If the IVdmProject p is null, the extension stays unassigned and therefore set to null. The uml2vdm class is initialized:

```
if (!uml2vdm.initialize(uri, extension))
{...}
```

The initialize method returns a boolean signaling whether the file was successfully obtained. This is why the method is called the a condition in the if statement that contains error handling in its body. The initialize method itself consists of the following code:

```
public boolean initialize(URI uri, String extension)
{
  if (extension != null)
  {
    this.extension = extension;
}
Resource resource = new ResourceSetImpl().getResource(uri, true);
for (EObject c : resource.getContents())
  {
    if (c instanceof Model)
    {
       model = (Model) c;
    }
}
return model != null;
}
```