Carneades User Manual

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1 Getting Started

The Carneades Argumentation System is open source software, freely available for downloading at http://carneades.github.com.

Carneades provides web-based, collaborative software tools for:

- summarizing the arguments of a debate in an *argument graph*
- visualizing, browsing and navigating argument graphs
- critically evaluating arguments
- formulating opinions and participating in polls, and

- constructing clear explanations, using argument graphs, of the different effects of alternative policies in particular cases.

In this manual, we distinguish three kinds of users:

Public Users. Users interested in understanding arguments and policies, whom we assume have had *no specialist training* in argumentation or policy modeling.

Analysts. Users who have had *specialist training* in argumentation or rule-based policy modelling.

System Administrators. users with sufficient computer skills to install, configure and administer the Carneades software.

These are only roles. Some people may be able to use the system in more than one of these roles. In particular, we aim to make the software simple to install and administer, so that ultimately anyone with basic computer skills will be able to serve as "system administrator".

The rest of this manual is organized in the following chapters:

- Browsing, Viewing and Evaluating Arguments
- Formulating Opinions and Participating in Polls
- Analysing and Comparing Policies
- Constructing and Editing Argument Graphs
- Modeling Policies and Argumentation Schemes
- System Administration

The first three of these chapters should be of interest to all users. The chapters on constructing argument graphs and modeling policies are for analysts with the requisite background knowledge of argument reconstruction methods and rule-based systems. The system administration chapter is required reading for anyone wishing to install and administer the Carneades software.

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