

CLAIMS

1. An end-to-end process modeler comprising:
a non-technical interface to permit design of a business process by a non-technical user; and
a technical interface to implement substeps of the process to automate technical aspects of the process by a technical user, using the same process modeler;
the resulting process designed to be used by non-technical employees, to automatically lead the non-technical employees through the business process.
2. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 1, wherein the non-technical interface comprises:
functional blocks used to represent various types of steps and connectors that are used to create the process.
3. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 2, wherein the non-technical interface displays the functional blocks in swim-lanes, each swim-lane identifying an actor.
4. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 3, wherein each functional block is associated with a swim lane, in accordance with the actor whose role it is to perform the functional block.

5. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 2, wherein the functional blocks are reusable.

6. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 2, wherein a type of the functional block is visually identifiable.

7. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 6, wherein the type of the functional block is differentiated one or more of: graphical icon, color, and shape.

8. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 1, wherein tools available in the non-technical interface are a simplified toolset to avoid confusing the non-technical user.

9. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 1, further comprising:
a user identification logic to identify a user type, the user type used to identify a technical or a non-technical user.

10. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 1, further comprising:
a transfer and flagging logic to transfer a process from the non-technical user to the technical user for implementation, the transfer and flagging logic creating visual indications of which elements need work for the technical user.

11. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 10, wherein the visual indications are flags, and elements and connections are flagged.

12. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 10, wherein there are a plurality of types of flags, each type of flag indicating a type of work needed.

13. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 12, wherein the plurality of types of flags are differentiated by one or more of the following: graphical icon, shape, color, and size.

14. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 1, wherein the technical interface displays the functional blocks of the business process in swim-lanes, each swim-lane identifying a system.

15. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 14, wherein each functional block is associated with a swim lane, in accordance with the system on which the function implemented by the functional block is performed.

16. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 15, wherein the view is automatically converted from a role-based view to the system-based view, when the process is displayed in the technical interface.

17. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 16, wherein the conversion is based on the functional blocks, which identify the system by which the functional block is executed.

18. An apparatus to create an integrated business process comprising:

a plurality of interfaces, each type of user interface associated with a user type;

a user identification logic to identify the user type and display an appropriate user interface, one user interface tailored for designing the business process, and another interface tailored for making the business process executable.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the user interface include: a design interface, an implementation interface, and a high level overview interface.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the design interface is designed for a non-technical user, to create and edit the integrated business processes.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the design interface includes a plurality of elements and connectors to perform a task.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the design interface displays the plurality of elements in swim lanes organized according to an actor performing each of the elements.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the elements and the connectors available to the non-technical user are simplified.

24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the elements and the connectors available to the non-technical user are coded to identify a type of element or connector.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the coding of the elements and connectors comprise one or more of the following: graphical icon, color, shape, and size.

26. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the implementation interface includes a plurality of programming oriented elements and connectors.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the implementation interface displays the plurality of elements in swim lanes organized according to a system on which the element is executed.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the view is automatically converted from a role-based view to the system-based view, when the process is displayed in the implementation interface.

29. The end-to-end process modeler of claim 28, wherein the automatic conversion uses the elements, each of which identifies the system performing the steps of the element.

30. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

a transfer and flagging logic to flag elements and connectors requiring work after the business process is initially designed.

31. A machine readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions to enable design of a business process, which when executed by a computer system, cause said computer system to perform the steps of:

identifying a user type;

displaying a user interface tailored for the user type, the user interface comprising a design interface targeted to a non-technical user, or an implementation interface targeted to a technical user.

32. The machine readable medium of claim 31, further comprising:
permitting a design of the business process, the business process comprised of a plurality of elements and connectors; and
transferring the business process from the non-technical user to the technical user for implementation.

33. The machine readable medium of claim 32, wherein the step of transferring the business process further comprises:
flagging the elements and the connectors that require additional work for implementation.

34. The machine readable medium of claim 32, wherein the step of transferring the business process further comprises:

generating a system-based view of the process from the role-based view shown to the non-technical user.

35. The machine readable medium of claim 34, wherein generating the system-based view of the process uses the elements, each of which is associated with a system.