Building Applications with Protégé: An Overview

Protégé Conference July 23, 2006

Outline

- Protégé and Databases
- Protégé Application Designs
 - API Application Designs
 - Web Application Designs
- Higher-Level Access to Protégé Knowledge Bases
 - Reasoning Systems (Algernon, Jess)
 - Scripting Language Interfaces
 - Problem Solving Methods (PSMs)

What does Protégé do?

Answer: Nothing!

Protégé is a tool.

Allows you to create a model and collect information. Similar to, and just a useless as, a database.

What you probably want is an application that does something useful...

How is Protégé different from a database?

- Emphasis on *model* vs. *data*
 - Protege: Model is equal or more interest as data
 - Database: Data is important, model is secondary
- Emphasis on expressiveness over performance
 - Protege: Richer modeling language
 - inheritance relationships
 - constraint "overriding"
 - expressing "webs" of relationships
 - Database: Simpler modeling language, optimized for speed

The misleading question

Q: What can you do with technology X that you cannot do with related technology Y?

A: (Usually) nothing

Q: What can you do with Protégé that is impossible with a database?

A: Nothing

Q: What can you do with a database that is impossible with a file?

A: Nothing

Q: What can you do with Java that is impossible with assembly language?

A: Nothing

Phrasing the question as "possible vs. impossible" leads nowhere.

The real question

When is it easier, clearer, more straightforward to use X instead of Y?

Preferable to have *direct* rather than *simulated* support for desired features.

- Simulation reduces clarity and portability
- Some simulation may be necessary, but the less the better

Protégé might be better than a database when:

- Model consists of rich data, with many relationships that are often traversed.
- Requirements and application design are changing and not clearly specified.
 - Protege is a good exploratory and experimentation environment.
 - Quick iterations are possible between model, data, and application changes.

Oversimplified Answer:

- Simple, flat, fixed model, speed paramount -> Database
- Complex, network-like, changing model with concept hierarchies -> Protégé

It doesn't have to be either/or

- Construct model in Protégé
- Initial implementations with Protégé
- Iterate until requirements/design is firm, initial data is input
- Generate database schema from Protégé model and populate database with Protégé instances

Application designs

- An application design that doesn't work
- Applications designs that do work
 - API-level application designs
 - Web application designs

An application design that doesn't work

Idea:

- 1. Create Protégé project with database backend
- Create the classes and instances
- 3. Access the database tables directly with other applications
- Database tables are designed and optimized to work with a particular application in mind.
 - The Protégé database table was designed with the Protégé application in mind
 - The Protégé database table was NOT designed with your application in mind
- Instead access the data though the Protégé API.

Protégé API applications

- Tab as an application
- Standalone application
- Model-based software engineering:
 - Using the *jsave* package
 - Using the automatic code generation command in Protégé-OWL

Protégé tab as an application

Description

- Create a custom tab plugin
- Configure Protégé to just display your tab

Pros

- Simple
- Possible reuse of Protégé's GUI components
- Great for few users
- Iteration (change of model, data, app) is very easy

Cons

- Protégé must be installed
- Difficult to permanently disable standard functions
- Stuck with Protégé menus, toolbar, etc
- No security on underlying model and data
- User really should know something about Protégé

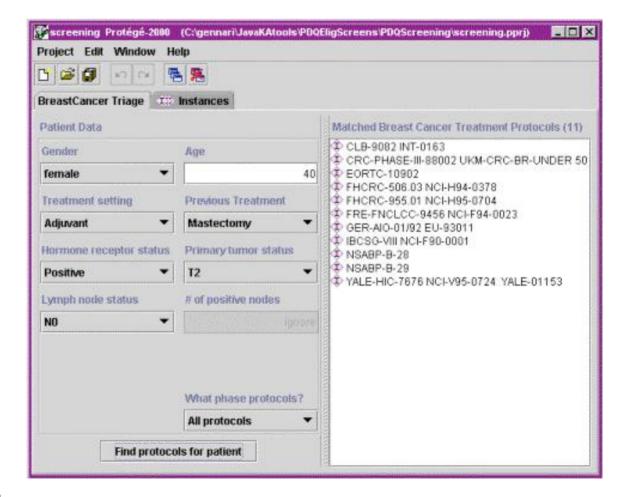
Example: Protocol-eligibility Screening Tab

Goal: Given a simple set of patient data, find potential matching clinical trial protocols.

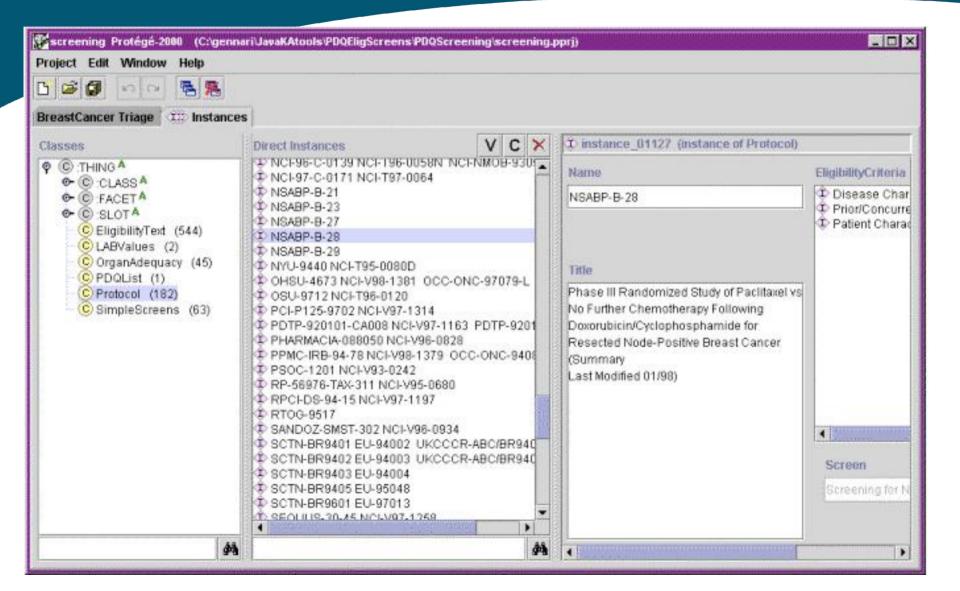
Knowledge base: Eligibility criteria as listed in NCI's Physician Data Query database.

Method: Criteria are simplified and hand-coded into selection rules.

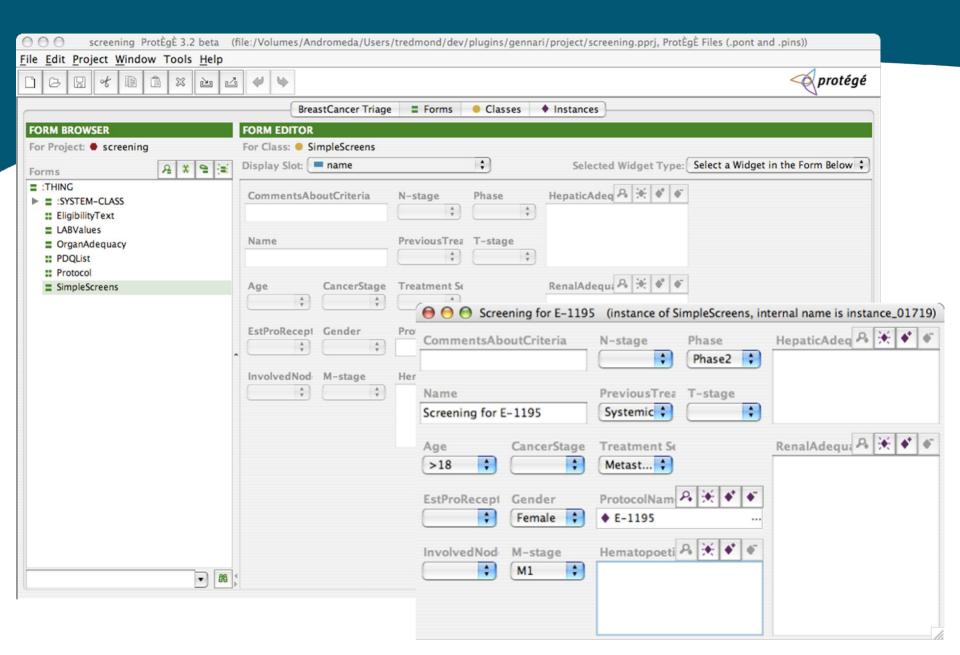
<u>User interface</u>: tab using Protégé's GUI components.



Example: Eligibility Tab's underlying ontology



Example: Eligibility Tab's use of forms

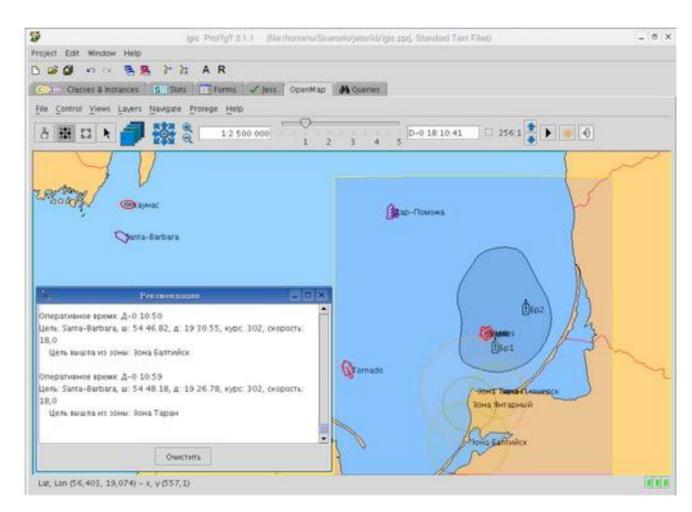


Example: Intelligent Geographic System (The "OpenMap" tab)

Goal: study complex spatial processes by simulation and modeling.

Method: combination of various inferencing components (e.g. Jessbased)

<u>User interface</u>: entirely custom-tailored tab.



Standalone application

Description

- Write standalone Java Application
- Call into the Protégé API for knowledge base access
- Often evolves from a Tab
- Can be embedded as a Tab

swt1

Pros

- No need to install Protégé
- User doesn't need to know anything about Protégé
- Underlying model and data are as secure as you want
- Can use some or none of the Protégé UI, as desired
 - Forms for classes and instances are available
 - Some tabs will work

Cons

Iteration somewhat more difficult than as Tab

swt1

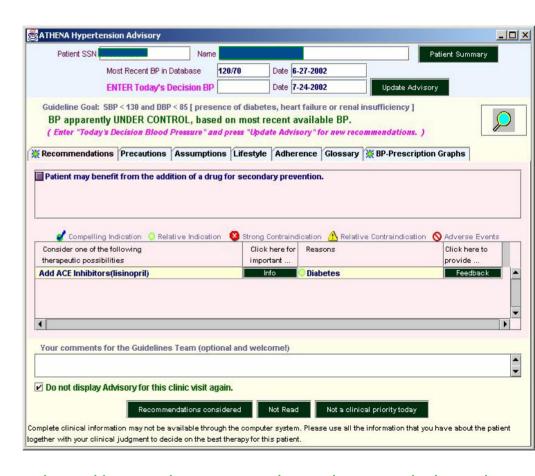
Standaline application can also be made into a tab. In ATHENA, we started with a standalone interface and then created a tab for demo and testing. The tab is tremendously useful as a testing environment. You can change the knowledge base and test it right away.

Samson Tu, 3/25/2006

Example: The EON and ATHENA projects

swt2

- Goal: provide decision support systems for guideline-based care
 - Knowledge base: model of clinical practice guidelines and protocols, instantiated for hypertension and other medical problems.
- Methods: software components that assist clinicians (therapy advisory; database mediator for time-oriented queries; explanation and visualization facilities).
- <u>User interface</u>: Custom, standalone application, within larger VA clinical information system (also embedded as Protégé tab for testing purpose)



http://www.chce.research.med.va.gov/athena/

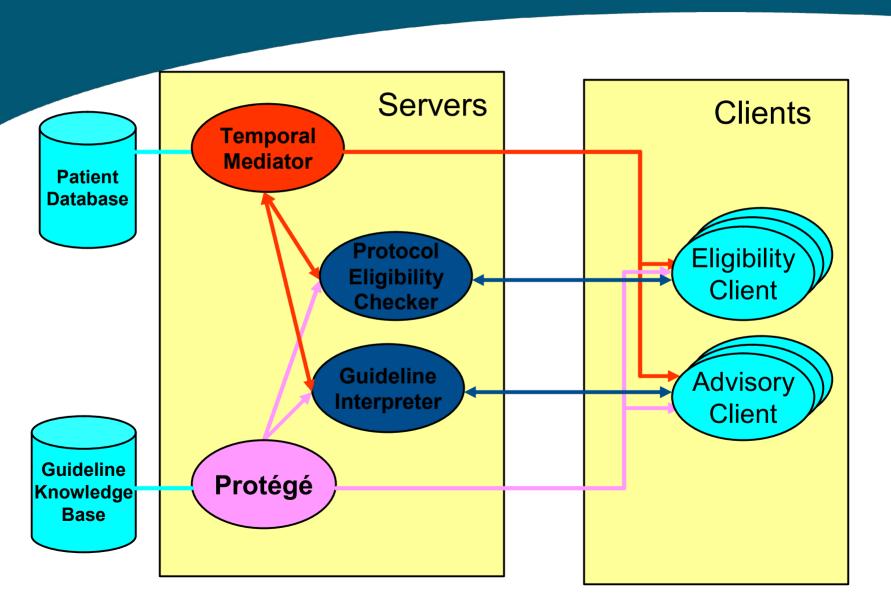
swt2

I know it makes exposition more difficult, butI can't resist separating the two projects. EON develops the underlying software components and guideline model. ATHENA applies them to specific medical problems in VA.

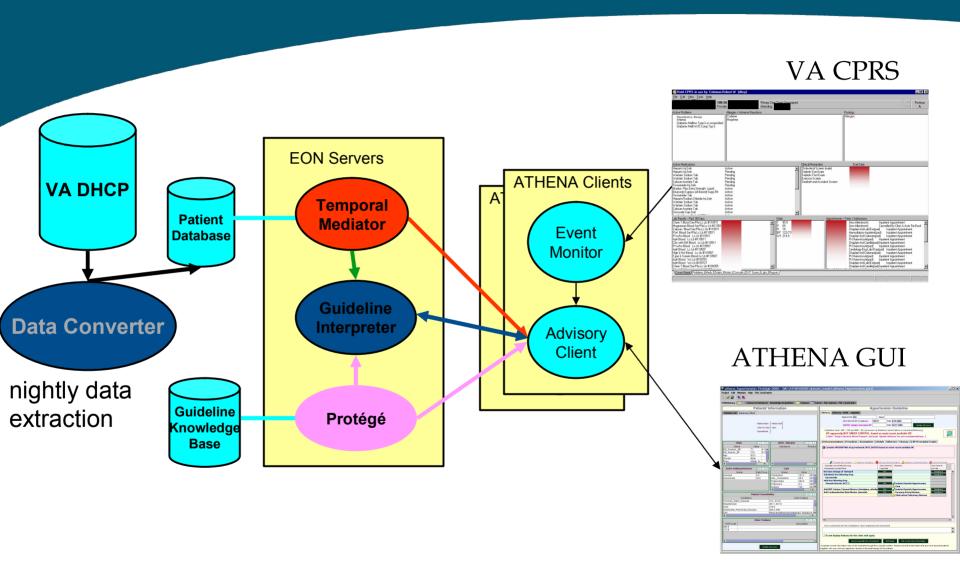
(BTW, ATHENA is no longer limited to hypertension. ATHENA Opioid Therapy is being developed. ATHENA Chronic Kidney Disease is in proposal stage.)

Samson Tu, 3/25/2006

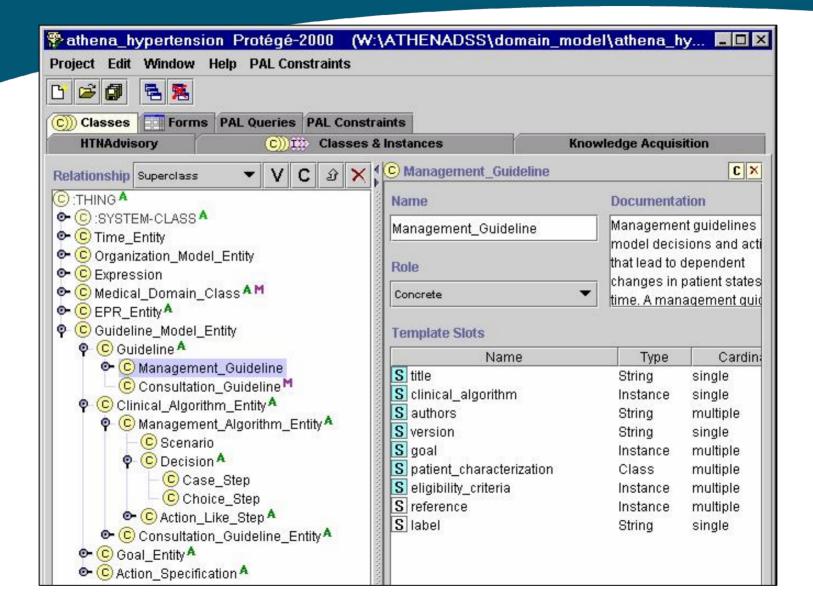
EON: An Architecture for Guideline-Based Decision Support



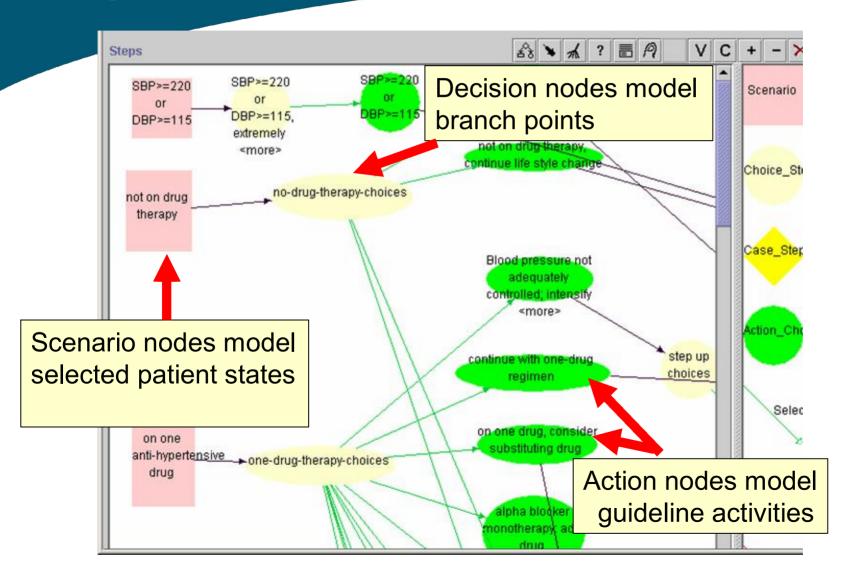
Building ATHENA System From EON Components



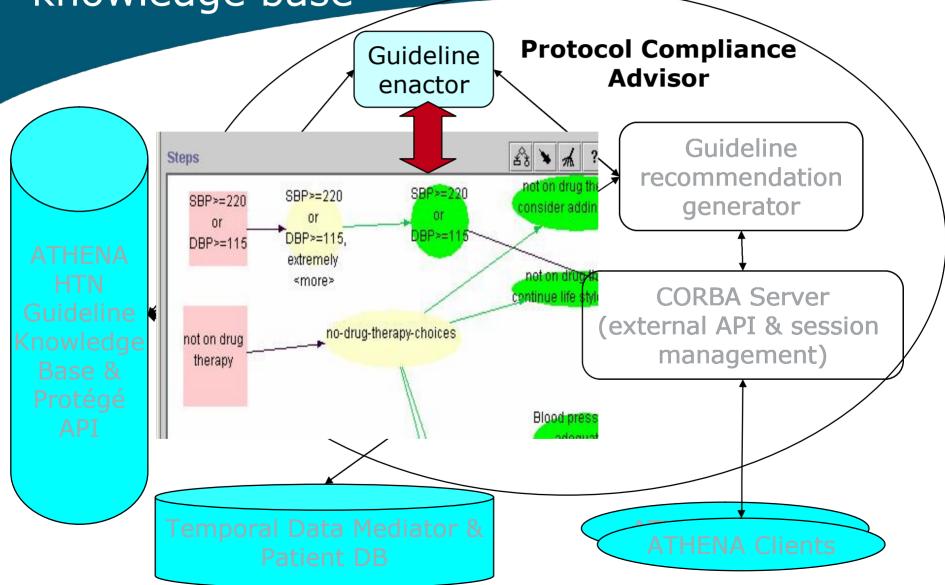
Example: Underlying ontology of guidelines



Example: ATHENA's underlying model of process knowledge using Protégé graph widget



Example: EON/ATHENA decision-support system adds behaviors to Protégé knowledge base



swt3

Model-based sofware engineering*: Using Protégé as a CASE tool with jsave

Description

- Create reusable domain/application ontologies and knowledge bases (usually process-oriented)
- Use the jsave application** to generate automatically a set of Java implementation classes from Protégé class and slot definitions
 - Protégé instances are also Java instances of their corresponding classes
 - · Protégé API methods for frames and instances are inherited
- Write custom methods for the generated Java classes, taking full advantage of Protégé API

Pros

- Direct correspondence between ontological model and code
- Neat way to add behavior to Protégé knowledge bases
- User-written code preserved as Protégé model changes

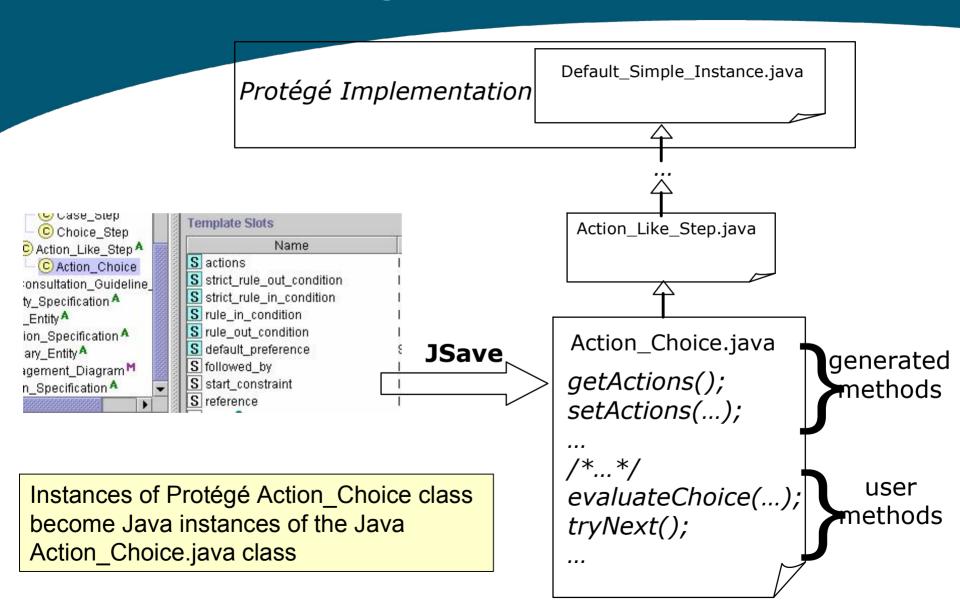
Cons

 Java serialization model doesn't encompass all of Protégé's modeling richness due to limitations in Java (ex: multiple inheritance)

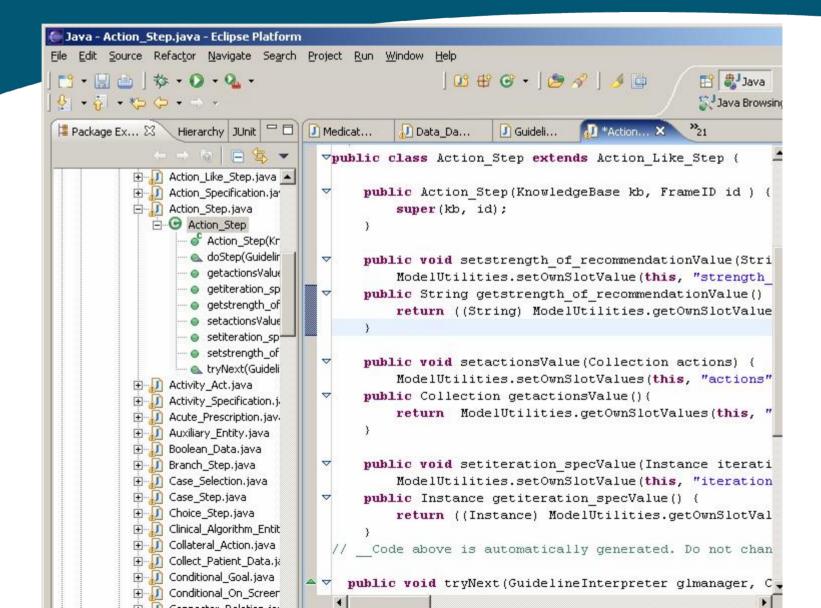
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Typo sofware Samson Tu, 3/25/2006 swt3

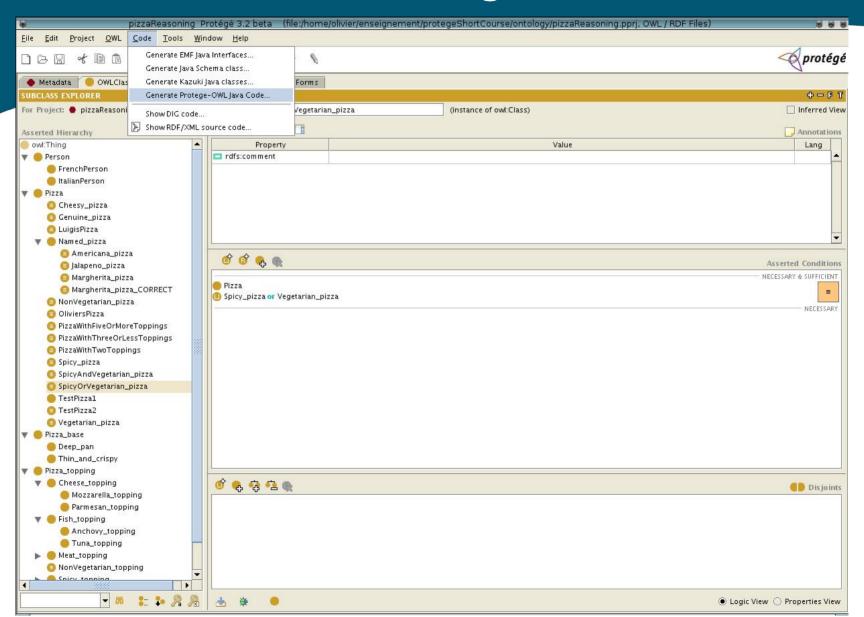
Translating Protégé class definitions to Java classes using JSave



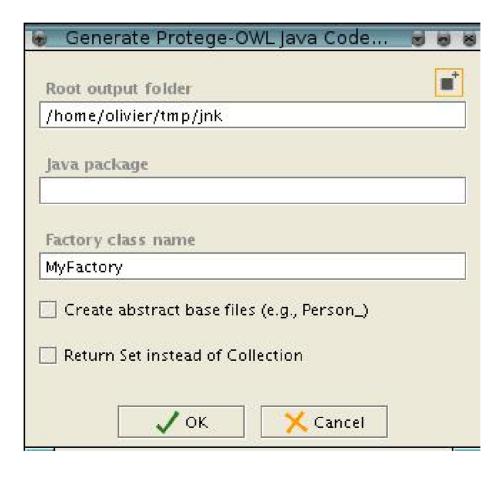
From platform-independent domain model to code: Protégé classes => Java classes



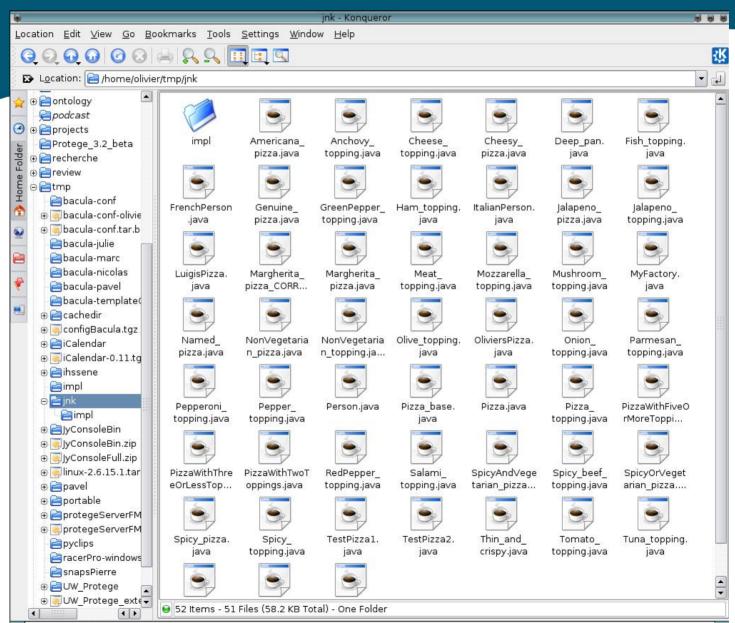
Using automatic Java code generation menu command in Protégé-OWL



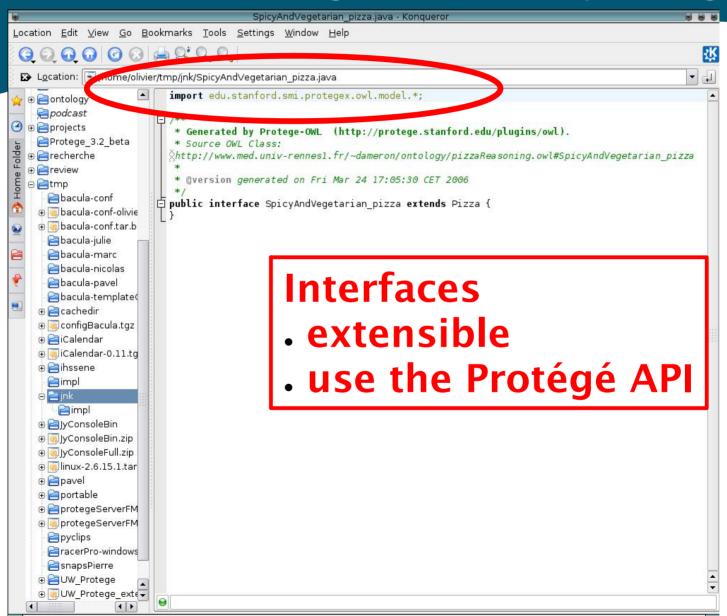
Protégé-OWL's Java code generation: Specifying options



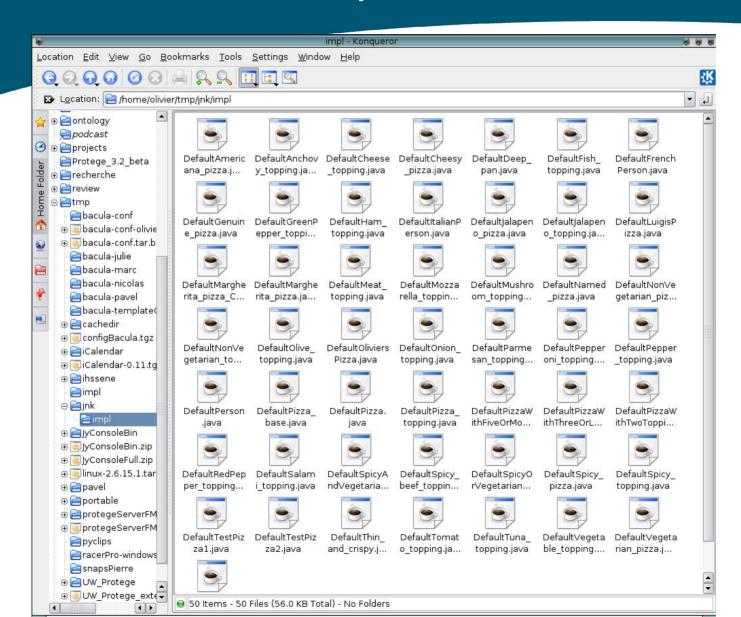
Protégé-OWL's Java code generation: Set of Java classes and interfaces



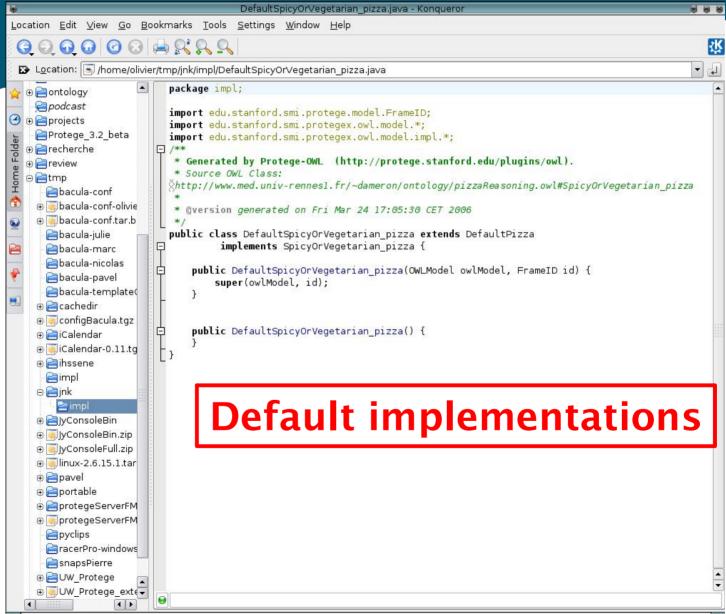
Protégé-OWL's Java code generation: Inheritance of Protégé-OWL API packages

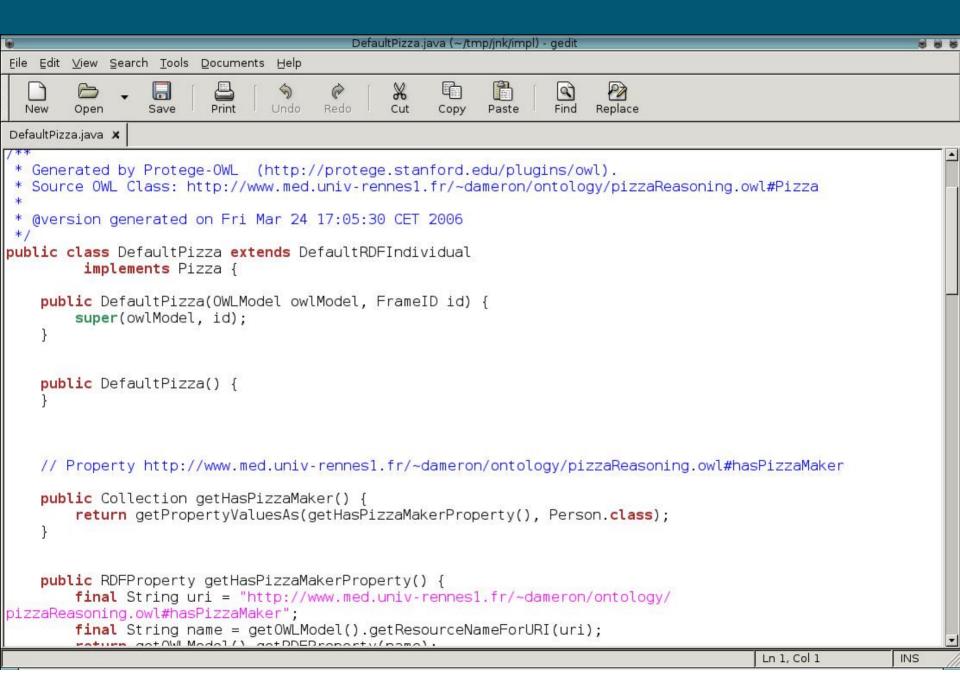


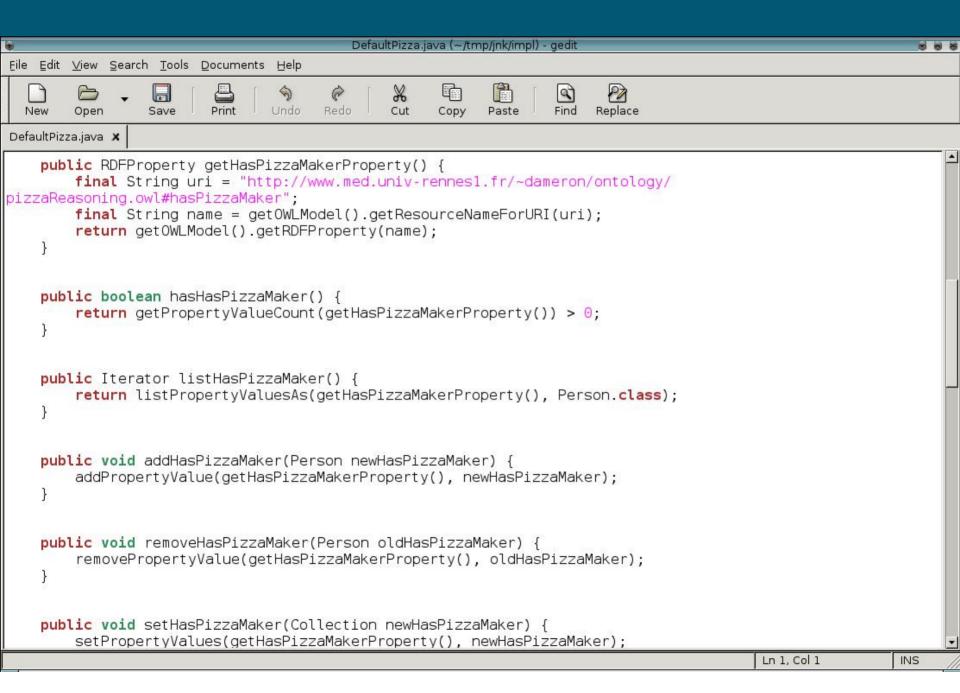
Protégé-OWL's Java code generation: Set of default implementation classes



Protégé-OWL's Java code generation: Default implementation classes







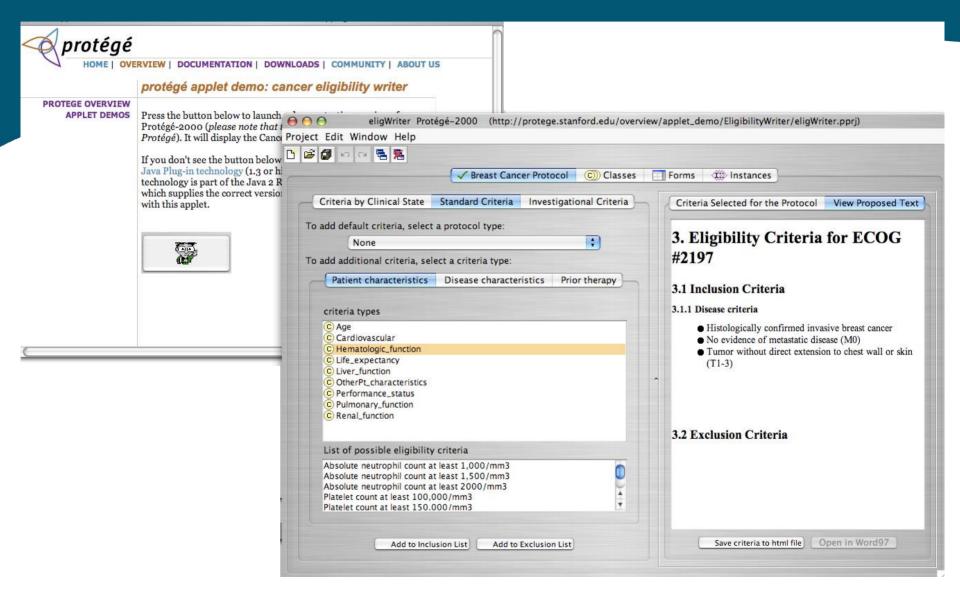
Protégé over the Web

- Applets
- Java WebStart
- Servlets and Java Server Pages
- Protégé RMI server
- Custom server

Applets

- Applets are a standard Web Browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox) plugin for running Java programs inside a browser.
- By default the application runs in a "sandbox"
 - No file system access
- Requires no "application" installation.
- Requires one installation of correct Java version
- Application is only available by going to a web page no offline capabilities

Examples: Protégé Web site demos



Java WebStart

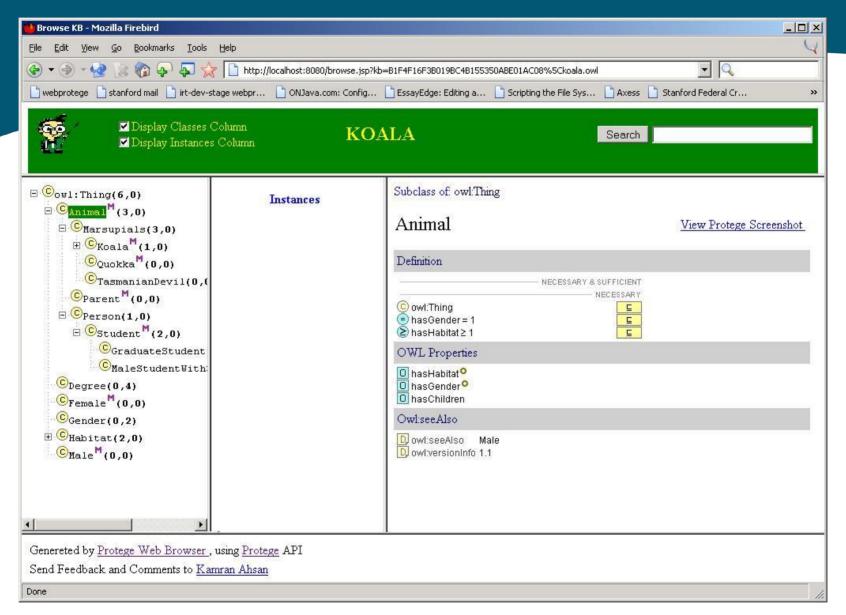
- WebStart is a standard Java mechanism for installing and running Java programs on a client.
- Application is "automatically" installed and started when the user hits a URL.
- Improvement on Applets:
 - Handles Java VM updates
 - Handles application updates
 - Allows off line execution
 - Allows application execution without starting browser

Servlets and Java Server Pages (JSP)

- Servlets are web server plugins written in Java.
 - Called by accessing a particular URL.
 - Control the design and content of the page sent to the caller's browser
- JSP are code written in a "java-like-language" embedded in a web page. This code can make calls to the web server and typically control the design and/or content of part of the page.
- Typically servlets (directly) and JSP's (indirectly) call into the Protégé API to access knowledge base elements and use this information to influence the design and content of web pages.

Example: "Protege Web Browser"

Example: Protégé Web Browser



Remote Method Invocation (RMI) server

- Standard Java remote procedure call mechanism.
- Used by the Protégé multi-user client.
- Provides programmatic access to Protégé API across the web.
- No need to export project access or database access

<u>Example</u>: Protégé Multiuser Client/Server system (see http://protege.stanford.edu/doc/multiuser/index.html)

Custom server

 Wrap the Protégé API (or the part that you want to export) with your own API and then make it available with whatever network protocol you like.

Example: Protégé CORBA Server

(see http://www.mitre.org/work/tech_transfer/protegeserver/index.html)

Web Services

Description

 Wrap reasoning and ontology-manipulation functions as one or more Web Services

Pros

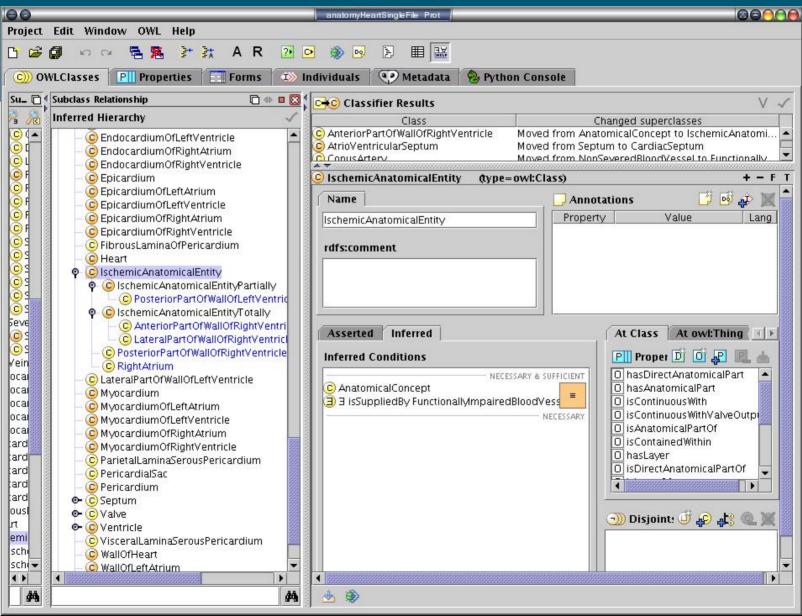
- It is better to have domain knowledge separated from application(s)
 - maintenance of KB is easier
 - maintenance of applications is easier
 - semantic interoperability between applications

Cons

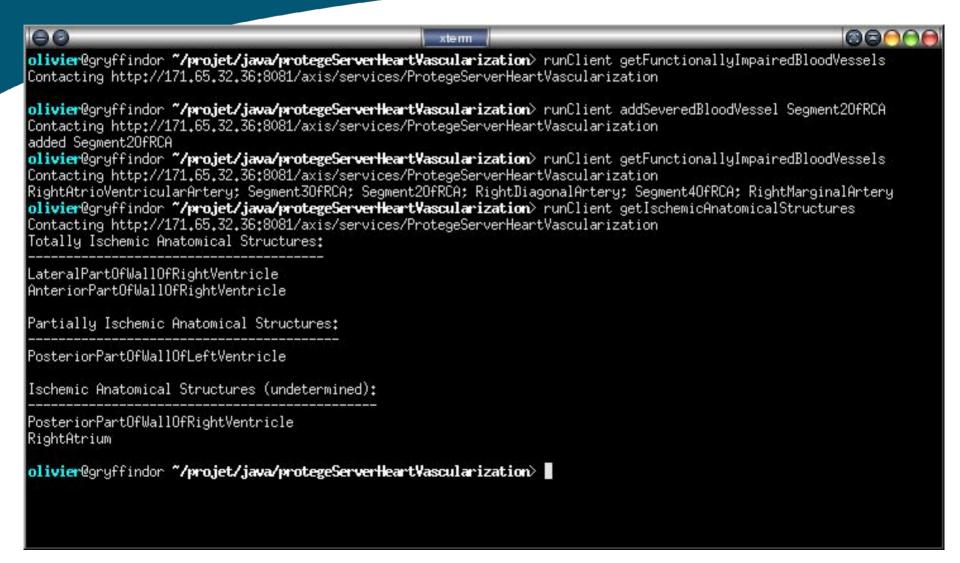
Requires knowledge of Web Services implementation

Example: Virtual Soldier Project - Ontology

(-> Olivier)



<u>Example</u>: Virtual Soldier Project - Determination of ischemic structures



Summary

- Protégé and databases have places in application building world
- Protégé tab mechanism provides "sandbox" to prototype an application
- Standalone applications are easily built on Protégé
 - Using only the knowledge base
 - Using also some/all of the Protégé UI
 - Using jsave package to generate Java code
- Web applications built on top of Protégé in a wide variety of ways

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 Tutorial
 - Scripting Language Interfaces
 - Problem Solving Methods (PSMs)