

Porting of VisualWorks® code to



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**Nidea s.r.o.**

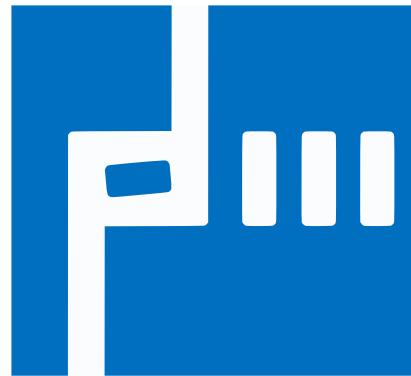


# SCHMIDT

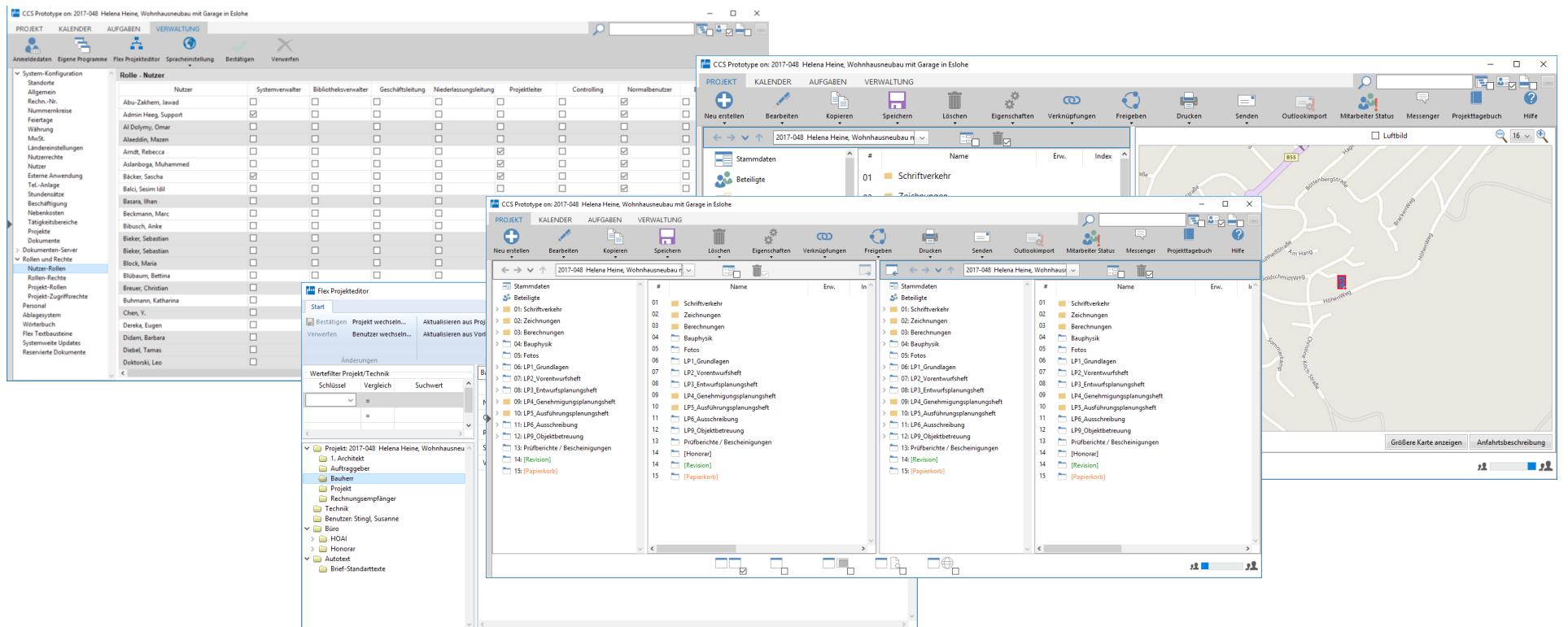
## Ingenieurbüro für Bauwesen





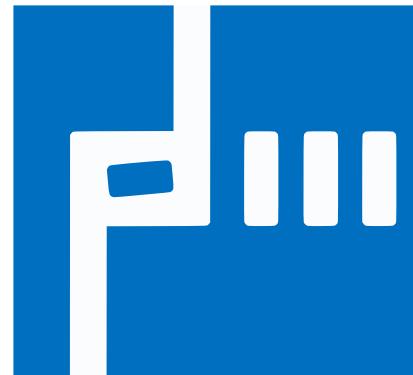


per-documaps

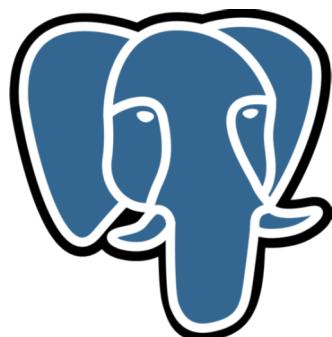


The screenshot displays the per-documaps application interface, which includes the following components:

- Left Sidebar:** Contains a tree view of system configurations, document servers, and user roles.
- Central Top Window:** Shows a list of users and their roles (e.g., Nutzer, Systemverwalter, Bibliotheksverwalter, Geschäftsbil鋘g, Niederlassungsleitung, Projektleiter, Controlling, Normalbenutzer).
- Central Middle Window:** Displays a list of project documents (e.g., Schriftverkehr, Zeichnungen, Berechnungen, Bauphysik, Fotos, LP1, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, LP6, LP7, LP8, LP9, LP10, LP11, LP12, LP13, LP14, LP15) for project 2017-048.
- Right Window:** A map showing the location of the project (Helena Heine, Wohnhausneubau in Eslohe) with a red box indicating the area of interest.



per-documaps



GLORP



 DELTA  
library

 Office

# Why to keep VisualWorks?

- Solid Smalltalk implementation, long tradition
- Good database support
- Windows support (target platform for PDM)
- Native Windows UI (±), UI Designer
- Business ready, proven solution
- Vendor support
- Existing code



# Why to leave VisualWorks?

- Slow progress
- Decreasing return value
- Loss of vendor interest
- Loss of developers interest
- Licensing politics



# Alternative?



## Alternative?

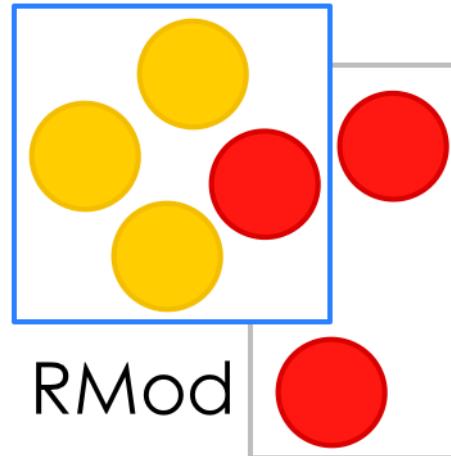


# Pharo as an alternative?

- Solid Smalltalk implementation, long tradition ?
- Good database support ?
- Windows support ?
- Native Windows UI, UI Designer ?
- Business ready, proven solution ?
- Vendor support ?
- Existing code X

## Vendor support

  
Pharo  
consortium





...what is not, we will improve!

```

| result |
result := OrderedCollection new.
aspectConditionChanges keysAndValuesDo:
[:k :condChange |
  (collectAll
    or: [part changedPartOrParentRecursively notNil or: [condChange isChanged]])
    ifTrue:
      [result add: (self
        createAnnouncedStateOn: (part inactivePartOrParentRecursively
          ifNil: [condChange])
        key: k
        type: #aspect))].
aspectsFromPaths keysAndValuesDo:
[:k :v |
  | targetPart targetAspect walkPathResult |
  walkPathResult := part walkPath: (self partFromKey: k).
  targetPart := walkPathResult key.
  targetAspect := walkPathResult value first.
  (collectAll
    or:
      [targetPart changedPartOrParentRecursively notNil
        or: [targetPart partInterface aspectConditionHasChangedFor: targetAspect]])
    ifTrue:
      [result add: (self
        computeAnnouncedStateForKey: k
        targetPart: targetPart
        targetAspect: targetAspect))].
aspectsRedirected keysAndValuesDo:
[:k :redirected |
  | targetPart targetAspect |
  targetPart := redirected toPart.
  targetAspect := redirected remainingPath first.
  (collectAll
    or:
      [targetPart changedPartOrParentRecursively notNil
        or: [targetPart partInterface aspectConditionHasChangedFor: targetAspect]]))
    ifTrue:
      [result add: (self
        computeAnnouncedStateForKey: k
        targetPart: targetPart
        targetAspect: targetAspect))].

```

# ■ Existing code



# Code conversion challenges

- How to import code?
- Different VCS?
- Language differences?
- Semantics?
- Different UI frameworks?



# Code conversion challenges

- Application still under active development
  - bi-directional transformations
- Target platform under active development
  - Spec2
- Limited timescale, human resources



## Code import

- VW: XML based \*.pst files
  - XML Parser
  - cannot be loaded directly
    - language differences
    - dependencies
    - system corruption risk
  - not stable order during saving
    - not suitable for versioning



## Code import

- models using Ring 2
  - need of modified scanner & parser
  - allows code transformations
  - simple export to Tonel format
  - code management in Git
  - no risk of system corruption
  - tools
  - export to \*.pst format



# Language differences

- namespaces

Store.Model  
UI.Model

- qualified literals

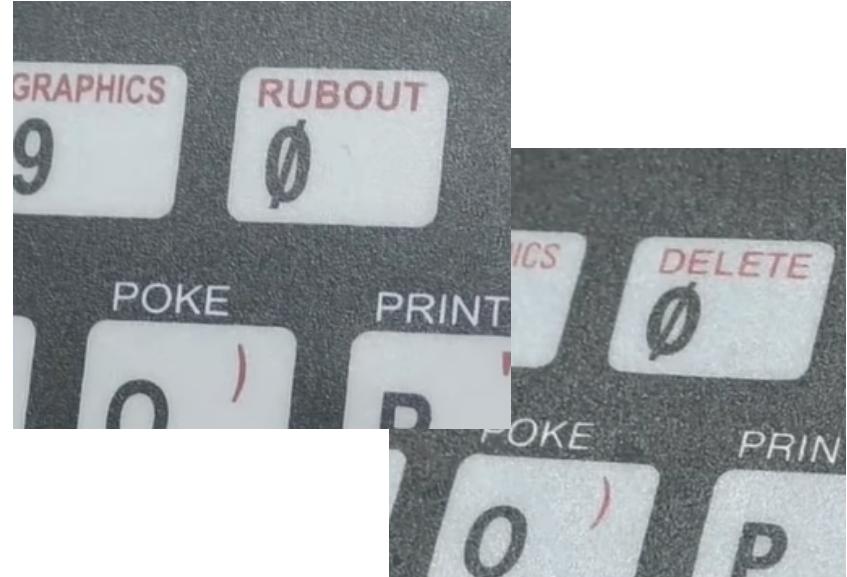
#{UI.CheckBoxSpec}

- shared variables

- class definitions

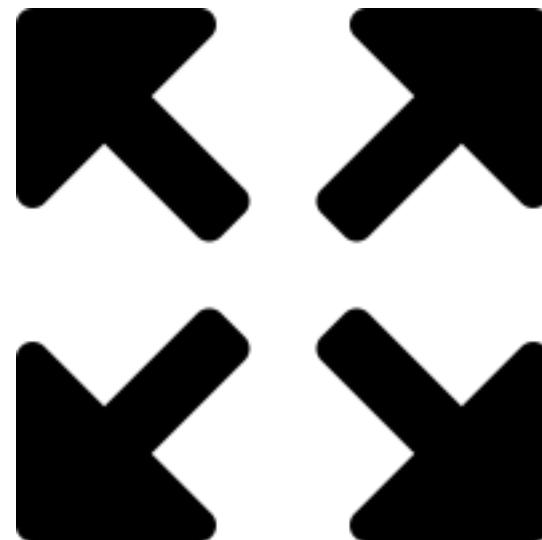
- FFI calls

```
<C:typedef int64_t (*callb_after_send_t)(unsigned char* handlerID, int
PortServerID, unsigned char* inputBuffer, int cbInput)>
```



# Pharo extensions

- dynamic arrays  
`{1. 2. 1+2}`
- traits
- slots
- comments



"Pharo has ""quotes"" inside comments"

# Transformations

- hints as comments

```
login := Login new.  
"VW_TRANSLATION:Glorp.Login:Login"
```

- methods with metadata

```
visualWorksMetadata  
  ^ #(  
    'superclassNamespace' 'UI'  
  )
```

# Differences in semantics

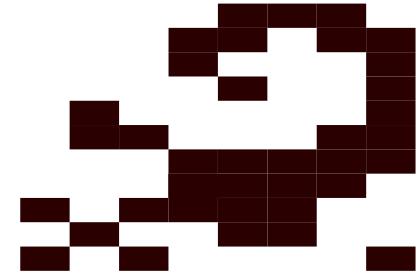


# Differences in semantics

- object initialization (`new`)
  - inherit from class that behaves differently
- same methods with different behavior (`Pragma>>#selector`)
- dependencies mechanism
- no Wipe mechanism
- `(#Smalltalk = 'Smalltalk') = false`
- `'asdf' readStream upToAll: 'd'; upToEnd`
  - `'f'` in Pharo, `'df'` in VisualWorks

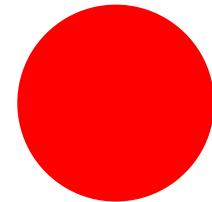
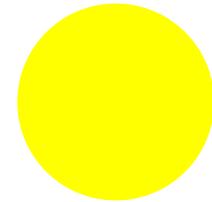
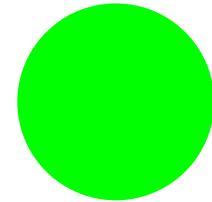
# Differences in semantics

- `nil responds to #size`
- `#(nil nil) asSet size (VW: 0, Pharo: 1)`
- `'ab' endsWith: $c (VW: true)`
- `1.0 == 1.0 (VW: false)`
- `'' asNumber (VW: 0, Pharo: error)`
- `method instVarNamed: 'sourceCode'`
- `Dictionary new keys (VW: Set, Pharo: Array)`



# Tests!

- many small hidden incompatibilities
- hard to detect with static analysis
- good code coverage, mutation testing, UI tests
- useful for the platform updates too



# System design

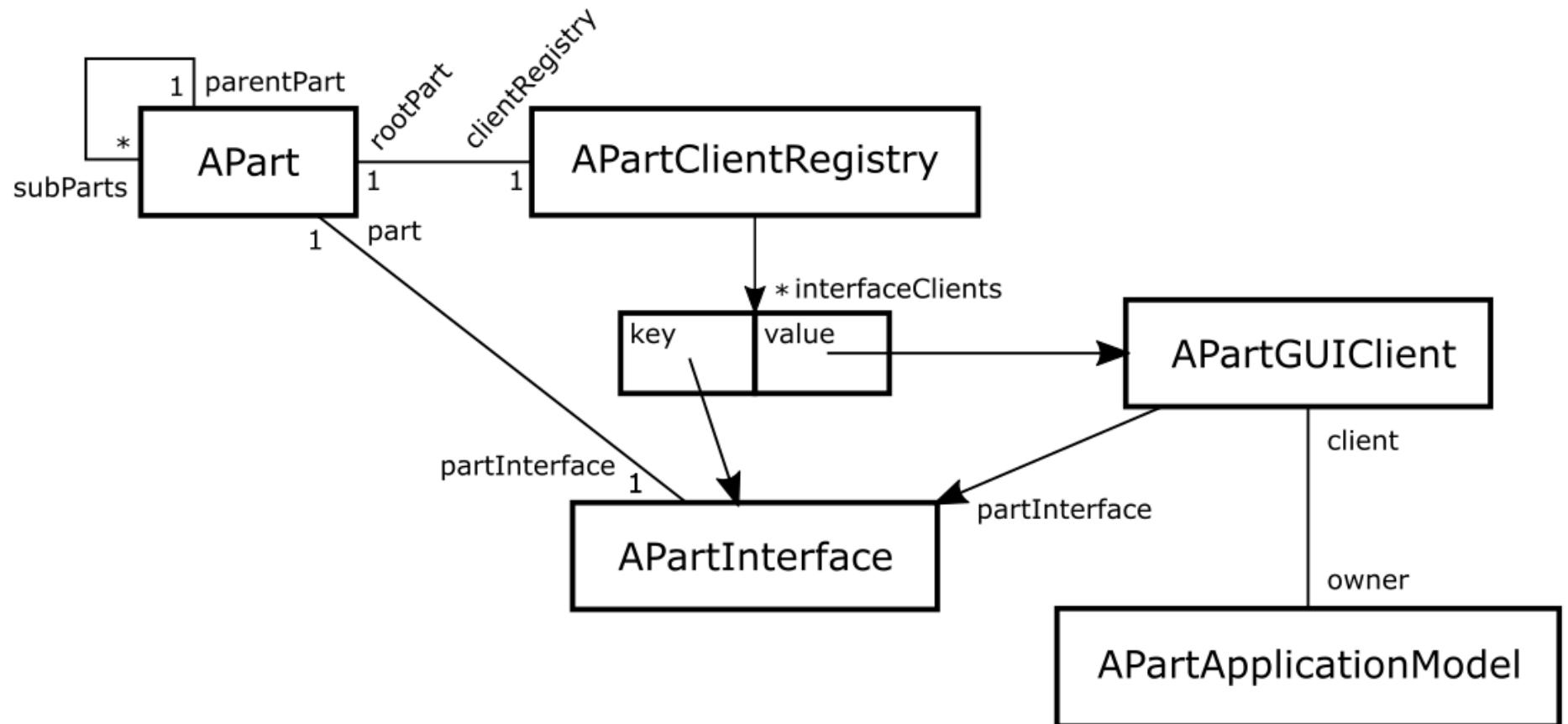


# apart FRAMEWORK

- layers separation
- minimize redundancy, improve re-usability
- minimize work required for the UI and “glue” layers
- improve testability
- support for the common business application patterns
- ...

**production quality small business application in few days**

# Clients separation



# apart FRAMEWORK

- describes applications using well-defined first-class entities (parts, conditions, actions, use-cases...)

partInterface

```
createAction: #submit  
  
do: [ self submit ]  
  
if: (APCondition on: [self isDirty] ifNot: #NoChange)  
  
helpText: 'Submit the form'.
```

- predefined parts (for lists, trees...)
- enumerations (combo-boxes, menus...)

# apart FRAMEWORK

- **aspects redirection**

```
partInterface createAspectNamed: #statesList
    redirectTo: #(state enumerationTextList).
```

- **layouts, UI configurations**

```
aValueConfiguration addConfigElement: (APValueConfigElementList
    onPart: aValueConfiguration key: #options
    preInit: [:el | el rawList: options; yourself]
    postInit: [:el | el labelBefore: 'Options'];
    expectedLines: 10; yourself])
```

# apart FRAMEWORK

- generic UI clients
- interactions recording, automatic UI tests generation

```
self afterDoing: [
    self setAspect: #stringField value: 'foo'.
]
expectStates: [
    APExpectedStates
    expectAllInactive: #(#clearNumber #confirmNumber #saveData)
    expectAllActive:  #(#clearString #confirmString
                      #disableInput #intField #stringField) ].
```

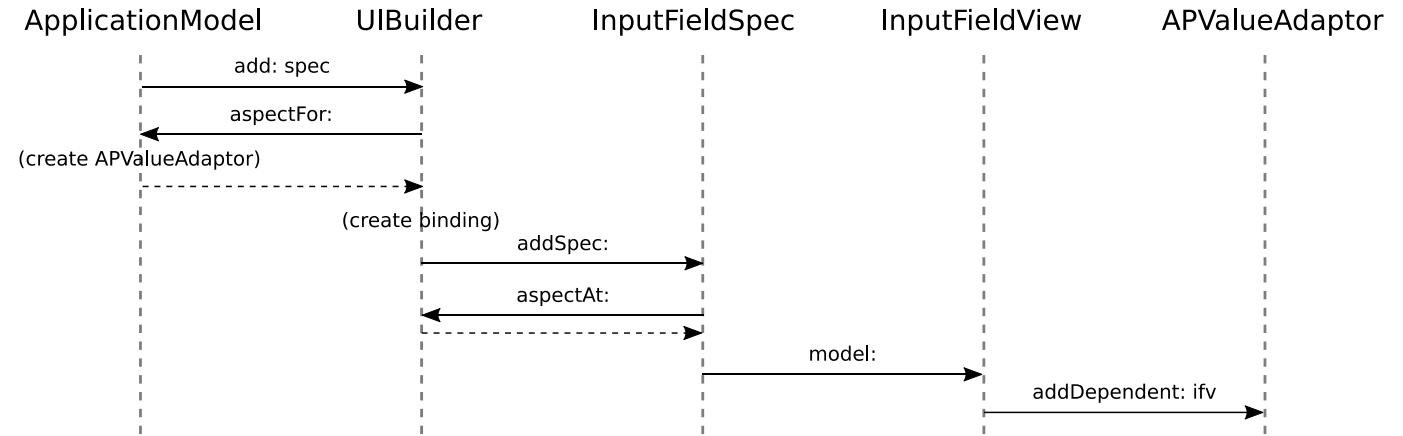
- prompts, modal windows
- Glorp, Trachel...

# UI layers adoption

- VW: Aspect adaptors
  - closer relationship between the model and a widget
- Pharo: Value holders (in Slots)
- Different dependencies management

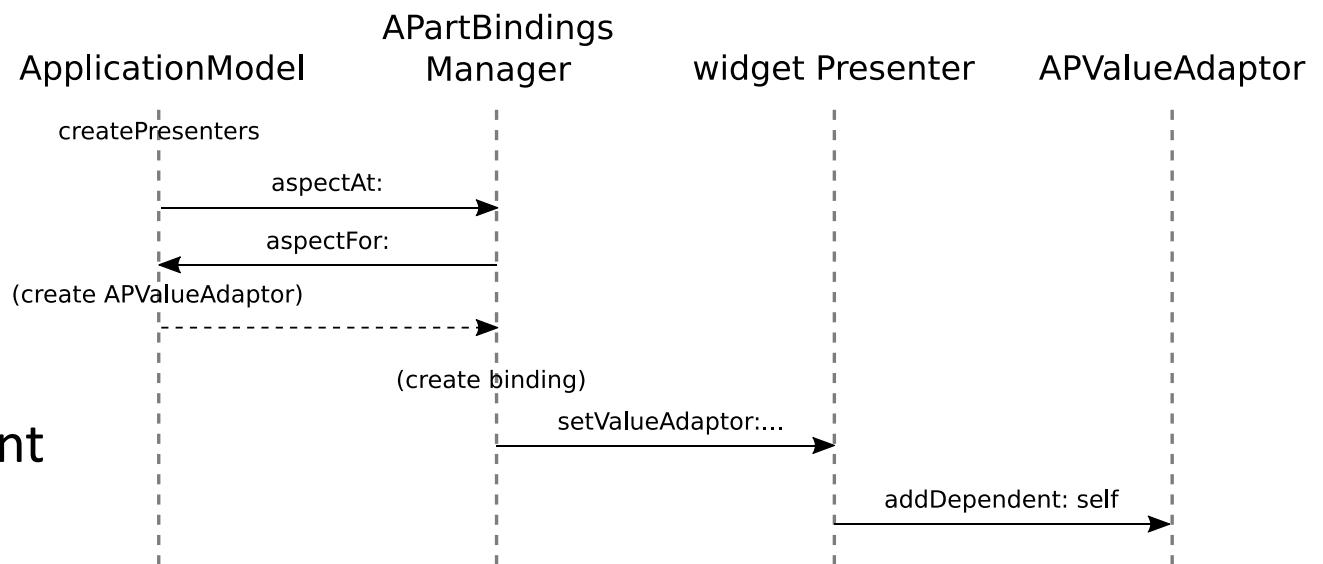
# UI layers adoption

## ■ VisualWorks



## ■ Pharo

- “compatible” ApplicationModel
- UIBuilder replacement



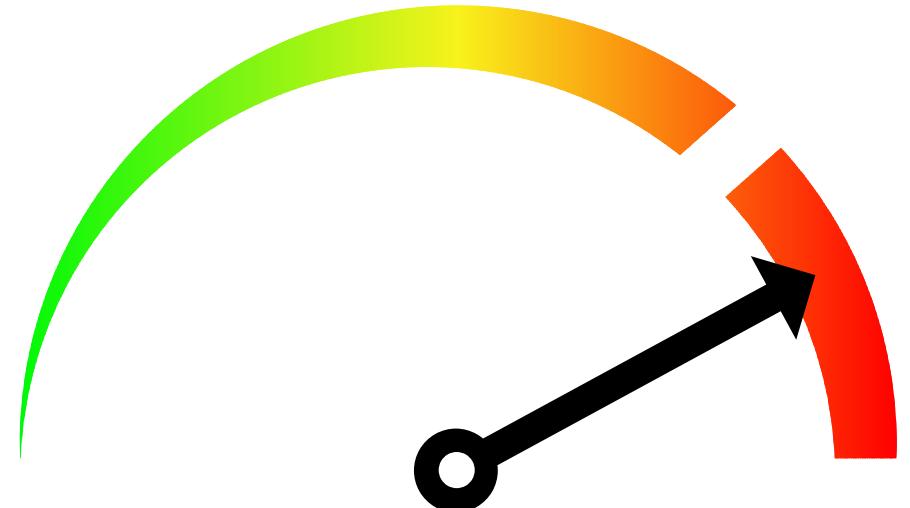
# Bindings

- Delta library
  - Bernd Elkemann
  - polling as intermediate step
- C#, MS Office connection to Pharo
  - Benedikt Ehl



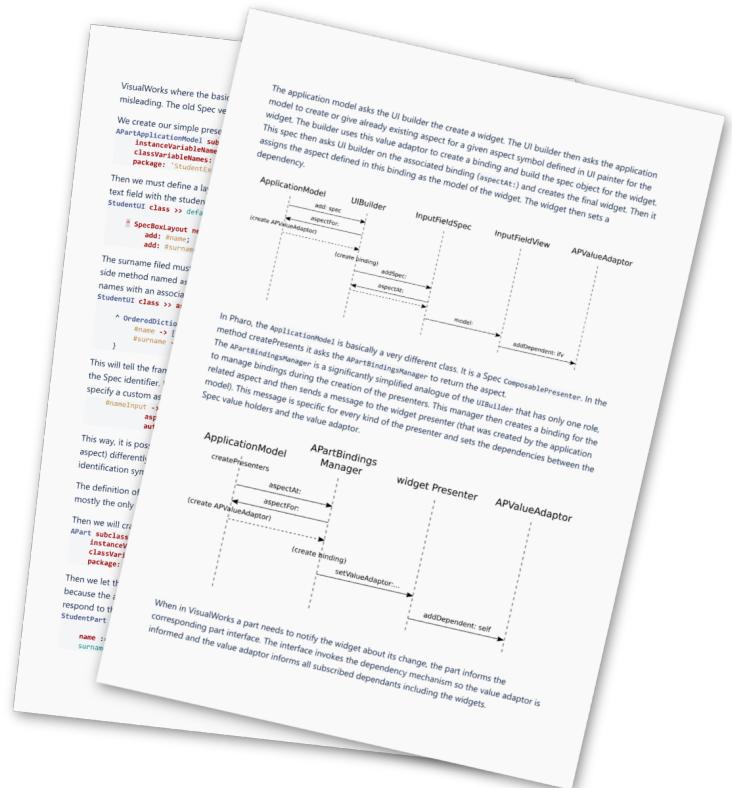
# Acceleration of infrastructure improvements

- Consortium:
  - Threaded FFI
  - Spec 2
  - GTK for Spec 2
  - Better Windows VM
  - Headless VM
  - ...



# apart FRAMEWORK

- will be open-sourced
- user-friendly documentation
- complex examples with Glorp

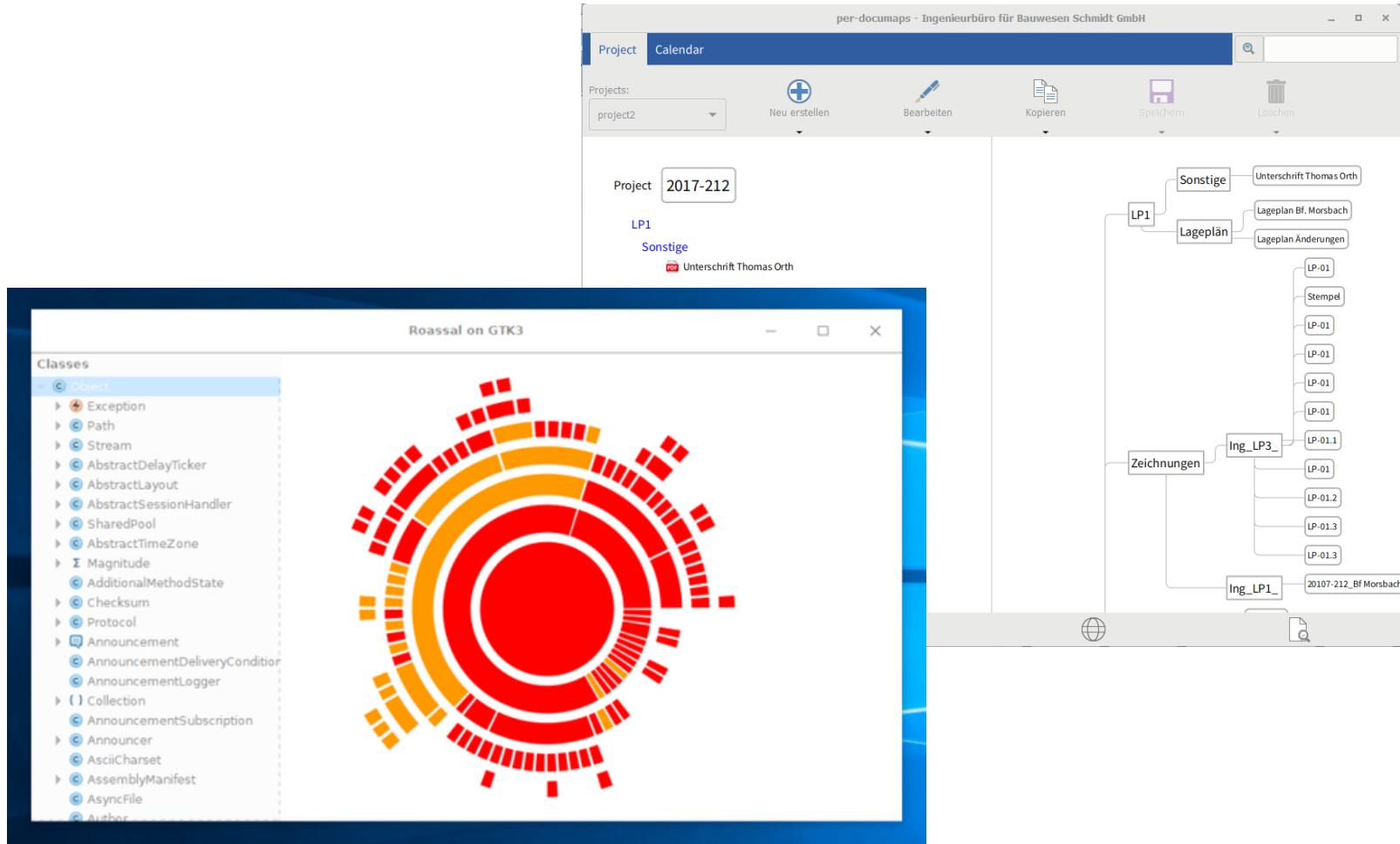


# Glorp

Pharo	PDM (VW)	latest (VW)
8.0.1	8.2	8.3.1-23

- Pharo version repackaging to fit VW structure again
- Pharo changes analysis, formatting
- VisualWorks code conversion
- merging
- testing

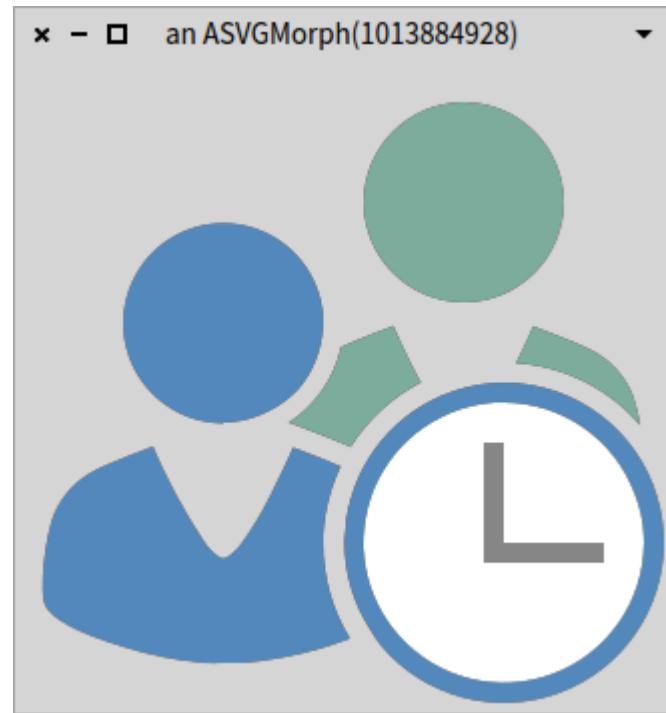
# Trachel/Roassal on GTK



# SVG support



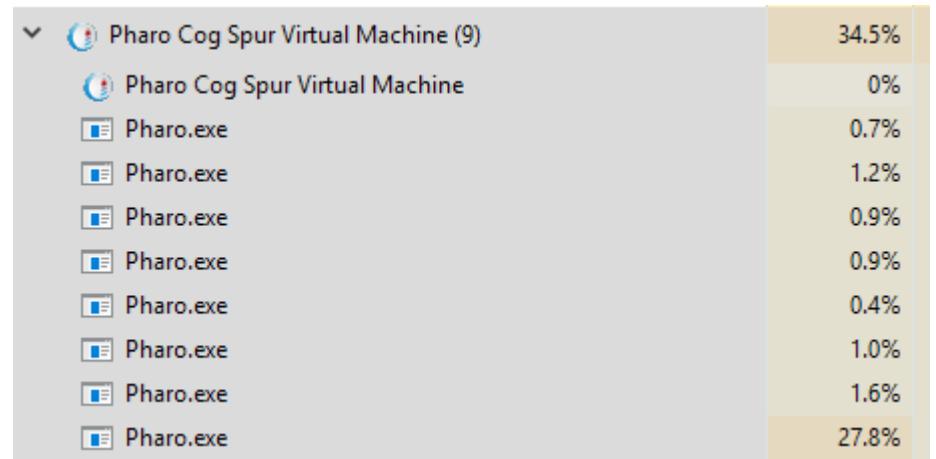
original



fixed in PDM  
(CSS parsing, arcs)

# Read-only image mode

- Multiple headless instances of the same image (specialized workers)
- Seamless connections
- TaskIt futures



## Gettext - update

- Pharo library for locale-aware translations of strings that use standard GNU gettext file formats

```
Metacello new
baseline: 'Gettext';
repository: 'github://pharo-contributions/Gettext/source';
load.
```



# Do you want to port your application to Pharo?

- improve your tests
- clean your architecture
- tell us about your needs
- participate
- Pharo is not just a free alternative...

```
converter := VWToTonelConverter new.  
converter  
    convert: files  
    into: 'result' asFileReference.
```



# is yours

