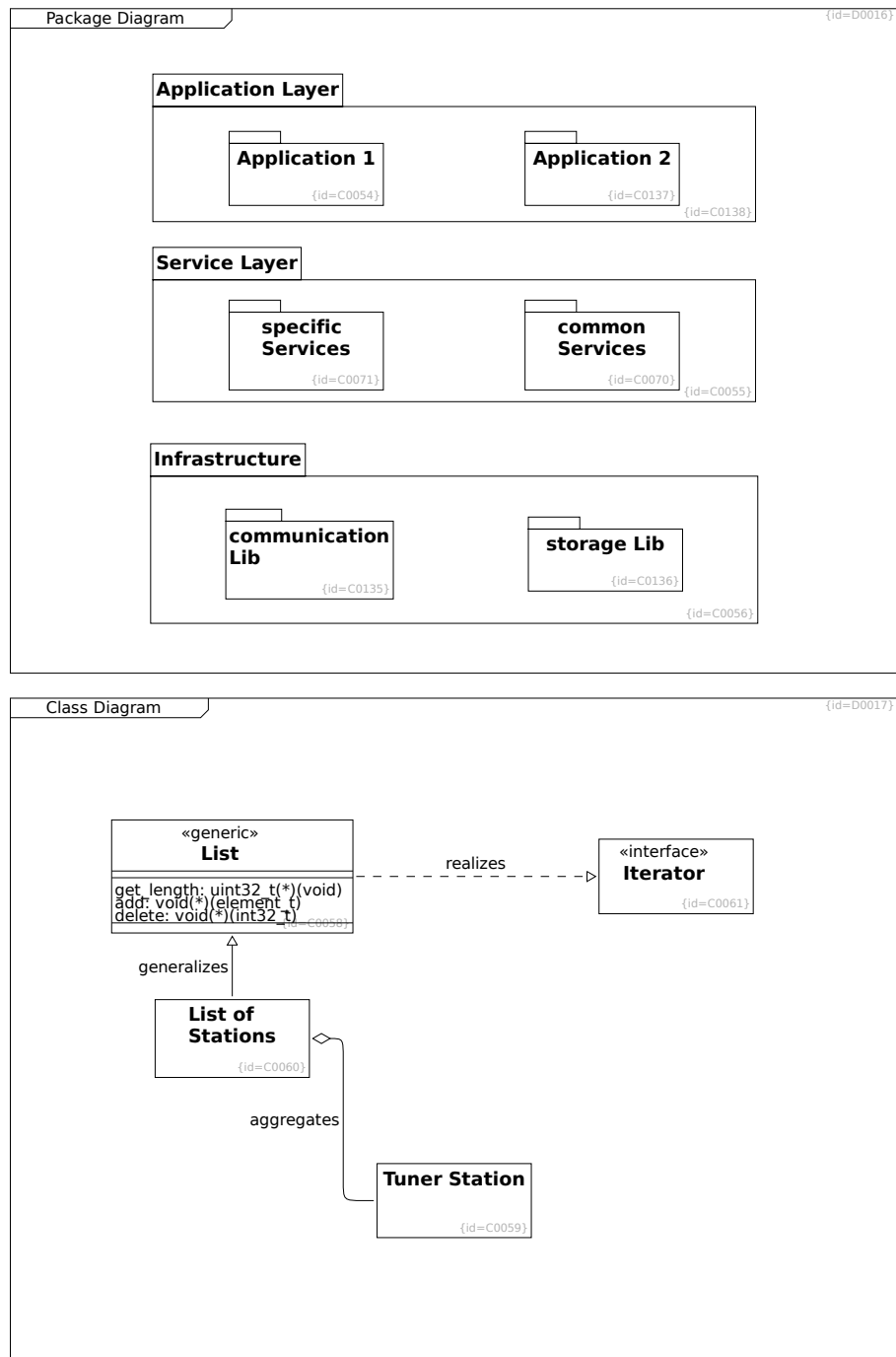


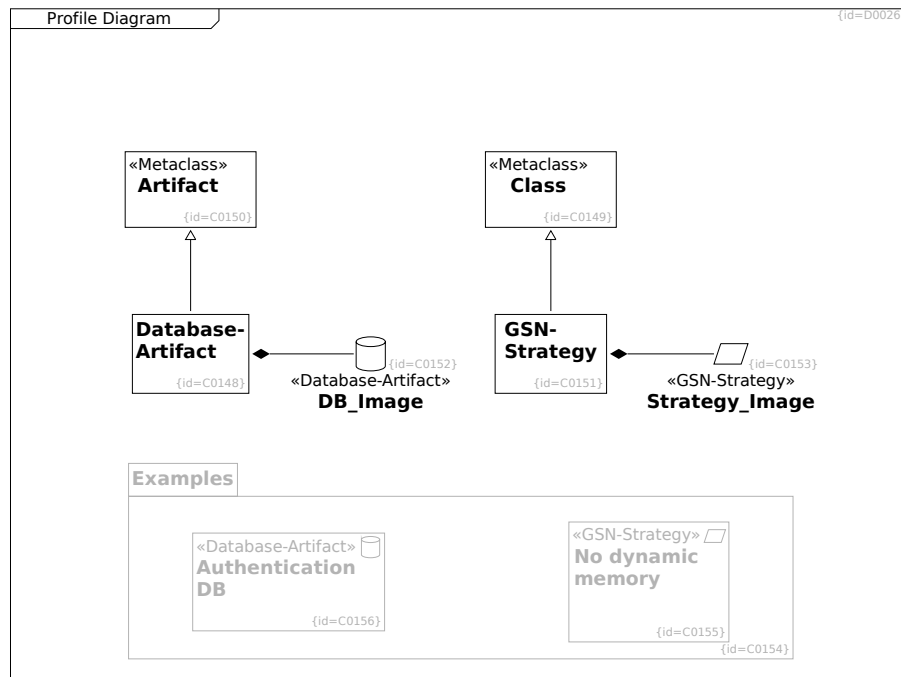


## 2.3 Example UML Static Views

This section lists what kind of elements crystal-facet-uml can draw in diagrams.

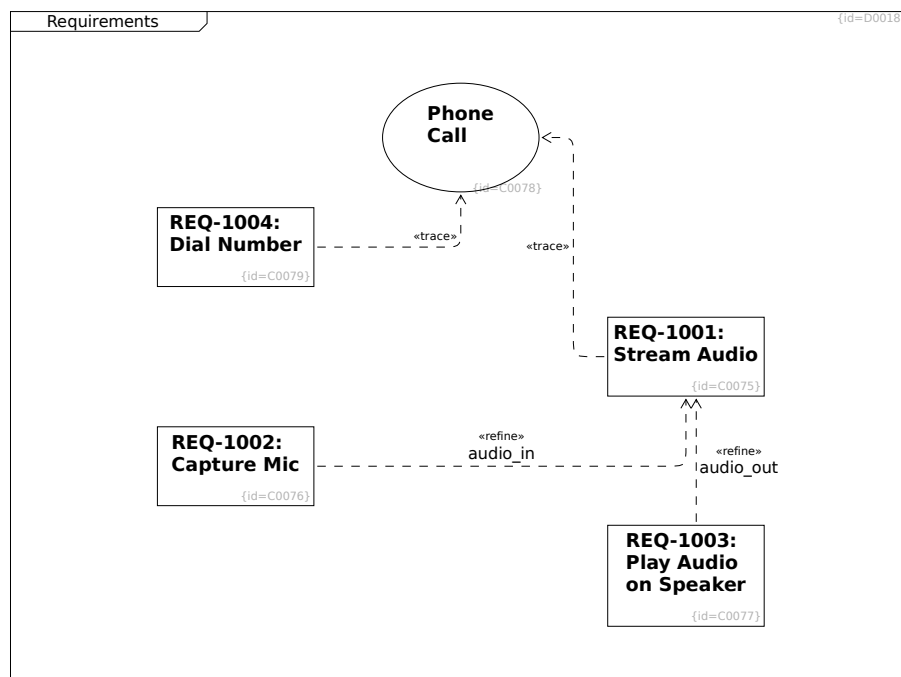


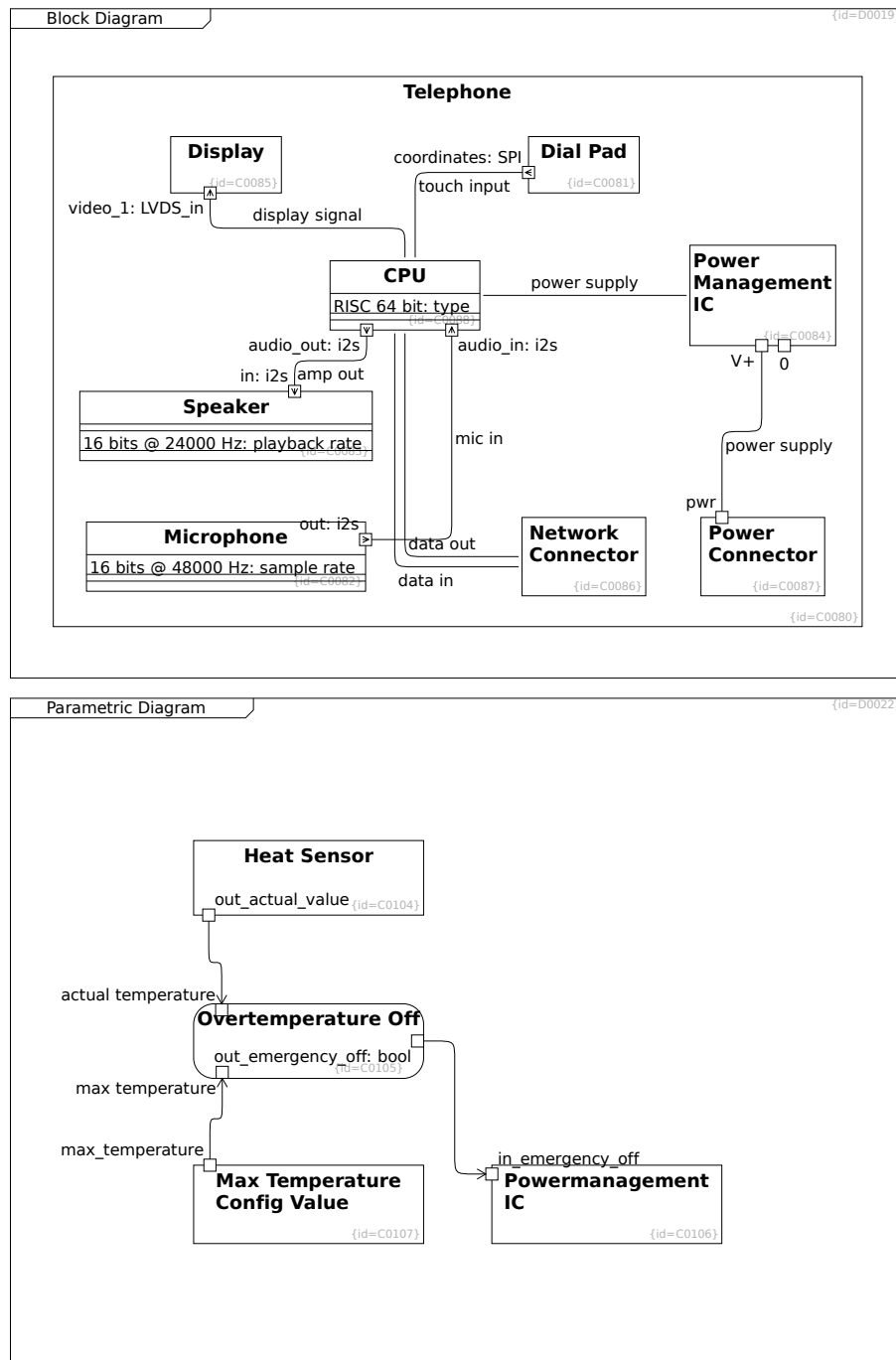




## 2.4 Example SysML Views

This section lists what kind of elements crystal-facet-uml can draw in diagrams.





## 2.5 More Examples

There are further examples available as html/pdf:

- [mouse\\_droid.xhtml](#) / [mouse\\_droid.pdf](#)
- [self\\_architecture.xhtml](#) / [self\\_architecture.pdf](#)
- [quality.xhtml](#) / [quality.pdf](#)

And in crystal-facet-uml json format:

- [https://github.com/awarnke/crystal-facet-uml/tree/master/example\\_diagrams](https://github.com/awarnke/crystal-facet-uml/tree/master/example_diagrams)
- <https://github.com/awarnke/crystal-facet-uml/tree/master/documentation/architecture>

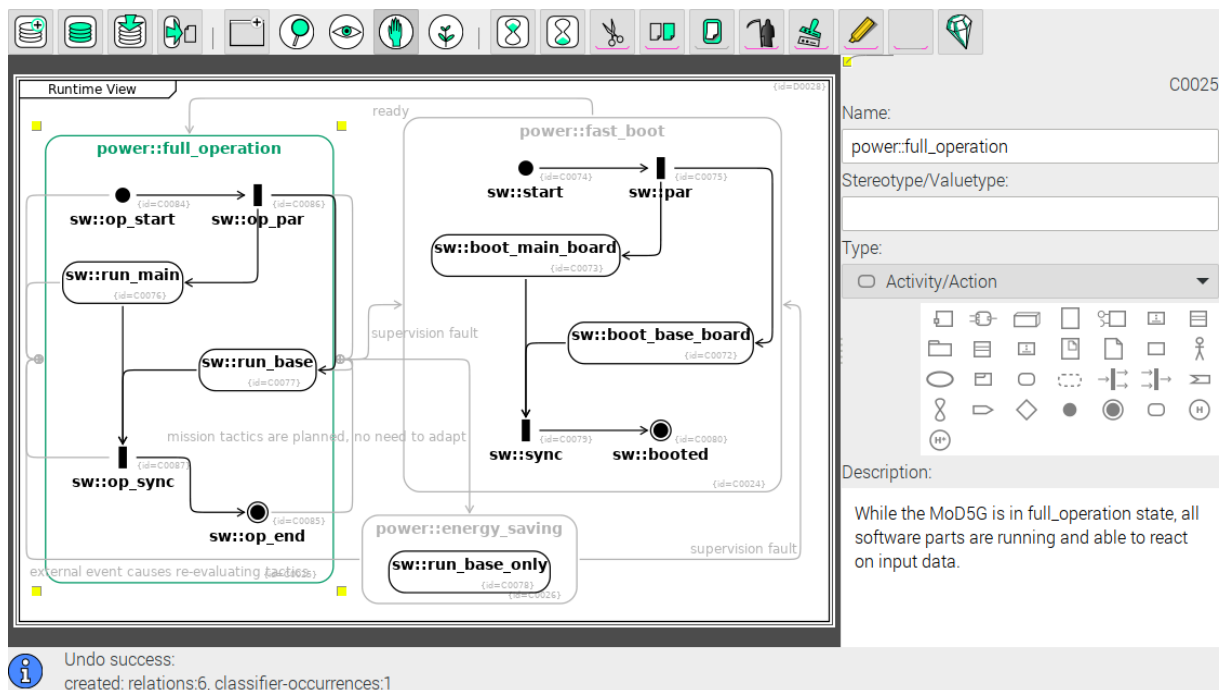


## 3 Graphical User Interface

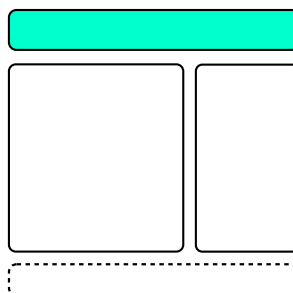
### 3.1 Window Area Overview

If started in graphical mode, crystal-facet-uml shows a window with

- toolbar on top,
- drawing area in the center,
- element configuration widgets to the right and
- an optional notification bar at the bottom.



### 3.2 Tool Bar



#### 3.2.1 New DB



- Creates a new database file.

- If the file name ends with extension **.cfu1**, the binary sqlite3-based database format is stored. This is compatible to older versions of crystal-facet-uml (<1.35.0). Otherwise a json-based format is used to store your data in a git-friendly format.

### 3.2.2 Open DB



- Opens an existing database file.
- To open json-based formats (e.g. **.cfuJ**), write access to the parent folder is required.
- If you find a **.tmp-cfu** file, this indicates that the last session was possibly terminated abnormally. You may open this file to continue from the latest state or the **.cfuJ** to continue from the last save action. Do not open **\*-journal** files.

### 3.2.3 Save



- Stores the latest changes to the database immediately.

### 3.2.4 Export



- Exports all diagrams to the selected folder. To select the export folder, navigate to the parent folder and select the target folder. Supported formats are docbook, json, pdf, png, ps, svg, txt, xhtml, xmi.

### 3.2.5 New Window



- Opens another window on the same database.

This new window allows you to work reliably with multiple windows on the same database.

### 3.2.6 Search



- Find diagrams that contain the searched elements (see Section [3.3.1](#))

### 3.2.7 Navigate



- Navigate to parent or child diagrams
- Create a new diagram (see Section 3.3.2)

### 3.2.8 Edit



- Modify elements in the diagram (see Section 3.3.3)

### 3.2.9 Create



- Create elements in the diagram (see Section 3.3.4)

### 3.2.10 Undo



- Un-does the last operation (Opening a database and exporting files cannot be undone)

### 3.2.11 Redo



- Re-does the last un-done operation

### 3.2.12 Cut



- Cut all selected (pink-cornered) elements to the clipboard (features of classifiers are copied if the classifier is selected)

### 3.2.13 Copy



- Copy all selected (pink-cornered) elements to the clipboard (features of classifiers are copied if the classifier is selected)

### 3.2.14 Paste



- If the clipboard contains a diagram, this diagram is pasted below the current diagram. All other elements are pasted into the new diagram.
- If the clipboard does not contain diagrams, classifiers and relationships from the clipboard are copied into the current diagram.
- If a classifier is identical to an existing one (same uuid), an instance of the existing classifier is pasted to the diagram. Otherwise a new classifier is created.

### 3.2.15 Delete



- Deletes all selected (pink-cornered) elements.
- This operation may fail on a diagram if the selected diagram contains non-selected elements or child diagrams.

### 3.2.16 Instantiate



- Toggles the selected (pink-cornered) classifiers between classes, named instances and anonymous instances.
- No effect on relationships and features.

### 3.2.17 Highlight



- Toggles the selected (pink-cornered) classifiers between yellow-marked, greyed-out and normal. (Does not work for relationships and features)

### 3.2.18 Reset Selection

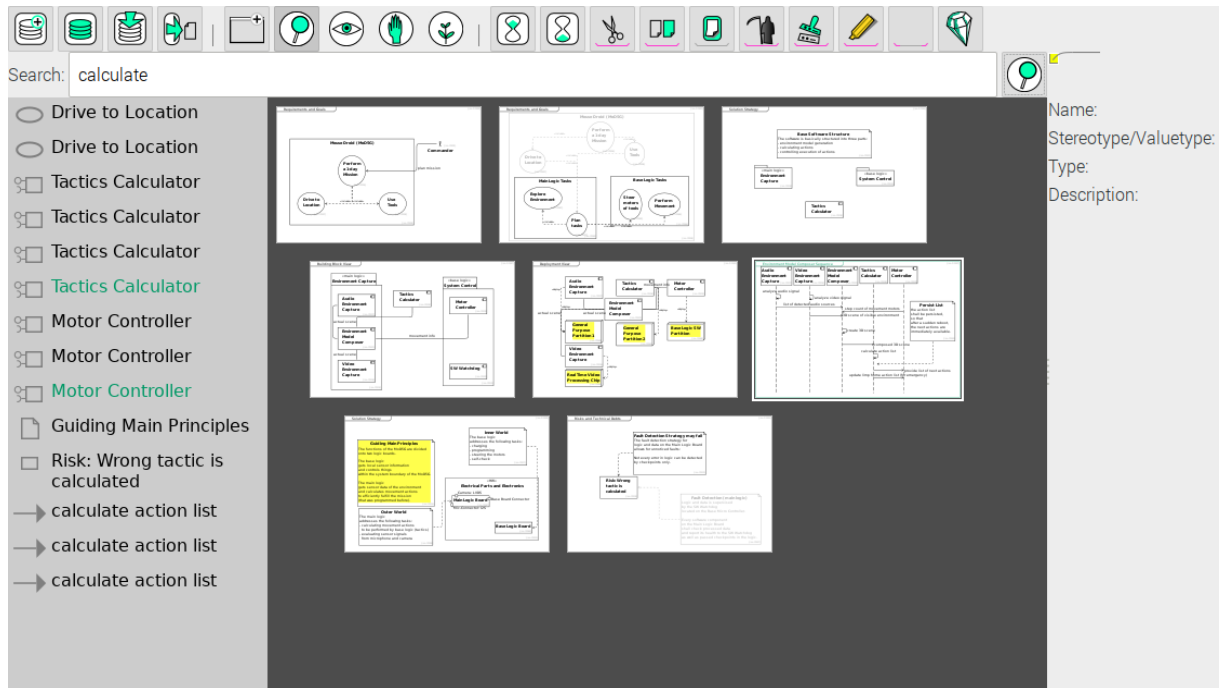


- Resets the (pink-cornered) selection

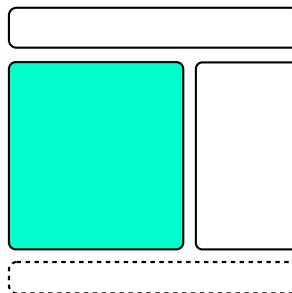
### 3.2.19 About



- Shows version, license and copyrights



## 3.3 Drawing Area



Diagrams are layouted automatically. You can influence the locations of classifiers only. When adding too many classifiers or relations, auto layouting may not achieve the expected results. In many cases, splitting the diagram into two or more diagrams solves the layouting issues and at the same time improves understandability by focusing on one aspect/topic per diagram.

### 3.3.1 Search





- Enter the ID of an element (e.g. C0001) or a part of its name or description to find diagrams containing this element.
- Enter nothing to find diagrams containing elements without description.



- Starts a search and displays the results

### 3.3.2 Navigate



- To navigate to parent, sibling or children diagrams, click on the diagram.
- To create a new diagram, click on the  icon, or the smaller  icon for a new child-diagram.
- To restructure the diagram tree, drag a diagram name to the new location.

### 3.3.3 Edit



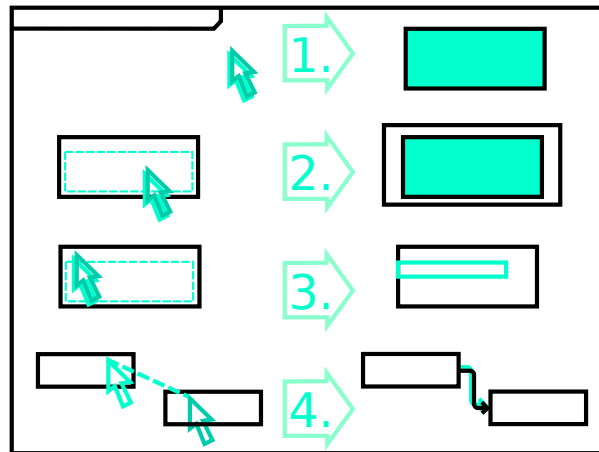
- Click on the diagram or a classifier or a feature or a relationship to edit the name, type and description of that object.  
The yellow corners indicate which object is currently focused.
- Click on an element to select or unselect an object (pink corners).  
The toolbar buttons apply to this pink-cornered set.
- To move classifiers within the diagram, 1.) press, 2.) drag and 3.) release the mouse button.  
Note: When moving a classifier, this is moved in all diagrams where it appears. Order and locations of things stay consistent between different views.

It is not possible to change source and destination classifiers of relationships. Instead, delete the old and create a new relationship.

### 3.3.4 Create

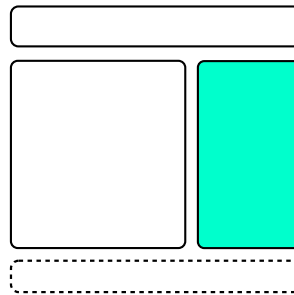


1. To create a classifier, click at an empty space in the diagram.
2. To create a child classifier, click into the white space of a classifier. (Alternatively, create a classifier (see 1) and a containment relationship (see 4).)
3. To create a feature, click onto a classifier (name or border).
4. To create a relationship, press on the source classifier and drag it to the destination classifier.



To modify existing elements, switch back to edit mode: Section [3.3.3](#).

### 3.4 Element Configuration Area



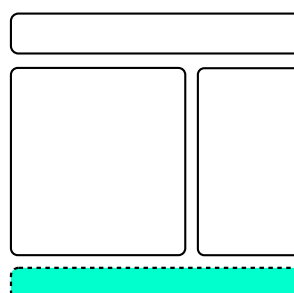
Edit the properties of the focused (yellow-cornered) object.

- name of the focused object
- stereotype/valuetype of the focused object.  
Stereotype names shall consist of characters that are valid XML tokens (Nmtoken).  
Multiple stereotypes shall be separated by comma.  
Rendering images of stereotypes only works for single stereotypes.

- type of the focused object
- description of the focused object.

For xhtml and DocBook export, use a double linebreak to create a new paragraph, start lines with \*, + or - to format a list, use D0001#id and D0001#name to create a link to the diagram D0001 (showing either the id or the name).

### 3.5 Notification Bar



### 3.5.1 Information



- Informs on success of an operation, e.g. an export

### 3.5.2 Warning



- Informs on a possible problem, e.g. a read-only database file

### 3.5.3 Error



- Informs on an error, e.g. invalid data pasted from clipboard

## 4 Diagrams and Elements Spec



This program creates diagrams that strive for compatibility to

- UML 2.5
- SysML 1.5
- MOF 1.4.1

In some cases, it deviates from these standards for several reasons:

- Reduce complexity to be able to handle such models in a small open source project
- Reduce feature-set to improve understandability of diagrams even to non-software-architects
- Reduce feature-set to enhance usability of the program













This section gives an overview on standards and implementation-status of crystal-facet-uml. It may be incomplete.











### 4.1 Classifiers







Classifiers are the nodes in the model-graph.








The table shows the classifier types introduced by different specifications, if they filter/hide their features and a comment stating how this is implemented in crystal-facet-uml.



	Spec	Diagram Context and Filter	Comment
 Block	SysML	* / -	Limitations: Compartment Order is "properties, operations" instead of "constraints, operations, receptions, parts, (bound) references, values, properties, stereotype-tagged-values, behavior, namespace, structure" Limitations: No labeled compartments Limitations: no Multiplicities of Block-Instances.
 Constraint Block	SysML	Parametric / -	Limitations: Only the rounded-rect symbol is supported.
 Node	UML	Deployment / -	
 Subsystem/Boundary	UML	Use Case / unconditional features	A subsystem is a component with stereotype subsystem
 Component	UML	* / -	
 Part	UML	* / -	
 Interface	UML	* / -	
 Package	UML, SysML	* / -	
 Class	UML	* / -	Limitations: No active classes
 Object	UML	* / -	
 Artifact	UML	* / -	
 Comment	UML, SysML	* / unconditional features	

	Spec	Diagram Context and Filter	Comment
 Stereotype	UML, SysML	* / unconditional features	<p>Exists since version 1.47.0; cannot be used in version 1.46.0 and older.</p> <p>The description field is reserved for icon and template data and shall therefore not be used for descriptions. Use an additional comment instead.</p> <p>An image can be specified since version 1.48.0 by stating lines and curves according to the SVG-path spec version 2.0. Arcs are not supported. Examples are:  <code>&lt;path d="M 2,2 10,2 8,8, 0,8 Z"/&gt;</code>  <code>&lt;path d="m 0,1 c 0,-0.55 1.35,-1 3,-1 c 1.65,0 3,0.45 3,1 c 0,0.55, -1.35,1 -3,1 c -1.65,0 -3,-0.45, -3,-1 l 0,5 c 0,0.55 1.35,1 3,1 c 1.65,0 3,-0.45 3,-1 l 0,-5"/&gt;</code> </p>
 Requirement	SysML	* / -	
 Actor	UML, SysML	Use Case, Sequence / unconditional features	
 Use Case	UML, SysML	Use Case / -	Limitations: No SysML extension points
 Interaction Diagram Reference (Interaction Use)	UML	Interaction Overview / unconditional features	<p>Hint: To easily find the referenced diagram, name the reference identical to the diagram.</p> <p>XMI-Export: For xmi export, this object may only occur in scenario/interaction diagrams.</p>
 Activity/Action	UML 2.5 (ch15.2)	Activity / -	
 Interruptable Region	UML	Activity / unconditional features	XMI-Export: For xmi export, all regions belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.
 Fork	UML, SysML	Activity / unconditional features	XMI-Export: For xmi export, all activity-nodes belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.
 Join	UML, SysML	Activity / unconditional features	XMI-Export: For xmi export, all activity-nodes belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.
 Accept Event	UML, SysML	Activity / unconditional features	XMI-Export: For xmi export, all activity-nodes belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.

	Spec	Diagram Context and Filter	Comment
 Accept Time Event	UML, SysML	Activity / unconditional features	XMI-Export: For xmi export, all activity-nodes belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.
 Send Signal	UML, SysML	Activity / unconditional features	XMI-Export: For xmi export, all activity-nodes belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.
 Decision/Choice	UML 2.5 (ch14.2.4,15.3), SysML	Activity, State / unconditional features	In activity diagrams, this is called decision, in statemachines it is called choice. XMI-Export/State-context: For xmi export, all states belonging to the same statemachine need an outer, enclosing state. XMI-Export/Activity-context: For xmi export, all activity-nodes belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.
 Initial Node	UML 2.5 (ch14.2.4), SysML	Activity, State / unconditional features	Limitations: There is no distinction in ActivityInitial and FlowInitial. Limitations: There is no separate entryPoint state-type. XMI-Export/State-context: For xmi export, all states belonging to the same statemachine need an outer, enclosing state. XMI-Export/Activity-context: For xmi export, all activity-nodes belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.
 Final Node	UML 2.5 (ch14.2.4), SysML	Activity, State / unconditional features	Limitations: There is no distinction in ActivityFinal and FlowFinal. Limitations: There is no separate exitPoint and terminate state-type. XMI-Export/State-context: For xmi export, all states belonging to the same statemachine need an outer, enclosing state. XMI-Export/Activity-context: For xmi export, all activity-nodes belonging to the same set of activities need an outer, enclosing activity.
 State	UML 2.5 (ch14.2), SysML	State, Timing / -	Limitations: No symbol for hidden decompositions, no regions (swimlanes) in composite states. Limitations: entry/exit/do list. Limitations: entryPoint and exitPoint states cannot be drawn on parent state border line. XMI-Export: For xmi export, all states belonging to the same statemachine need an outer, enclosing state.

	Spec	Diagram Context and Filter	Comment
 Shallow History	UML 2.5 (ch14.2.4), SysML	State / unconditional features	XMI-Export: For xmi export, all states belonging to the same statemachine need an outer, enclosing state.
 Deep History	UML 2.5 (ch14.2.4), SysML	State / unconditional features	XMI-Export: For xmi export, all states belonging to the same statemachine need an outer, enclosing state.
 Value Type	SysML	- / -	not supported. Limitations: Compartment Order of Classifiers is "properties, operations" instead of "operations, properties, stereotype-tagged-values"
 Enumeration	UML, SysML	- / -	not supported. Note: Use a class instead.
 ActivityParameterNode	SysML	- / -	not supported.
 MergeNode/Junction	UML 2.5 (ch15.3), SysML	Activity, State / unconditional features	In activity diagrams, it is called merge, in state diagrams junction node. This is not supported. Note: You may directly connect the arrows to the target activity/state.
 ActivityPartition	UML, SysML	Activity / unconditional features	not supported. Note: Use a parent activity instead.

## LEGEND


**Filter** Defines which elements related to a classifier are not visible











An InstanceSpecification (UML) denotes an instantiation of a classifier. crystal-facet-uml allows any classifier to appear in different diagrams as classifier, as anonymous InstanceSpecification or as named InstanceSpecification. (Rationale: If a classifier is an instance may depend on the context: An M1-class may be an instance if shown in an M2-meta-class diagram, an XML-parser-class may be an instance if shown in the context of stream processors.)

## 4.2 Features

Features are elements attached to one classifier.

The table shows the feature types introduced by different specifications, if they are visible in any diagram or just once, and a comment stating how this is implemented in crystal-facet-uml.

	Spec	Scope	Comment
 Property	UML, SysML	unconditional	Limitations: no SysML Flow-Properties refinement.

	Spec	Scope	Comment
Operation 	UML, SysML	unconditional	
Provided Interface 	UML, SysML	unconditional	
Required Interface 	UML, SysML	unconditional	
Port 	UML, SysML	unconditional	Limitations: no SysML-compartment Notation supported. Limitations: no SysML-nested-ports, SysML-proxy-port, SysML full-ports supported. Limitations: no flow property, no compartment notation, no port-compartments. Limitations: no UML behavior ports.
Input Port/Pin 	UML, SysML	unconditional	Exists since version 1.27.0; cannot be used in version 1.26.1 and older.
Output Port/Pin 	UML, SysML	unconditional	Exists since version 1.27.0; cannot be used in version 1.26.1 and older.
State Entry 	UML, SysML	unconditional	Exists since version 1.27.0; cannot be used in version 1.26.1 and older.
State Exit 	UML, SysML	unconditional	Exists since version 1.27.0; cannot be used in version 1.26.1 and older.
Tagged Value 	UML, SysML	unconditional	Exists since version 1.47.0; cannot be used in version 1.46.0 and older.
Lifeline 	UML 2.5 (ch17.2), SysML	interaction scenario, 1 per diagram	Limitations: One lifeline is visible only in one diagram. Limitations: Lifelines start and end only at diagram border. Limitations: ExecutionSpecification (ActivityBar) are not supported.












## LEGEND












**Scope** scope is unconditional if a feature belongs to a classifier unconditionally, scenario if only applicable in 1 interaction diagram

### 4.3 Relationships

Relationships are the edges of the model-graph.

The table shows the relationship types introduced by different specifications, a classification in which diagram type to use them preferably, and a comment stating how this is implemented in crystal-facet-uml.


	Spec	Diagram Context	Comment
 Dependency	UML, SysML	any	
 Containment	UML, SysML	Deployment, Package, Internal Block, Composite Structure, Activity, State	
 Deploy	UML	Deployment	
 Manifest	UML	Deployment	
 Communication Path	UML, SysML	Component, Composite Structure, Block, Internal Block	
 Association	UML, SysML	Class, Use Case	Note: SysML calls this ReferenceAssociation Limitations: no AssociationClass(SysML: ParticipantProperty) exists. Limitations: no AssociationEnd Classes exist, no multiplicities, no roles, no ownership (dot notation). Limitations: no ternary associations (only two ends supported). Limitations: no non-navigateable ends (crosses) supported yet - see todo.txt.
 Aggregation	UML, SysML	Class	Note: SysML calls this SharedAssociation
 Composition	UML, SysML	Class	Note: SysML calls this PartAssociation
 Generalization	UML, SysML	Class, Use Case(?)	Limitations: no Generalization-Sets supported
 Realization	UML	Class	
 Trace	SysML	Requirement	

	Spec	Diagram Context	Comment
 Refine	SysML	Requirement	
 Extend	UML, SysML	Use Case	Limitations: no SysML-condition-notes can be attached to this relationship
 Include	UML, SysML	Use Case	
 Control Flow/Transition	UML, SysML	Activity, State	In activity diagrams, this is called control flow, in statesmachines it is called transition.
 Object Flow	UML, SysML	Activity	
 Async. Call	UML, SysML (?)	for sequence, timing, communication and interaction overview diagrams	
 Sync. Call	UML, SysML (?)	for sequence, timing, communication and interaction overview diagrams	
 Return Call	UML, SysML (?)	for sequence, timing, communication and interaction overview diagrams	
 Connector	UML, SysML	Internal Block	not supported. Limitations: No Bi-directional Connectors Note: SysML calls this BindingConnector Note: Use a Communication Path instead.
 Item Flow	SysML	Block Definition	not supported. Note: Use an Object Flow instead.
 Exception Flow	UML 2.5 (ch15.5)	Block Definition	not yet supported, see todo.txt.





## 4.4 Diagrams

Diagrams are views on the model-graph. They select classifiers and may filter their features and relationships.

The table shows the diagram types introduced by different specifications, if they filter/hide their features and/or relationships and a comment stating how this is implemented in crystal-facet-uml.

	Spec	Filter	Comment
 List Diagram	-	any feature, any relationship	This is an overview diagram showing only classifiers without features and without relationships
 Box Diagram	-	any feature, any relationship	This is an overview diagram showing only classifiers without features and without relationships
 Block Definition Diagram	SysML	lifelines	
 Internal Block Diagram	SysML	lifelines	
 Parametric Diagram	SysML	lifelines	
 Deployment Diagram	UML	lifelines	
 Component Diagram	UML	lifelines	
 Composite Structure Diagram	UML	lifelines	
 Package Diagram	UML, SysML	lifelines	
 Class Diagram	UML	lifelines	
 Profile Diagram	UML	lifelines	Image elements are not yet supported
 Requirements Diagram	SysML	lifelines	
 Use Case Diagram	UML, SysML	lifelines	
 Interaction Overview Diagram	UML	unconditional relationships (non-scenario), unconditional feature	Limitations: There is no link from Diagram-References to referenced Diagrams Containments cannot be shown in this diagram type
 Activity Diagram	UML 2.5 (ch15.2), SysML	lifelines	Limitations: Swimlanes not supported



	Spec	Filter	Comment
 State Machine Diagram	UML, SysML	lifelines	
 Communication Diagram	UML	unconditional relationships (non-scenario), unconditional features	Containments cannot be shown in this diagram type
 Sequence Diagram	UML, SysML	unconditional relationships (non-scenario), unconditional features	
 Timing Diagram	UML	unconditional relationships (non-scenario), unconditional features	

## LEGEND

**Filter** Defines which elements are not visible in the diagram

**Scenario** Interaction diagrams show only relationships associated with a lifeline of a visible classifier.

## 4.5 Maximum stringlengths

All strings (names, descriptions, stereotypes) have a maximum length.

Ascii characters require one, most other characters two bytes. Current sizes in bytes are:

Classifiers:

- DATA\_CLASSIFIER\_MAX\_NAME\_LENGTH = 47,
- DATA\_CLASSIFIER\_MAX\_STEREOTYPE\_LENGTH = 47,
- DATA\_CLASSIFIER\_MAX\_DESCRIPTION\_LENGTH = 4095,

Features:

- DATA\_FEATURE\_MAX\_KEY\_LENGTH = 47, (name)
- DATA\_FEATURE\_MAX\_VALUE\_LENGTH = 255, (type)
- DATA\_FEATURE\_MAX\_DESCRIPTION\_LENGTH = 1023,

Relationships:

- DATA\_RELATIONSHIP\_MAX\_NAME\_LENGTH = 47,
- DATA\_RELATIONSHIP\_MAX\_STEREOTYPE\_LENGTH = 47,
- DATA\_RELATIONSHIP\_MAX\_DESCRIPTION\_LENGTH = 1023,

Diagrams:

- DATA\_DIAGRAM\_MAX\_NAME\_LENGTH = 47,
- DATA\_DIAGRAM\_MAX\_STEREOTYPE\_LENGTH = 47,
- DATA\_DIAGRAM\_MAX\_DESCRIPTION\_LENGTH = 8191,

In case the text your entered exceeds the string limit, you are warned that the string is truncated. Consider attaching a comment or a requirement element and move parts of the text there.

## 5 Modeling Guidelines

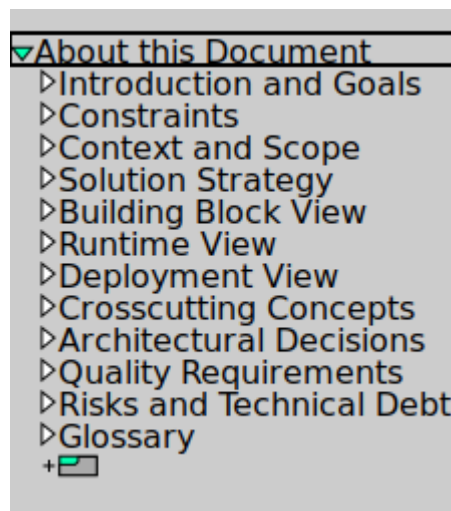
This section lists hints on efficiently using the tool crystal-facet-uml and provides some general remarks on creating a software architecture and design document.

### 5.1 crystal-facet-uml Hints

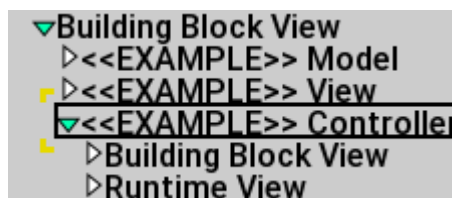
Modelling aspects that are special to the tool crystal-facet-uml are describes in this section.

#### 5.1.1 Tree Structure

Diagrams are organized as a tree. Start the root of the tree explaining the document structure. At the second level of the tree, list the main areas to be shown, for example based on the arc42 template <https://arc42.org/overview/> :



In case you show several layers of abstraction, each building block may contain its sub-blocks, sub-blocks may again show sub-sub-blocks. In this case, structure the specification of the sub-blocks in the same way: apply the proposed folder structure recursively, omitting possibly empty or superfluous folders.



#### 5.1.2 Focus

Put only few elements into each diagram. This increases understandability of the main purpose of the diagram. Put further aspects of a topic into a separate diagram. Do not hesitate to copy an element from one diagram to the next. This is what crystal-facet-uml is good at: it keeps the model in sync.

When distributing different aspects to different diagrams, a remaining challenge may be that there is no filter on relationships. If e.g. two classes are connected via a generalization arrow and an aggregation arrow, each diagram will show both arrows even if only one is of interest for the shown aspect (except for interaction diagrams).

### 5.1.3 Namespaces


Put a prefix to all your elements denoting its namespace. You can then distinguish a GLOBAL\_START\_STATE from an AUDIO\_START\_STATE or global::start from audio::start.

To achieve a more compact layout of an element, one may insert space characters into names. (In case names get long, the space allows for a linebreak).

### 5.1.4 Attic/Storage room

If you are not sure if you really want to delete elements, 1) copy them to an attic-diagram and then 2) delete them from the original diagram.

### 5.1.5 Layout

To change the positions of classifiers and features, drag these to other locations. Relationships can only be dragged in sequence and timing diagrams. Relationships in other diagrams are auto-laid out. crystal-facet-uml prevents to cross/overlay these two types of relationships: . If the layouting result is still inappropriate, move classifiers and features to other positions.

## 5.2 General Hints on Architecture Documentation

This section provides some general remarks on creating a software architecture and detailed design document.

### 5.2.1 Problem vs. Solution

Distinguish things that are

- given constraints (problem space),
- decisions, rejected alternatives and
- the selected solution

### 5.2.2 Names

Names of things are crucial: If the reader gets a wrong understanding by the name of an element, a hundred correct sentences of describing text cannot set this straight again.

### 5.2.3 Description

Every design element needs a description, maybe a list of responsibilities: What shall this element do, what is it for? Names alone cannot explain a system part.

### 5.2.4 Precise sentences

Be precise: Write in active form, e.g. The persistence component shall store and retrieve binary data records identified by string-based keys.

### 5.2.5 Distinguish similar things

Things that are similar but not the same shall be different entities when modelling. E.g. The process in which an example application runs may be different from the storage location and may be different from the software-component. These are three things: `Example_App_Process` (Type: Node), `Example_App_ObjectFile` (Type:Artifact) and `Example_App_SWComponent` (Type:Component).

## 6 Command Line Interface

### 6.1 Command Line Usage

If starting `crystal-facet-uml` from command line, there are a couple of options, call **`crystal-facet-uml -h`** for a list.

To run consistency checks, use the **`-t`** option:

```
crystal-facet-uml -t my_database_file.cfu1 || echo "ERROR $?"
```

To repair the database, use the **`-r`** option.

### 6.2 Storing data in a version control system

To store a database in a version control system (vcs) like `svn` or `git`, store the json file format **`*.cfuJ`** to your vcs.

- Note that this feature requires at least version 1.35.0, better version 1.39.0 to work smoothly.
- Do not synchronize the file with your vcs while you modify it at the same time; save your changes first and re-open the json file afterwards.
- In case of merge conflicts in **`*.cfuJ`** files, note that uuid strings do uniquely identify all json objects. Relations between objects are defined by these uuid strings. In contrast to uuids, integer-id can be changed as long as they are unique among all objects of same type within the file.

## 7 Download and Install

This appendix shows where to get further documentation and how to install the software.

### 7.1 Documentation

User documentation is available here:

- [https://andreaswarnke.de/crystal-facet-uml/crystal-facet-uml\\_documentation.pdf](https://andreaswarnke.de/crystal-facet-uml/crystal-facet-uml_documentation.pdf)
- <https://andreaswarnke.de/crystal-facet-uml/html/index.html>

### 7.2 Debian/Ubuntu Linux

You may install `crystal-facet-uml` by the following command:

```
sudo apt install crystal-facet-uml
```

If you instead manually download the `.deb` archive, you may e.g. invoke **`sudo dpkg --install <filename.deb>`**. Find the latest executable version of `crystal-facet-uml` at:

- <https://tracker.debian.org/pkg/crystal-facet-uml>

## 7.3 SuSE Linux

To install, type on the command line:

```
sudo zypper addrepo https://download.opensuse.org/repositories/devel:/tools/15.4 ↵  
    devel_tools_15.4  
# or sudo zypper addrepo https://download.opensuse.org/repositories/devel:/tools/ ↵  
    openSUSE_Leap_15.3 devel_tools_15.3  
sudo zypper refresh  
sudo zypper install crystal-facet-uml
```

If you instead manually download the .rpm archive, you may e.g. invoke **sudo zypper install <filename.rpm>** .  
Check for rpm packages at:

- [https://build.opensuse.org/package/show/devel:tools/crystal\\_facet\\_uml](https://build.opensuse.org/package/show/devel:tools/crystal_facet_uml)

## 7.4 Windows/Wine

Find the latest executable version of crystal-facet-uml at one of the following addresses:

- <https://www.heise.de/download/product/crystal-facet-uml/>
- <https://sourceforge.net/projects/crystal-facet-uml/>

Unpack the zip archive.

- On windows, doubleclick on **crystal-facet-uml.bat**,
- or using the wine emulation, download **libgcc\_s\_seh-1.dll** and unpack this to bin,
- then call **export XDG\_DATA\_HOME=".\\share" ; wine64 bin/crystal-facet-uml.exe**.

## 7.5 Build from Source

Find the latest source version of crystal-facet-uml at one of the following addresses:

- <https://sourceforge.net/projects/crystal-facet-uml/>
- <https://github.com/awarnke/crystal-facet-uml>

Follow the instructions in **/readme.markdown**.

## 7.6 Further Links

Static code analysis results are available here:

- [https://scan.coverity.com/projects/awarnke-crystal\\_facet\\_uml](https://scan.coverity.com/projects/awarnke-crystal_facet_uml)

Test coverage report is available here:

- [https://andreaswarnke.de/crystal-facet-uml/test\\_coverage/index.html](https://andreaswarnke.de/crystal-facet-uml/test_coverage/index.html)

Validate your XMI exports at:

- <http://validator.omg.org/se-interop/tools/validator>

## 7.7 License

License of crystal-facet-uml is Apache-2.0. Copyright 2016-2023 Andreas Warnke; Email-contact: cfu-at-andreaswarnke-dot-de

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