crystal_facet_uml user documentation

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : crystal_facet_uml user documentation		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY	Andreas Warnke	2019-07-14	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1   Introduction

crystal_facet_uml creates diagrams to document system and software architecture.
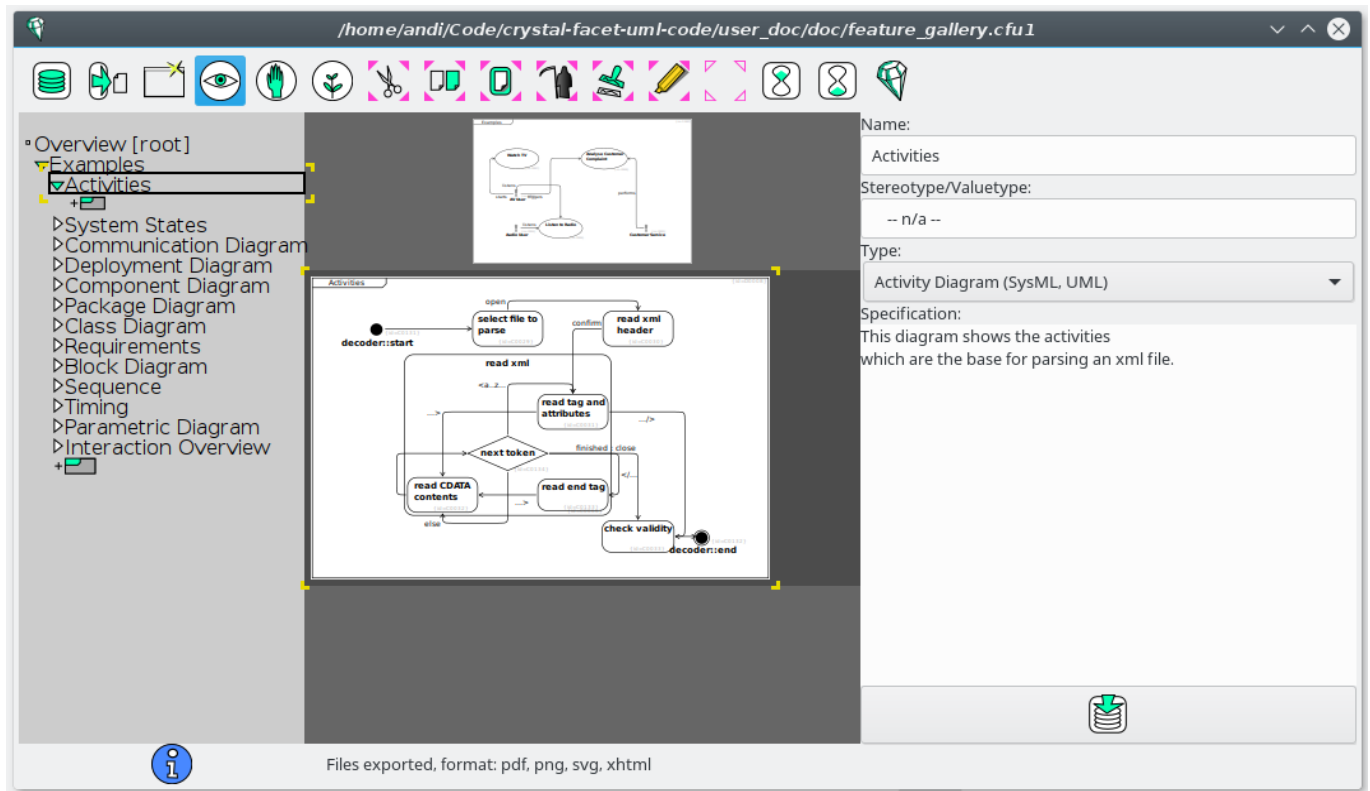
1.1   Goal

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. It exports diagrams in svg, pdf, ps and png formats to be used in text processing systems like docbook, html, latex. This tool runs on your local linux PC and is based on glib, gdk, gtk, cairo, pango, sqlite.

1.2   Features

crystal_facet_uml provides a graphical user interface to

• create diagrams

  (use-case, deployment, component, composite-structure, package, class, activity, state, timing, communication, sequence)

- create uml elements

  (actor, system-boundary, use-case, node, component, part, interface, package, class, activity, state, object, artifact, comment, requirement)

- move, modify and delete uml elements

- create, modify and delete relationships

  (dependency, association, aggregation, composition, generalization, realization, contains, sync-call, return-call, async-message, communication-path, control-flow, object-flow, deployment, manifest, include, extend)

- create, modify and delete features

  (port, field, operation)

- cut, copy, paste uml elements between diagrams

- undo and redo are supported

- multiple windows can show different or same parts of the uml model

Diagrams are layouted part-automatically:

- The user chooses the relative location of uml elements towards others

- crystal_facet_uml selects the exact locations of uml 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 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 diagrams

  (sequence, communication, timing)

crystal_facet_uml exports diagrams as

- vector graphics

  (pdf, ps, svg)

- pixel graphics

  (png)

- textual representation

  (utf-8-txt, docbook, xhtml)

crystal_facet_uml can also be started from command line to check and repair database files.

1.3 Usage Overview

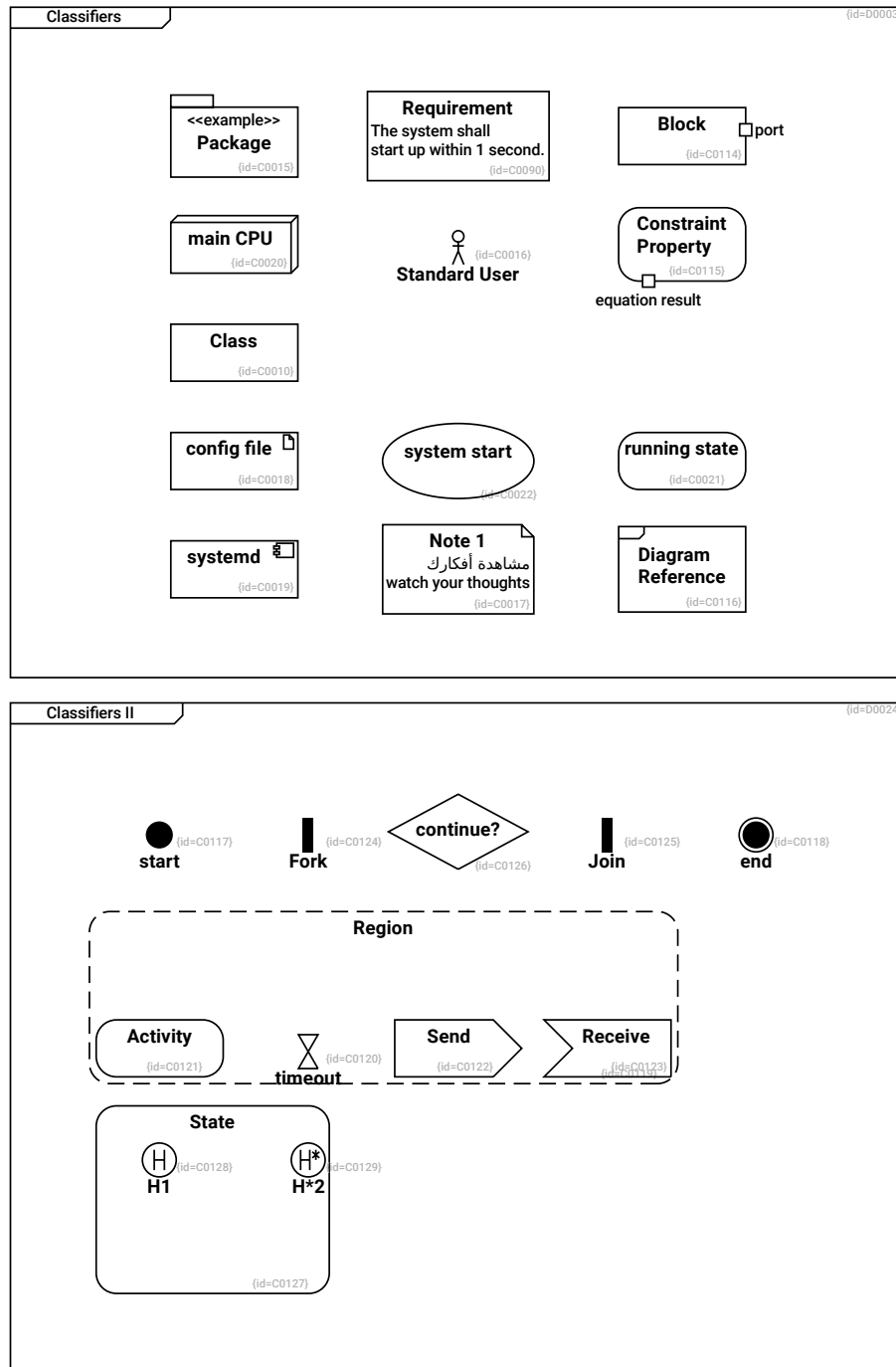crystal_facet_uml can be started in graphical mode (see Section 3) or from command line (for help run `crystal_facet_uml -h`).

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.
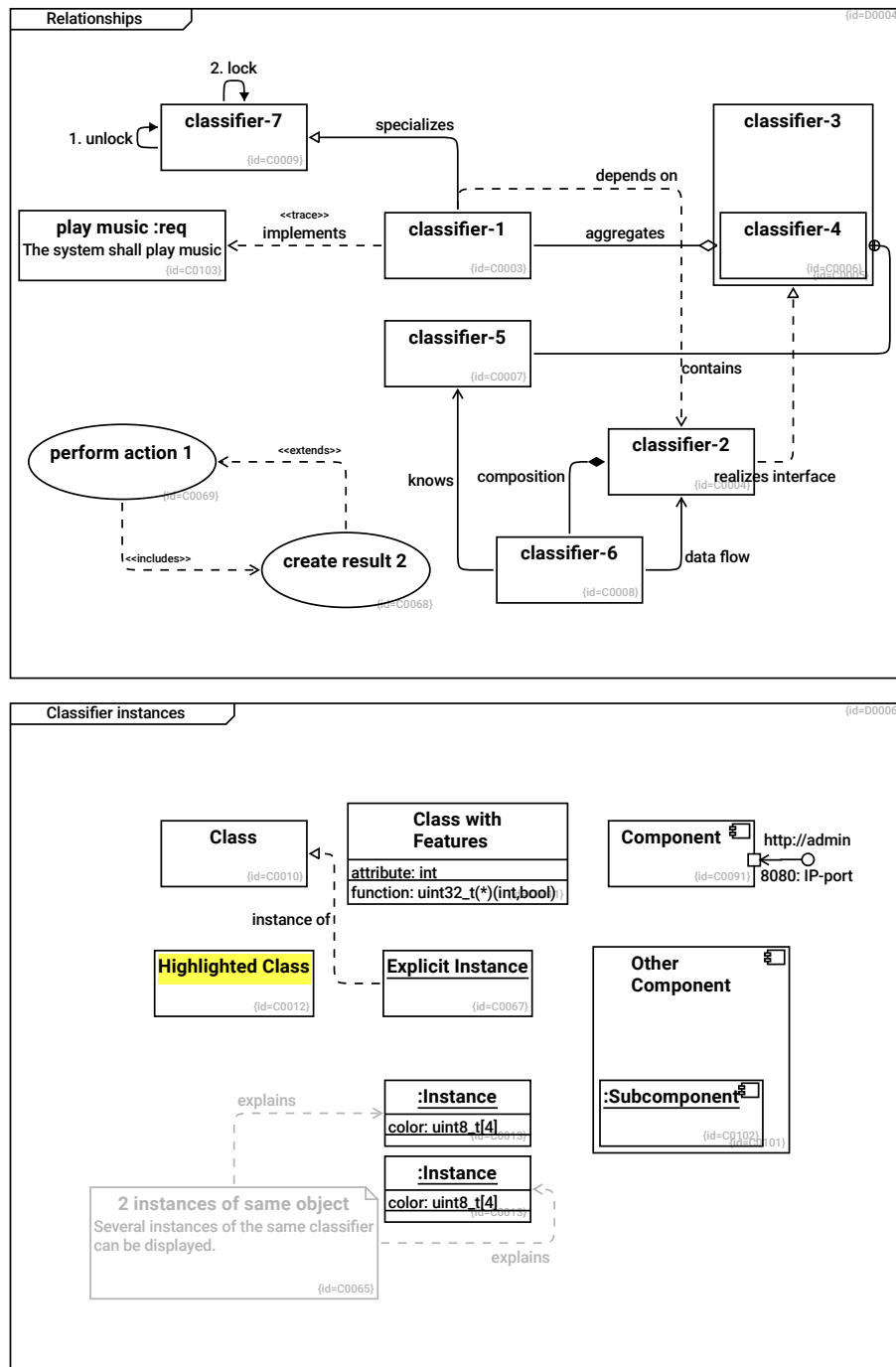
2.2 Example UML Behavioral Views

This section lists what kind of elements crystal_facet_uml can draw in diagrams.

System States {id=D0012}

pwr::start {id=C0130}

booting {id=C0035}

diag mode

save energy

start session

running {id=C0037}

diagnosis {id=C0040}

shutting down {id=C0039}

pwr::off {id=C0034}

trigger shutdown

normal boot

update finished

end session

sw-update

SW-update {id=C0036}

trigger sw-update

low-power mode {id=C0038}

activate energy saving

de-activate energy saving

timeout

Communication Diagram {id=D0013}

External Entity {id=C0044}

1. connect

TLS Endpoint {id=C0043}

2. fetch own public key

4. store generated session key

Asymmetric Signature Storage {id=C0041}

3. return key

5. ack

Symmetric Session Keys {id=C0042}

Sequence {id=D0020}

User {id=C0097}

GUI {id=C0098}

Audio Manager {id=C0099}

increase volume

increase volume

get volume

volume

show volume

Timing {id=D0021}

fully operational {id=C0092}

system up and running (1500 ms)

starting applications {id=C0093}

load and start applications (800 ms)

starting operating system {id=C0094}

load and start OS (100 ms)

initializing hardware {id=C0095}

power up (0 sec)

unpowered {id=C0096}
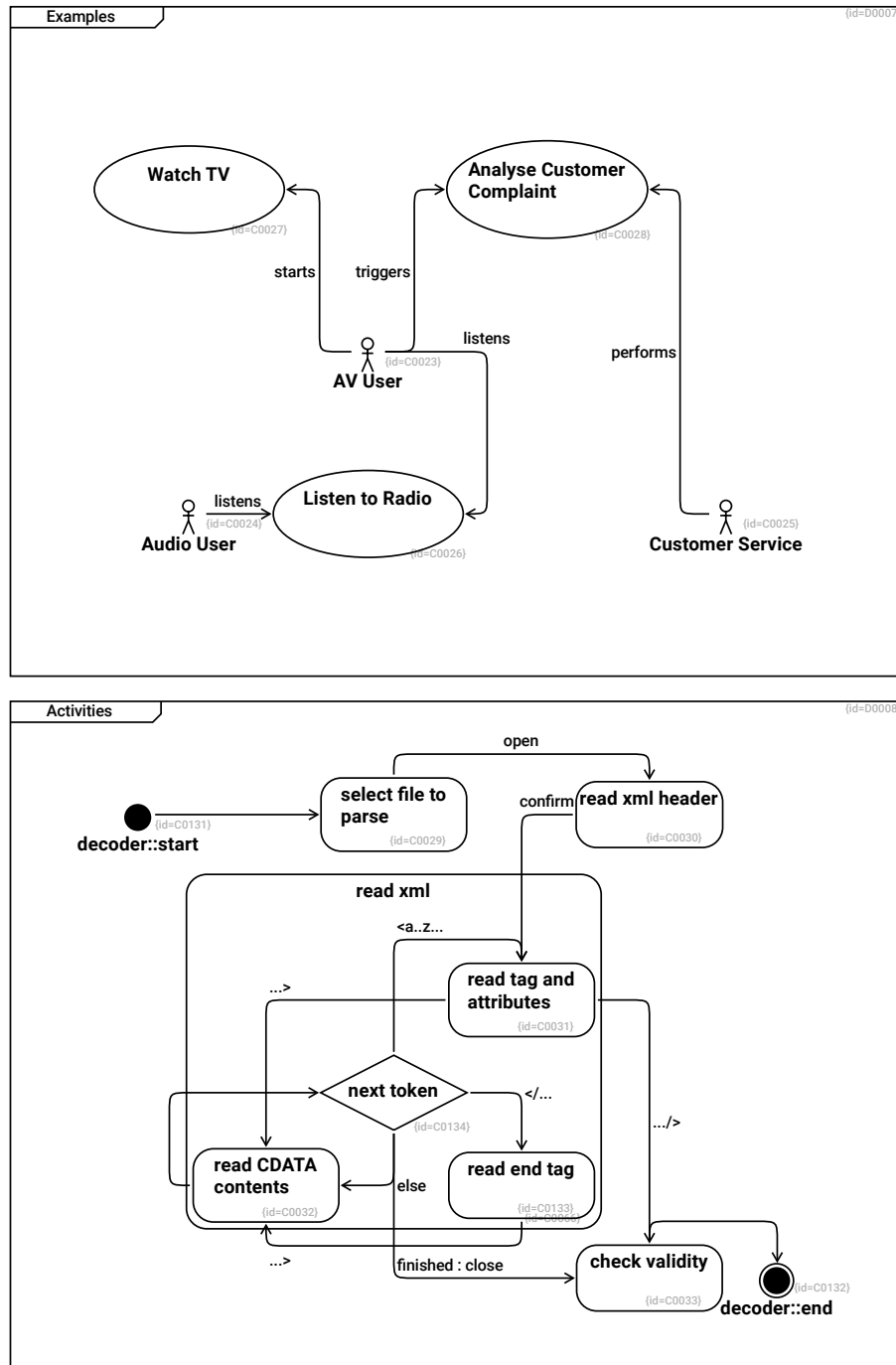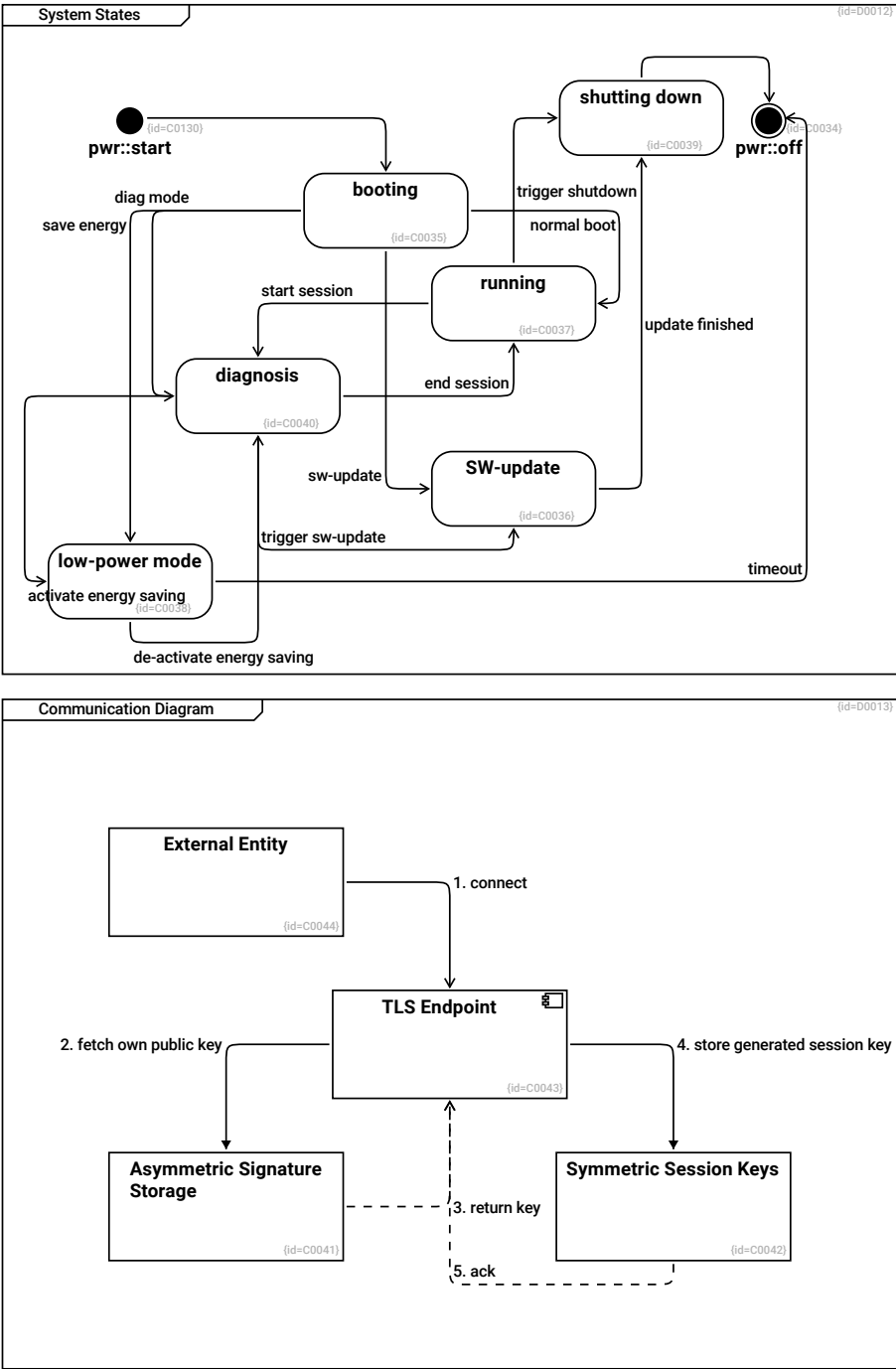
2.3 Example UML Static Views

This section lists what kind of elements crystal_facet_uml can draw in diagrams.

Component Diagram {id=D0015}

Web Browser

Page Renderer
{id=C0072}
{id=C0051}

Nav: Cmd_IF

: IP Port

: IP Port

Tun: Cmd_IF

call

/dev/tty2: Pipe
Cmd_IF

TLS Endpoint
{id=C0043}

session token

request: out_signal

Cmd_IF

80: IP Port

Cmd_IF

8080: IP Port

Content DB
{id=C0052}

Images Server
{id=C0053}

Crypto Key Server
{id=C0100}

command: in

status: out

Package Diagram {id=D0016}

Application Layer
{id=C0054}

Service Layer

specific Services
{id=C0071}

common Services
{id=C0070}

Infrastructure Layer
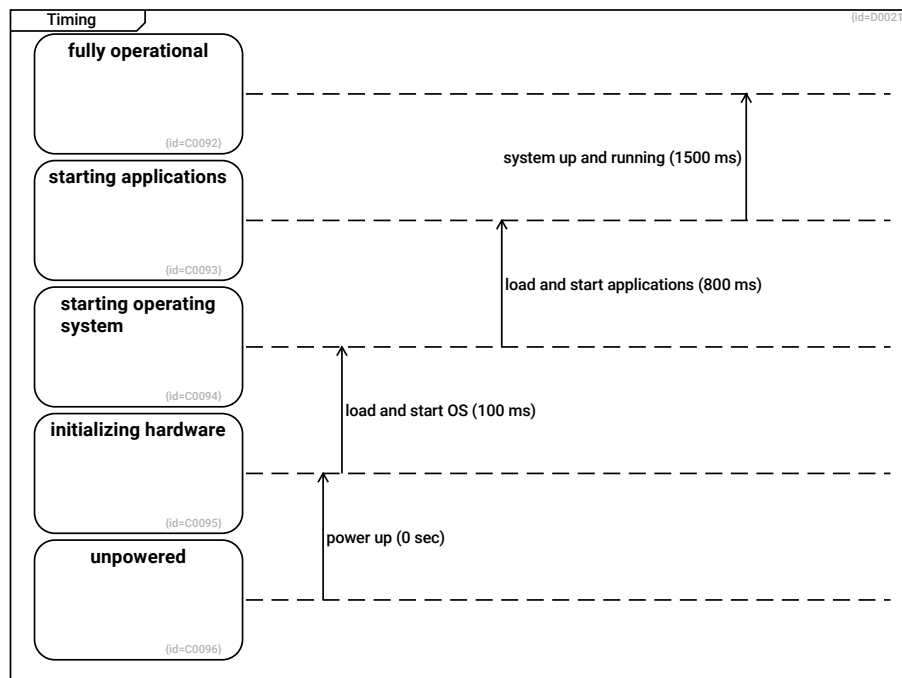
communication Lib
{id=C0135}

storage Lib
{id=C0136}

2.4 Example SysML Views

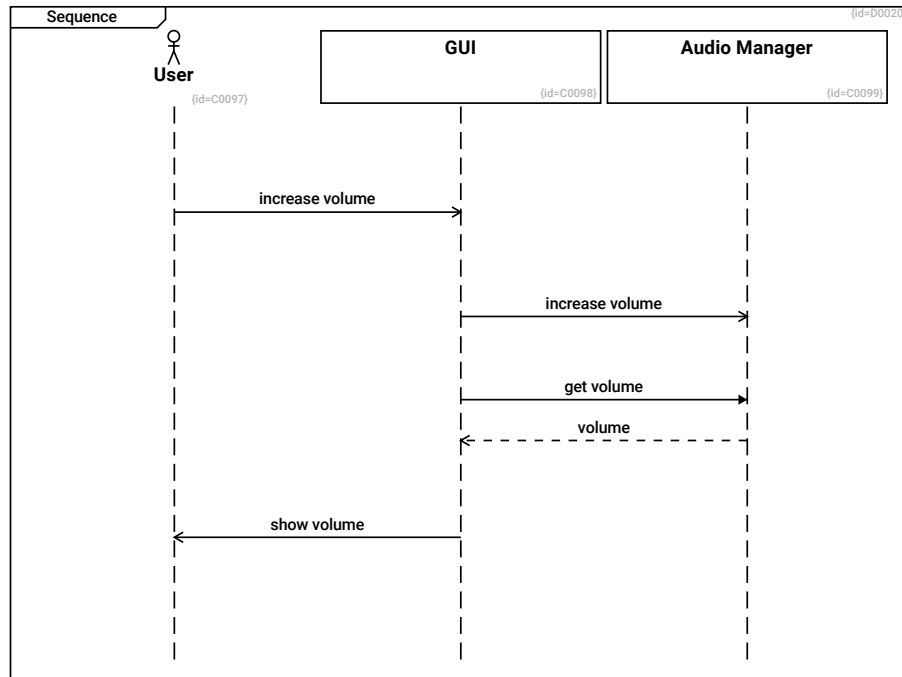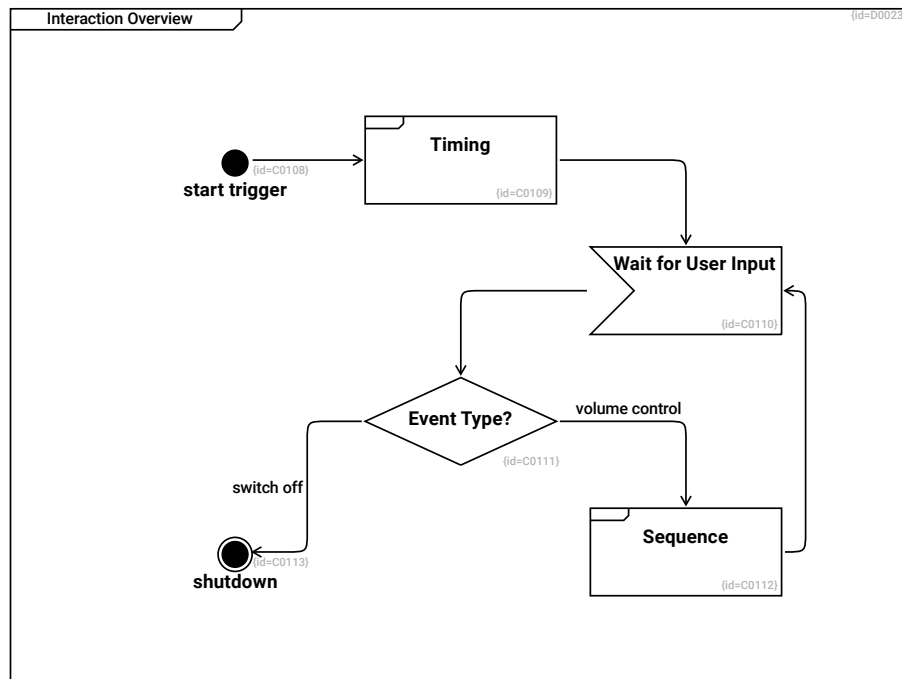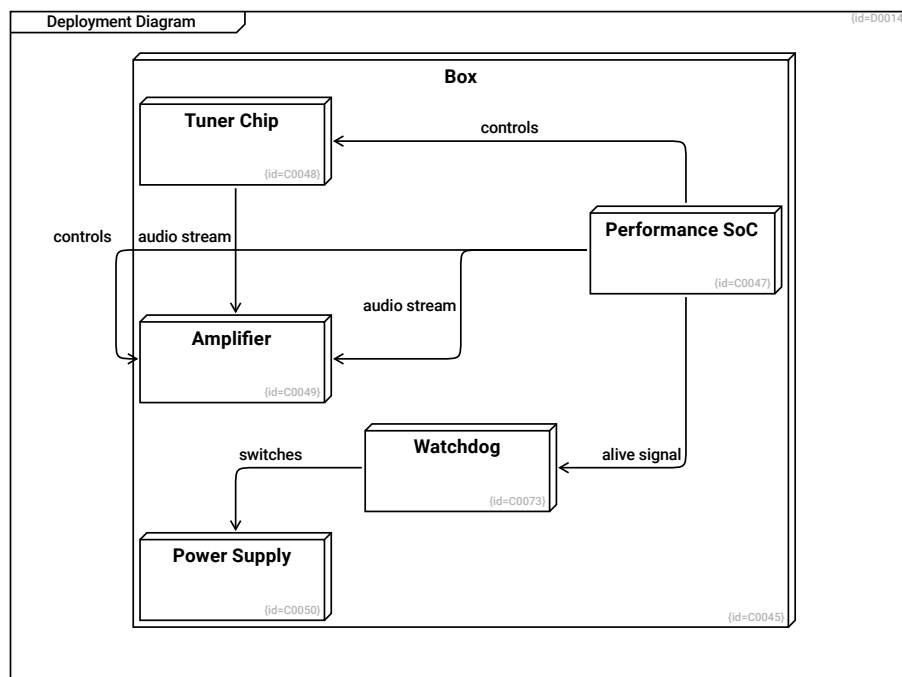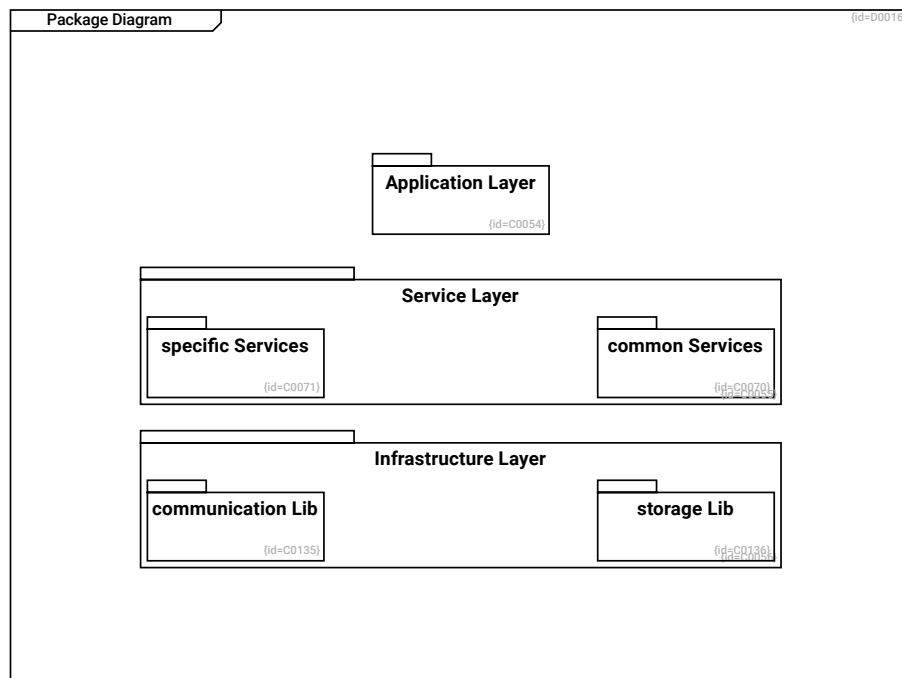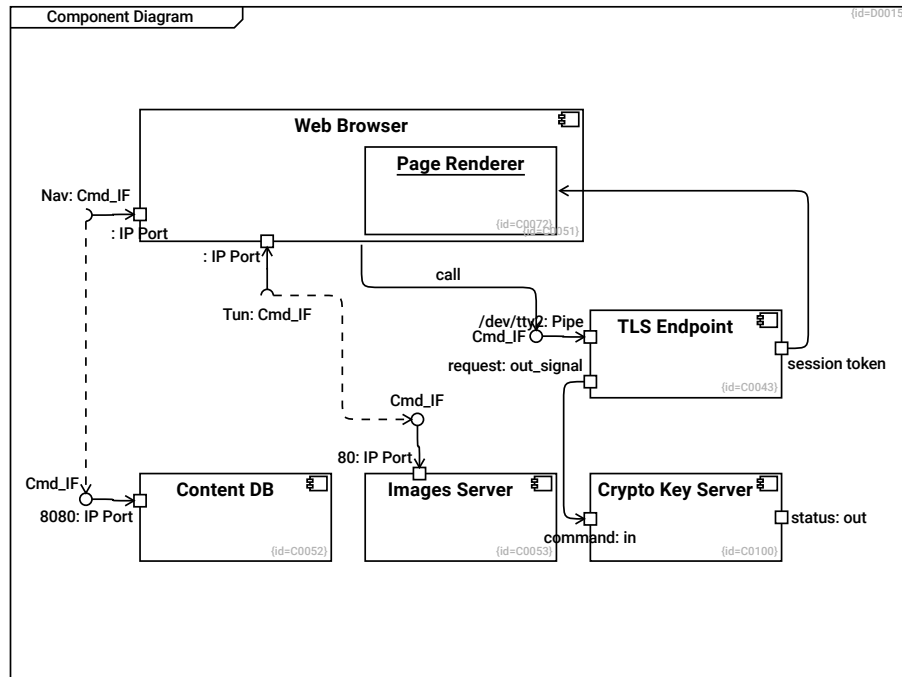This section lists what kind of elements crystal_facet_uml can draw in diagrams.
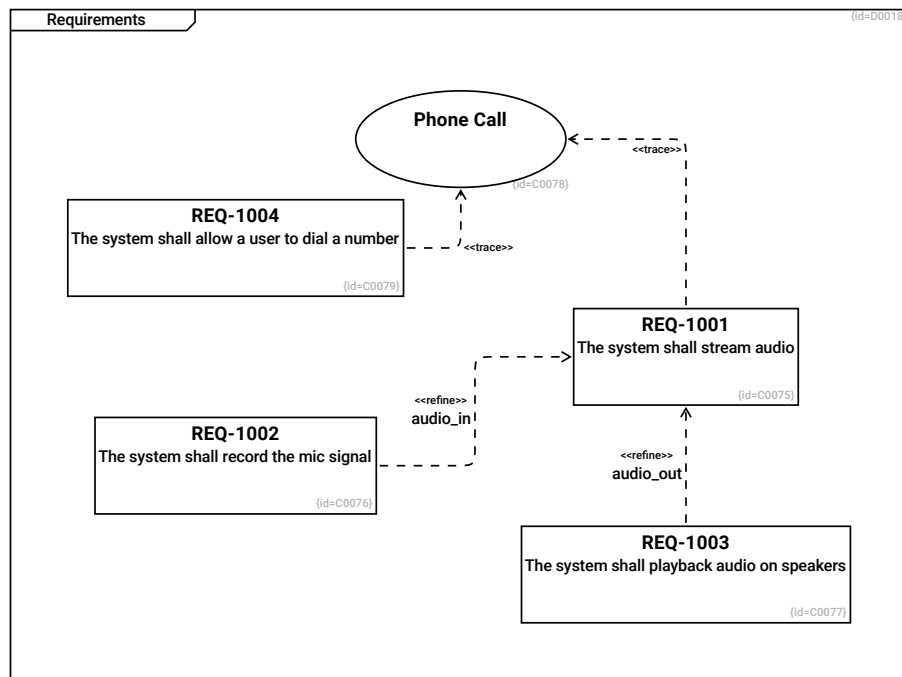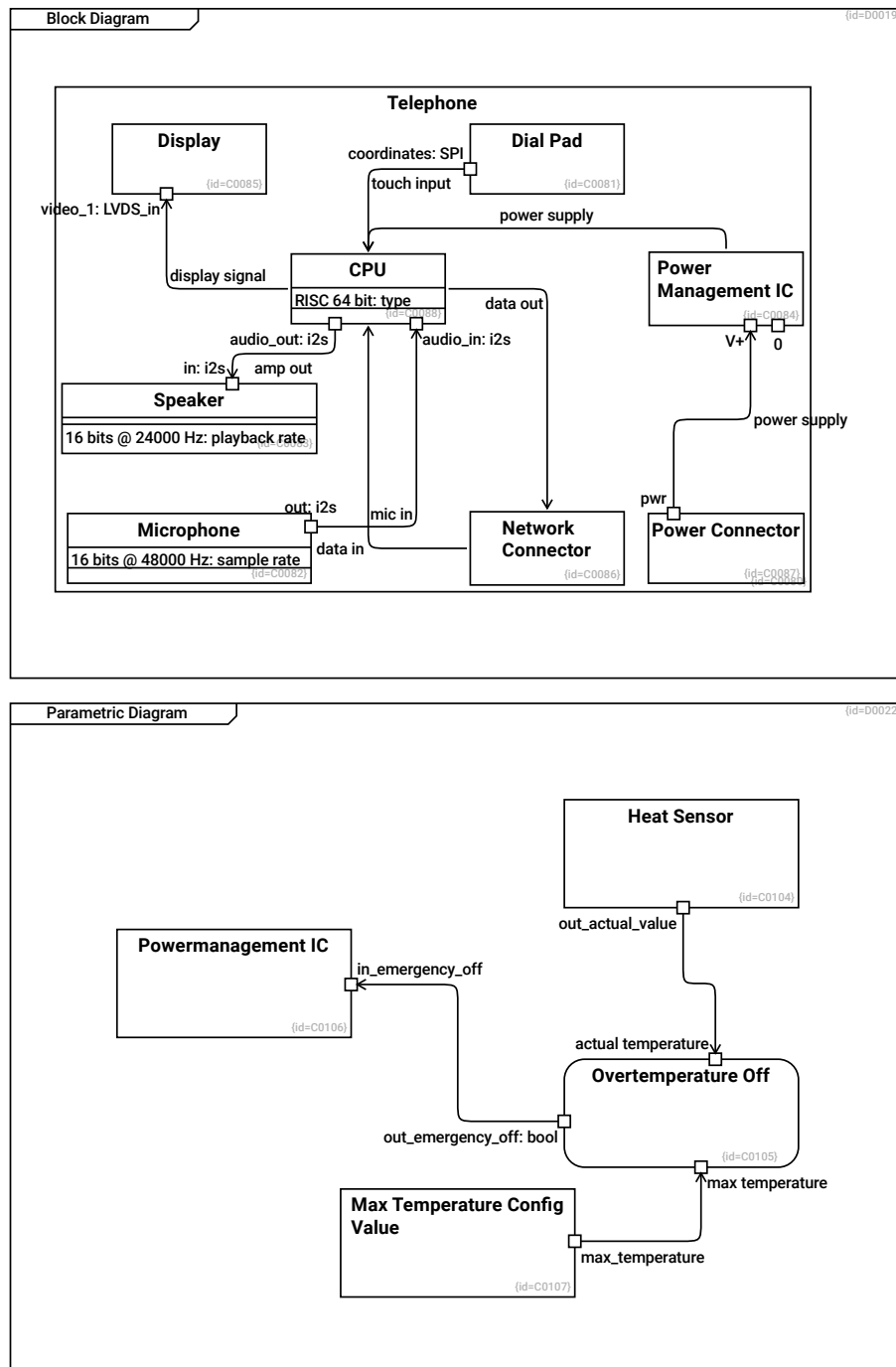
3 GUI / Usage Manual

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.
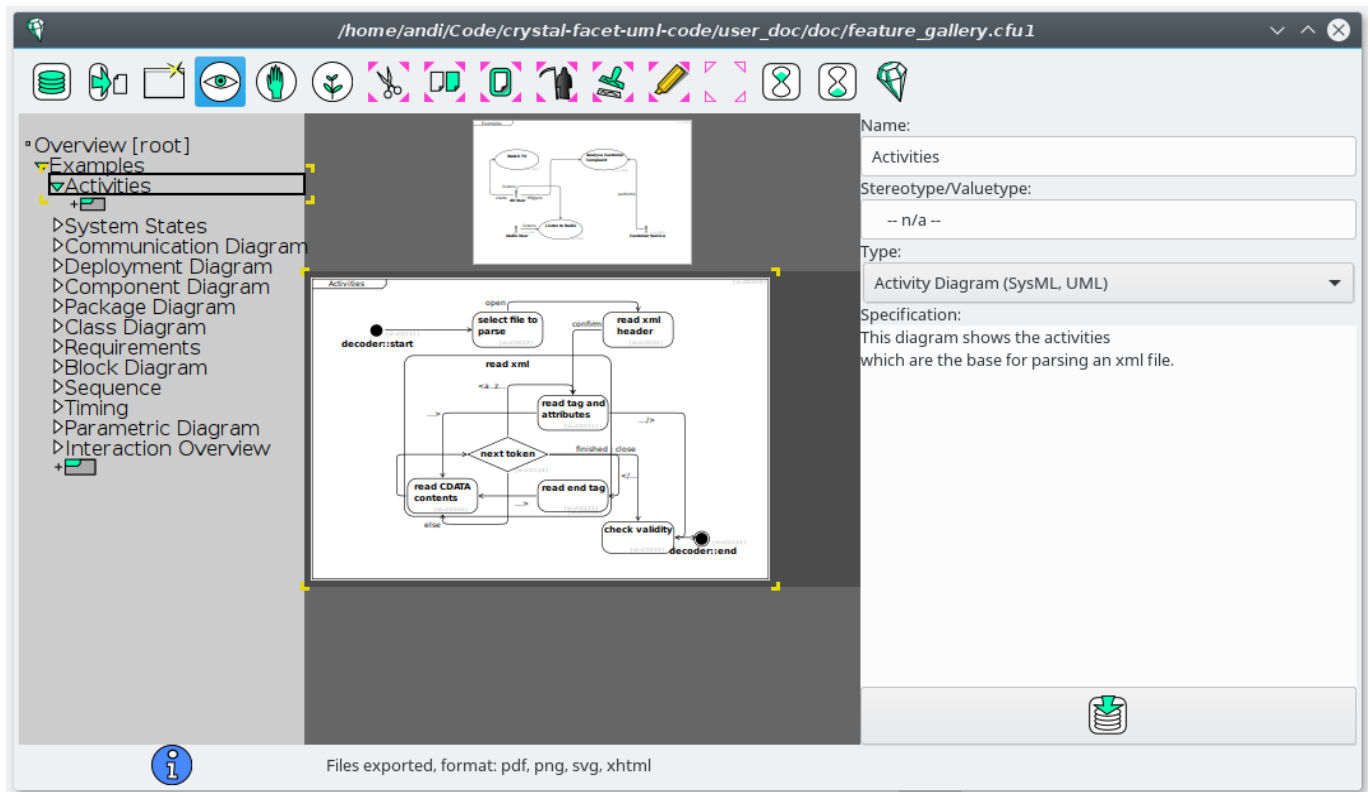
3.2 Tool Bar
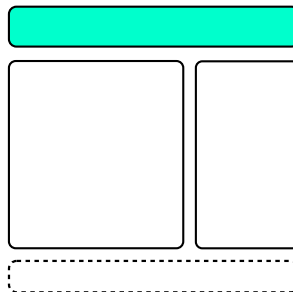
3.2.1 Create/Use DB

- Opens an existing database file or creates a new database file

3.2.2 Export

- Exports all diagrams to the selected folder (supported formats are txt, png, pdf, ps and svg)

3.2.3 New Window

- Opens another window on the same database.

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

3.2.4 Navigate

- Navigate to parent or child diagrams
- Create a new diagram (see Section 3.3.1)

3.2.5 Edit

- Modify elements in the diagram (see Section 3.3.2)

3.2.6 Create

- Create elements in the diagram (see Section 3.3.3)

3.2.7 Cut

- Cut all pink-cornered elements to the clipboard (features of classifiers are cut independantly of their corner-colors)

3.2.8 Copy

- Copy all pink-cornered elements to the clipboard (features of classifiers are copied independantly of their corner-colors)

3.2.9 Paste

- Pastes diagrams and classifiers from the clipboard to the uml model. (Relationships are not pasted) If id and name are identical to an existing element, an instance of the existing element is pasted to the diagram. Otherwise a new element is created.

3.2.10 Delete

- Deletes all pink-cornered elements. This operation may fail if a marked diagram contains unmarked elements.

3.2.11 Instantiate

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

3.2.12 Highlight

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

3.2.13 Reset Selection

- Resets the pink-cornered selection

3.2.14 Undo

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

3.2.15 Redo

- Re-does the last un-done operation

3.2.16 About

- Shows version, license and copyrights

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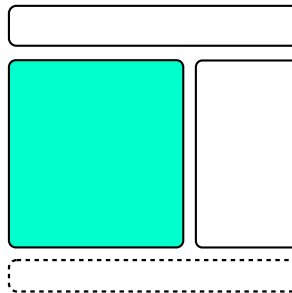
Diagrams are layouted automatically. You can influence the locations of classifiers only. When adding too many classifiers or relations, auto layouting may not achieve the expected results. In many cases, splitting the diagram into two or more diagrams solves the layouting issues and at the same time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

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 Edit

- To select the diagram or a classifier or a feature or a relationship with yellow corners, click on this object.

- To mark an element with pink corners, click on these objects twice.

- To move classifiers within the diagram, 1.) press, 2.) drag and 3.) release the mouse button.

3.3.3 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.
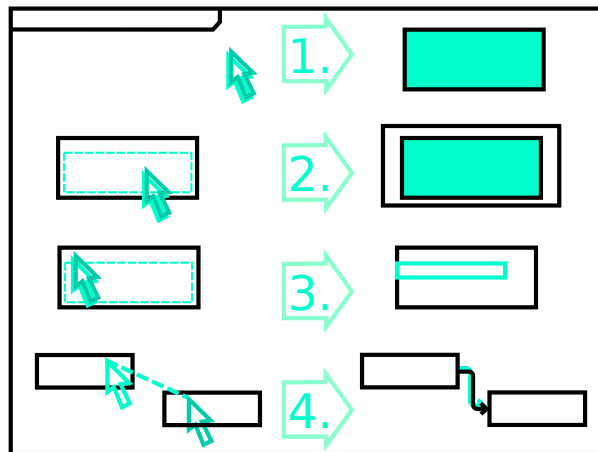
3.4 Element Configuration Area
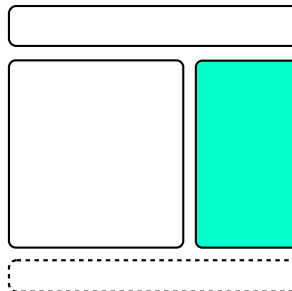
Edit the properties of the yellow-cornered object.

- name of the focused object

- stereotype/valuetype of the focused object (deactivated depending on object-type)

- type of the focused object

- description of the focused object

3.4.1 Commit

- Stores the latest changes to the database immediately. This feature is optional, it is not necessary to explicitly save the file.

3.5 Notification Bar
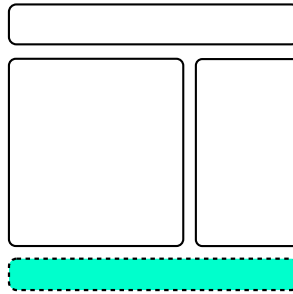
3.5.1 Information

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

3.5.2 Warning

- Informs on a possible problem

3.5.3 Error

- Informs on an error

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 represent instances or concepts, if they filter/hide their features and a comment stating how this is implemented in crystal_facet_uml.

	Spec	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 Property/Equation	SysML	-	Limitations: Only the rounded-rect symbol is supported, ports are not completely inside the rounded-rect.
Node	UML	-	
Component	UML	-	
Part	UML	-	
Interface	UML	-	
Package	UML, SysML	-	
Class	UML	-	
Object	UML	-	
Artifact	UML	-	
Comment	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Feature	-	-	Represents a group of requirements
Requirement	SysML	-	
Actor	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Use Case	UML, SysML	-	Limitations: No SysML extension points
System Boundary	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Diagram Reference	UML	unconditional features	
Activity	UML	-	
Interruptable Region	UML	unconditional features	
Fork	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Join	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Accept Event	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Accept Time Event	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Send Signal	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Decision	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Initial Node	UML, SysML	unconditional features	Limitations: There is no distinction in ActivityInitial and FlowInitial
Final Node	UML, SysML	unconditional features	Limitations: There is no distinction in ActivityFinal and FlowFinal

	Spec	Filter	Comment
State	UML, SysML	-	
Shallow History	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
Deep History	UML, SysML	unconditional features	
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	UML, SysML	unconditional features	not supported. Note: Either directly connect to the target activity or use a decision node.
ActivityPartition	UML, SysML	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
Operation	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
Provided Interface	UML, SysML	unconditional	
Required Interface	UML, SysML	unconditional	
Lifeline	UML, SysML	scenario, 1 per diagram	Limitations: One lifeline is visible only in one diagram

LEGEND

Scope scope is unconditional if a feature belongs to a classifier unconditionally, scenario if only applicable in 1 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 Types	Comment
Dependency	UML, SysML	any	
Containment	UML, SysML	Deployment, Package	
Deploy	UML	Deployment	
Manifest	UML	Deploy	
Communication Path	UML, SysML	Component, Use Case	
Association	UML, SysML	Class Diag	Note: SysML calls this ReferenceAssociation Limitations: no AssociationClass(SysML: ParticipantProperty) exists. Limitations: no AssociationEnd Classes exist, no Multiplicities, no Roles.
Aggregation	UML, SysML	Class Diag	Note: SysML calls this SharedAssociation
Composition	UML, SysML	Class Diag	Note: SysML calls this PartAssociation
Generalization	UML, SysML	Class Diag, Use Case	Limitations: no Generalization-Sets supported
Realization	UML	Class Diag	
Trace	SysML	Requirement	
Refine	SysML	Requirement	
Extend	UML, SysML	Use Case	Limitations: no SysML-condition-notes can be attched to this relationship
Include	UML, SysML	Use Case	
Control Flow	UML, SysML	Activity	
Object Flow	UML, SysML	Activity	
Async. Call	UML, SysML (?)	Sequence	
Sync. Call	UML, SysML (?)	Sequence	
Return Call	UML, SysML (?)	Sequence	
Connector	UML, SysML	Internal Block Diag.	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.

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	-	features, relationships	This is an overview diagram showing only classifiers without features and without relationships
Box Diagram	-	features, relationships	This is an overview diagram showing only classifiers without features and without relationships

	Spec	Filter	Comment
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	not supported
Requirements Diagram	SysML	lifelines	
Use Case Diagram	UML, SysML	lifelines	
Interaction Overview Diagram	UML	lifelines	Limitations: There is no link from Diagram-References to referenced Diagrams
Activity Diagram	UML, SysML	lifelines	
State Machine Diagram	UML, SysML	lifelines	
Communication Diagram	UML	unconditional relationships (Scenario), unconditional features	
Sequence Diagram	UML, SysML	unconditional relationships (Scenario), unconditional features	
Timing Diagram	UML	unconditional relationships (Scenario), unconditional features	

LEGEND

Filter Defines which elements are not visible in the diagram

Scenario 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_DESCRIPTION_LENGTH = 1023,

Diagrams:

- DATA_DIAGRAM_MAX_NAME_LENGTH = 47,

- DATA_DIAGRAM_MAX_DESCRIPTION_LENGTH = 8191,

5   Modeling Guidelines

This page lists remarks on creating a software architecture and design document in general and it lists hints on getting along with the tool crystal_facet_uml. As all tools, this program has its strengths and weaknesses. This page helps in making use of the strenghts.

5.1   crystal_facet_uml Hints

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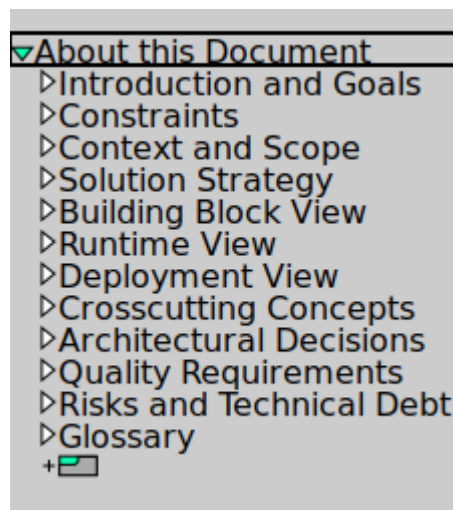
In case you show several layers of abstraction, each building block may contain its sub-blocks, sub-blocks may again show sub-sub-blocks. In this case, structure the specification of the sub-blocks in the same way: apply the proposed folder structure recursively, omitting possibly empty or superfluous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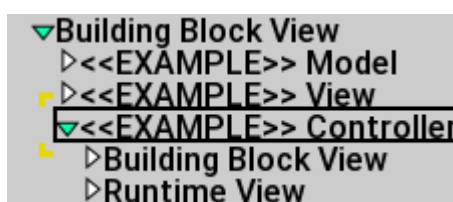
5.1.2 Focus

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.

5.1.3 Namespaces

Put a prefix to all your elements denoting its namespace. You can then distinguish a GLOBAL_START_STATE from an AU-DIO_START_STATE. Or global::start from audio::start.

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.

5.2 General Hints on Architecture Documentation

5.2.1 Problem vs. Solution

Distinguish things that are

- given constraints (problem space),

- decisions, chosen and rejected alternatives and

- the designed 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 indentified 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).

A   Download Information

A.1   Download Links

Find the latest version at:

- https://sourceforge.net/projects/crystal-facet-uml/

- https://github.com/awarnke/crystal_facet_uml

- https://build.opensuse.org/package/show/home:awarnke/crystal_facet_uml

User documentation is available here:

- http://www.andreaswarnke.de/crystal_facet_uml/crystal_facet_uml_user_documentation.pdf

- https://github.com/awarnke/crystal_facet_uml/blob/master/user_doc/crystal_facet_uml_
  user_documentation.pdf

A.1.1   Install

The .deb and .rpm packages can be installed by the package installers of your system.

For installation on ubuntu, debian or raspbian, you may e.g. invoke **sudo dpkg --install <filename>** on the command line:

```
andi@debian1zotac:~/Downloads$ sudo dpkg --install crystal-facet-uml_1.12.0-1_amd64.deb

    We trust you have received the usual lecture from the local System
    Administrator. It usually boils down to these three things:

#1) Respect the privacy of others.
#2) Think before you type.
#3) With great power comes great responsibility.

[sudo] password for andi:
Selecting previously unselected package crystal-facet-uml.
(Reading database ... 198990 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack crystal-facet-uml_1.12.0-1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking crystal-facet-uml (1.12.0-1) ...
Setting up crystal-facet-uml (1.12.0-1) ...
Processing triggers for gnome-menus (3.13.3-9) ...
Processing triggers for desktop-file-utils (0.23-1) ...
Processing triggers for mime-support (3.60) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.7.6.1-2) ...
andi@debian1zotac:~/Downloads$
```

For installation you may use a gui-installation tool like yast. Because the packages are not signed, you may want to ignore the warning.
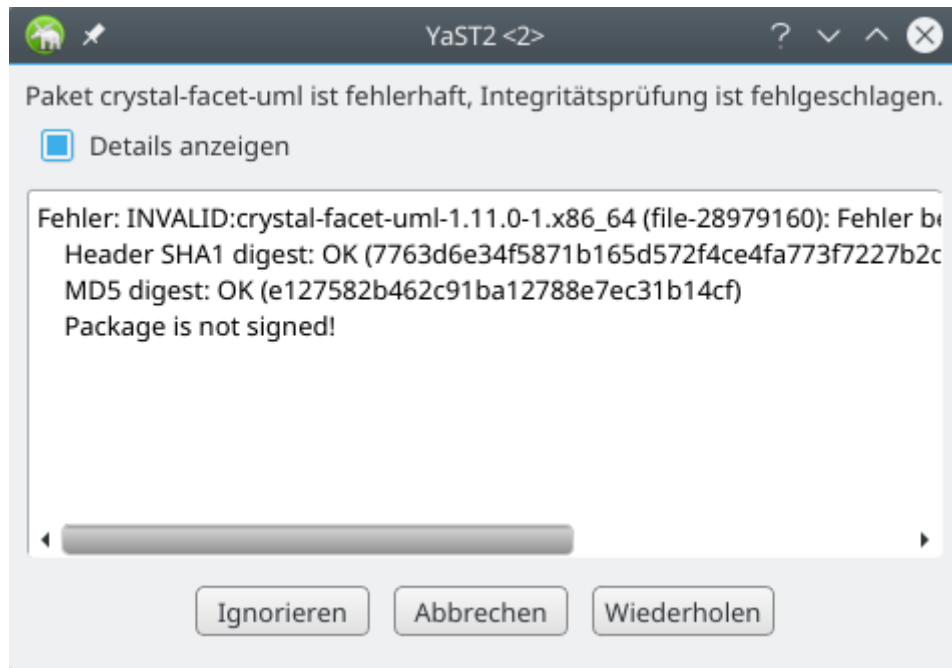
For installation on opeSuSE, you may e.g. invoke **sudo zypper install <filename>** on the command line:

```
andi@linux-uv90:~/Downloads>  sudo zypper install crystal-facet-uml-1.13.1-1.x86_64.rpm
[sudo] Passwort für root:
Repository-Daten werden geladen...
Installierte Pakete werden gelesen...
Paketabhängigkeiten werden aufgelöst...

Das folgende Paket wird aktualisiert:
crystal-facet-uml

1 Paket wird aktualisiert.
Gesamtgröße des Downloads: 698,6 KiB. Bereits im Cache gespeichert: 0 B. Nach der  ←
    Operation werden zusätzlich 8,8 KiB belegt.
Fortfahren? [j/n/...? zeigt alle Optionen] (j): j
Paket crystal-facet-uml-1.13.1-1.x86_64 abrufen  ←
                                                                     (1/1), 698,6 KiB  ←
    (  1,2 MiB entpackt)
crystal-facet-uml-1.13.1-1.x86_64.rpm:
Package is not signed!

crystal-facet-uml-1.13.1-1.x86_64 (Einfacher Cache für RPM-Dateien): Fehler beim  ←
    Überprüfen der Signatur [6-File is unsigned]
Abbrechen, wiederholen, ignorieren? [a/w/i] (a): i
Überprüfung auf Dateikonflikte läuft:  ←
    .....................................................................................
    fertig]
(1/1) Installieren: crystal-facet-uml-1.13.1-1.x86_64  ←
    ...................................................................................[ ←
    fertig]
andi@linux-uv90:~/Downloads>
```

Alternatively, you may want to build the software from the .orig source-package and then install it by **sudo make install**; see the readme file for more information.

A.1.2 License

License of crystal_facet_uml is Apache-2.0. (c) 2016-2019 Andreas Warnke; Email-contact: cfu-at-andreaswarnke-dot-de