IMF Model Builder Concept Paper

Background

Resulting from the READI JIP, an asset information modelling framework has been developed (IMF) which provides a way to create, verify, share, and use, a standardised virtual representation of a facility or asset. This promises to solve a number of challenges related to data-centric sharing of information, as well as building data-rich models that can be a foundation for Digital Twin applications.

Product Vision

The vision for the IMF Model Builder (MB) is to be an efficient **means for paving the way for industrial adoption** of the IMF, by providing a user-friendly authoring tool that demonstrates how asset information models can be built and shared. To achieve this, involvement from industry stakeholders as part of the development shall be ensured:

* When developing and demonstrating *how to build a model*, industry end user feedback shall be incorporated into the functionality and user interface.
* When developing and testing *the sharing of asset information models* between different IT-systems, alignment with users of applicable industry standards shall be a prime objective.

Product Scope

The Model Builder shall be developed towards two scope milestones: 1) a Model Builder Prototype, and 2) a Model Builder MVP.

Prototype:

* The Model Builder Prototype shall incorporate end user functionality and interface to support the authoring of a high level (low granularity) asset model as visualised by creating Process Block Diagrams of:
  + Level 0: the main facility with its connections
  + Level 1: the process functions (‘boxes’) of the facility, including ‘Main Process’, and their connections,
  + Level 2 partial: the sub-functions (‘boxes’) that are part of ‘Main Process’, and their connections.
* Modelling shall be possible by configuring **Function System Blocks** (functions) and **Transports** (streams) to connect between them.
* It shall be possible to pivot between – or view simultaneously - Block Diagram view and Tree Structure view while editing the model.
* Only the Process discipline perspective shall be implemented, and only Fluid transports, meaning that the Electricity, Information, and Force transports shall be excluded.
* Only the **Functional** **Aspect** and **Location Aspect** shall be implemented, meaning that other aspects such as and **Product,** and **Installed** shall not be included.
* The Model Builder Prototype shall produce a set of data that represents the asset information model, in an open format suitable for exchange across industry.
* The model data exchange format may also contain data about visual layout, such as symbols and arrangement of visual elements, but this is optional for the prototype.
* It is acceptable for the prototype to be single-user.
* It is acceptable for the prototype to have limited functionality for roll-back of edits
* It is acceptable for the prototype to have no version control of the model data.

MVP:

* The Model Builder MVP shall incorporate end user functionality and interface to support the authoring of asset model as visualised by creating diagrams of:
  + Level 0: the main facility with its connections
  + Level 1: the main functions (‘boxes’) of the facility and their connections,
  + Level 2: the sub-functions (‘boxes’) that are part of main functions, and their connections,
  + Level n: the sub-functions of sub-functions, until the hierarchy depth where intra-aspect relations can be established, e.g. motor **Function** fulfilled by motor **Product.**
* Modelling shall be possible by configuring **Function System Blocks** (functions) and **Transports** (streams) to connect between them.
* Graphical symbols shall represent various Types of **Function System Blocks**, such as pump symbol to represent pump function or product, etc.
* It shall be possible to pivot between – or view simultaneously - Block Diagram view and Tree Structure view while editing the model.
* The Process discipline and the Electrical discipline perspective shall be implemented, meaning that Fluid and Electricity **Transports** shall be included, whereas Information, and Force **Transports** shall be excluded.
* The **Functional, Location,** and **Product** aspects shall be implemented, and the MVP Model Builder shall be built to be extended with further aspects.
* The Model Builder Prototype shall produce a set of data that represents the model, in an open format suitable for exchange across industry.
* The model data exchange format shall also contain essential data about visual layout, such as symbols and arrangement of visual elements, for support of model visualisation at the receiving end.
* Multi-user functionality shall be supported.
* Full functionality for roll-back of edits shall be supported.
* Version control of the model data shall be supported.

Product Targets

The main target of the product development is industrial adoption of the IMF to make it possible to begin realising value, both in Krafla project and across the industry. To achieve this, the development of the product shall result in a proven model building functionality, built in a modular fashion and available as Open Source such that it can be freely incorporated in other engineering tools, as well as be further developed with enhanced functionality such as augmented engineering functions.  
Furthermore, the product development shall serve to drive the definition and alignment on an open asset information model data format, fully supporting interoperability across the industry. A clear preference is that this is based on the i4.0 Asset Administration Shell format.

Project Timeline and Milestones

Prototype: date

MVP: date

Methods and Techniques

<agile>

Roles and Responsibilities

Developer team

Product Owner

End User group

<-> Interoperability team

<-> Aibel Krafla Engineering