Department of Computer Science

Cover Sheet for Coursework

Module Code: CO7517
Assignment: "Modelling the Navigational Model of Cloud-based Applications"
Surname (in CAPITALS):MUHAMMAD
First name (in CAPITALS):
CFS ID:mimm1
I understand that this is a piece of coursework. I confirm that I handed in a signed Declaration of Academic Honesty Form (available at https://campus.cs.le.ac.uk/ForStudents/plagiarism/) and that am fully aware of the statements contained therein.
Date: 7 th Jan, 2016
Signature:



Domain-Specific Languages (CO7517)

(Mini Project)

Modelling the Navigational Model of Cloud-based Applications

Conveyor

Dr. Artur Boronat

Muhammad Taimoor

Index

Part I- Design and implement the syntax of the DSL	Pg.
1-(a) Domain model as an EMF metamodel i OCL Constraints ii OCLinEcore iii Validations in Xtend	3 5 6 7
1-(b) Concrete syntax for the language	8
Part II – Implementation	
2 (a) - Translation process (b) - Implementation i Cloud Applications ii Concepts in WebD.SL iii ClientPages iv ServerPages vi Build Concept vii Build Concept viii Form Concept viii Form Concept ix Frameset x Links xi Targeted Link x Frame Content xi Input Element x Select Element xi TextArea Element	9 13 14 14 15 16 16 17 20 21 21 22 22 23 23 23 24 24
(c) Automated code Generation i CompilerGeneration ii Automated Compilation	25 25 26
Part III – Tutorials	20
3 (a) Brief tutorial on the use of WDSL (b) Examples	27
Part IV - MDD principles, standards, technology (a) Focusing on MDD Principles (b) Features i validation ii Referencing and Scoping iii template Expressions iv OCLinEcore v Automated Code Generation	27 28 28 28 29 39 30
(c) The maturity of the technology / Eclipse Modeling Project	20

	i Advantages	31
	ii Disadvantage	31
(4)	Alternative Automation approaches	32
(u)	Alternative Automation approaches	32
	Conclusion	33
	References	

Part 1: Design and implement the syntax of the DSL

INTRODUCTION

The WebDSL is a navigational model for web applications that can be deployed on to a cloud platform. The developers can use the compiler to generate the collection of HTML pages using ANT script in terminal console or using DSL editor that has features like code suggestion and visual validations. Transformation and the code generation using XTEXT and XTEND [1].

MODELING CONCEPTS

In the analysis phase the following concepts are identified, the modeling concepts table represents the concepts used in the design, it also includes the intrinsic and extrinsic properties of the model.

Concept	Intrinsic Properties	Extrinsic Properties
WebApp	name : EString	one DataLayer one NavigationLayer one controllerLayer
NavigationLayer	none	one many WebPage one Homepage
DataLayer	Class -> name: EString Attribute - > name: EString Type : [String integer]	dataLayer contains classes classes contains Attributes
WebPage	name: EString ServerPage Client Page	one many Links
Class	name: EString	one to many Classes
Attribute	name: EString Type : [String integer]	one to many Attributes
ServerPage	name: EString	zero many Build ClientPage one Display class
ClientPage	name: EString baseTag: EString	zero many TextArea zero many Forms zero many FrameSet

Form	name: EString method :[GET POST] encType: ESting accept_charset: EString autocomplete: Boolean nonvalidate : Boolean action : ServerPage	zero many InputElements zero many SelectElement zero one Target to ServerPage zero many TextArea
FrameSet	Rows : EInt Cols : EInt	zero many Frame zero many FrameSet
Frame	name: EString scrolling: Boolean FrameBorder: EInt noResize: Boolean	zero one source to ClientPage
Target	target=[Frame] targetframe=frames	zero one target to Frame
Link	url=EString page=[WebPage ID]	one Webpage zero many Link_Parameters
TargetedLink	name:EString	zero one Link to Frame
FrameContent	Source = [ClientPage]	zero one source to ClientPage
Submit	action=[ServerPage]	zero one action from ClientPage to ServerPage
Build	build=[ClientPage]	ServerPage generates ClientPages
Redirect	redirect=[ClientPage]	Bidirectional relation between client and server pages
InputElement	name:EString value=EString Type -> [text radio Submit]	Form contains several input elements
SelectElement,	name:EString size : EInt Multiple: Boolean Option -> value: EString name: EString	Form contains several select elements Each select element have several options
TextAreaElement	name:EString test: EString rows: EInt cols: EInt	Form contains several TextArea elements ClientPage contains several TextArea elements

Table 1: Modelling Concepts

1-(a) Domain model as an EMF metamodel

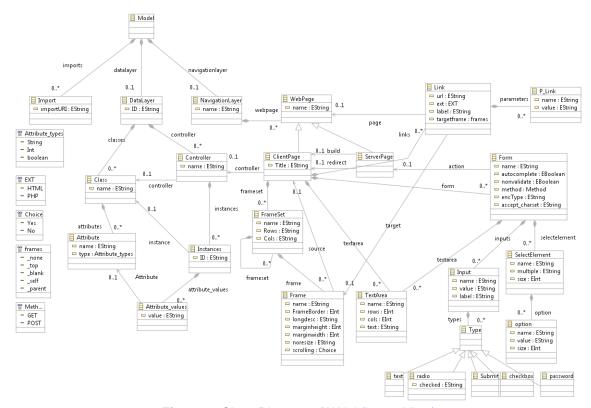


Figure 1: Class Diagram of Wdsl (Large View)

1-a-(1) - OCL Constraints

Concept	OCL / Description
	The name of the server page must be unique in a navigational layer .
Server	Context: NavigationLayer
	invariant UniqueServerPage
	serverpage->isUnique(name);
	The name of the client page must be unique in a navigational
	layer
Client Page	Context: NavigationLayer
	<pre>invariant UniqueClientPage</pre>
	<pre>clientpage->isUnique(name);</pre>
	The frame defined in a particular frameset must be
	unique.
Frame	Context: ClientPage
	invariant UniqueTargets
	<pre>frameset.frame->isUnique(name);</pre>

OCL Constraints (cont.)

Concept	OCL / Description
Build	The input argument of the build must be an instance of client page. This constrained is captured is Xtexd Validation Class
Redirect	The input argument of the Redirect must be an instance of Server page. This constrained is captured is Xtexd Validation Class

1-a-(2) - OCLinEcore

The OCL performed using OCLinEcore, the test results on two frames name "top" is a client page. A frame name "top" is valid in a different client page. It means that the OCL constraint duplicate frame names in a client page.

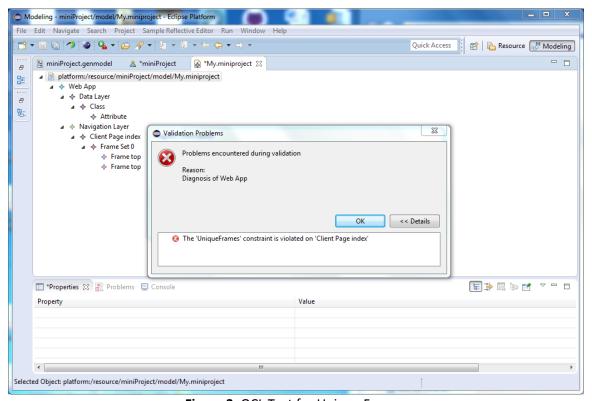


Figure 2: OCL Test for Unique Frames

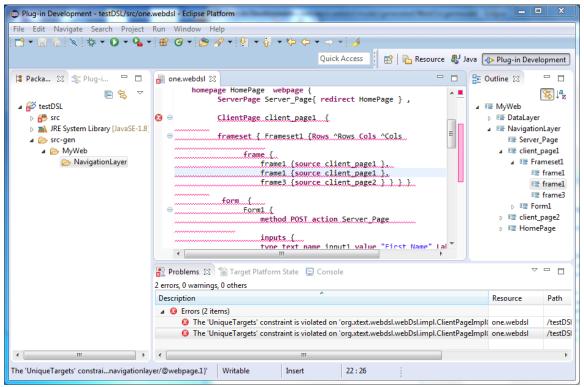


Figure 3: OCL test in Xtext

1-a-(3) -Validations in Xtend

Another option for validation is xtend based API inside XtendValidation Class, I have chosen this feature to validate in a given navigational layer the elements like Webpage, frames, forms etc. to detect the duplication of ID's. It can be easily done by setting the 'NamesAreUniqueValidator'. In the Mwe2 file.

```
// Xtend-based API for validation
    fragment = validation.ValidatorFragment auto-inject {
    // composedCheck = "org.eclipse.xtext.validation.ImportUriValidator"
    composedCheck = "org.eclipse.xtext.validation.NamesAreUniqueValidator"
}
```

1-(b) Concrete syntax for the language.

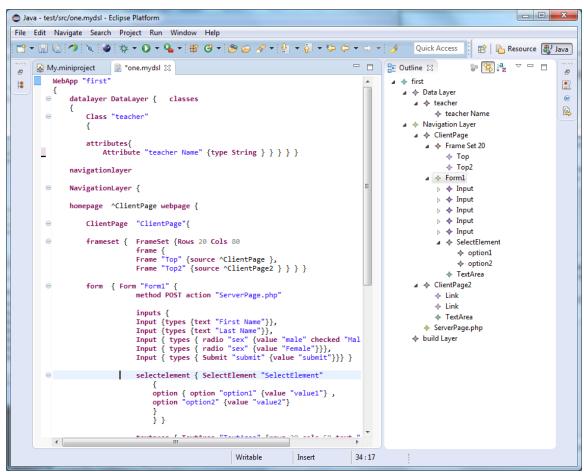


Figure 4: Textual Concrete syntax

Part II - Implementation

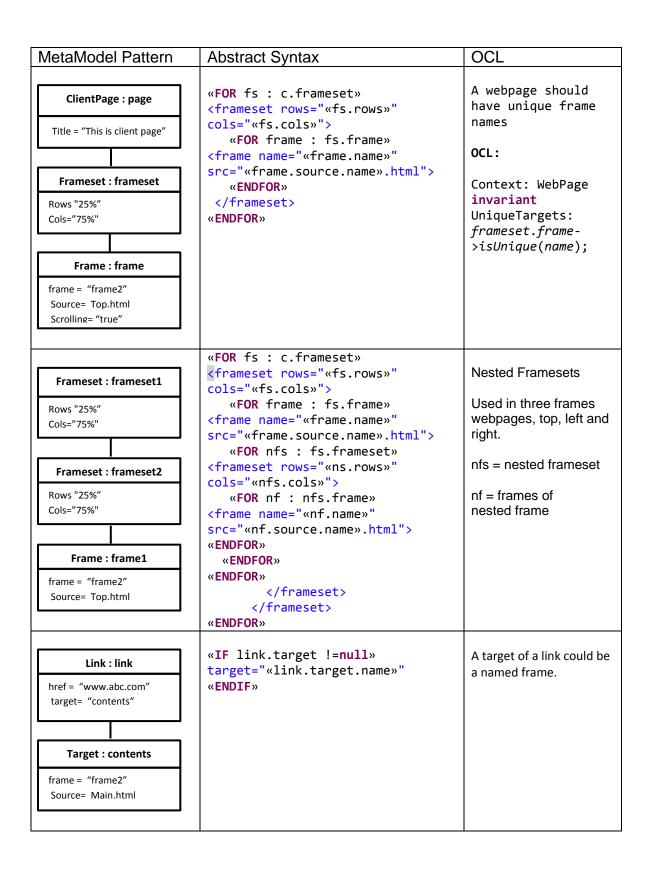
2 (a) - Translation process

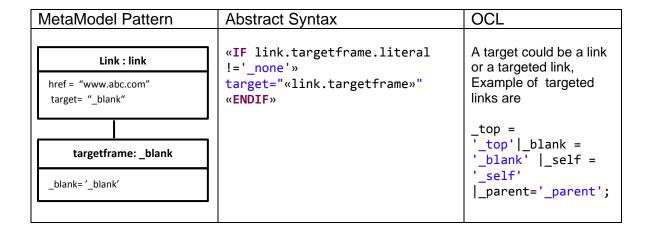
MetaModel Pattern	Abstract Syntax	OCL/Description
ServerPage Name = "ServerPage" Redirect = "Index.html" ClientPage : index.html Title = "aAbsolute URL link"	<pre>"Redirect Concept" «IF s.redirect != null» «s.redirect.name».html"; header("refresh:10;</pre>	<pre>if (!(page.redirect instanceof ClientPage)){ warning('A server can redirect to client page only', WDslPackage.Literal s.SERVER_PAGEREDI RECT)}</pre>
ServerPage	<pre>"Build Concept" def render_cPage(ClientPage c)</pre>	The contraints of build is handled in
Name = "ServerPage" build = "Teacher.html"	<pre>«FOR tr : c.controller.instances» «tr.instance.name» «FOR td :</pre>	Xtext grammar, The build object only accepts the client page as an input.
ClientPage: Teacher.html Teacher = "T1" FirstName = "His first name is peter" LastName = "His last Controller: Teacher	tr.attribute_values» «td.attribute.name» «td.value» «ENDFOR» «ENDFOR»	The duplicate names of controller, server pages and client pages is handled in mwe2 workflow.
Instance Teacher = "T1" Instance Teacher = "T2"		
ClientPage: index.html Title = "aAbsolute URL link" Link: link	<pre>«IF(link.url!= null && link.page == null)»«link.url» «ENDIF»</pre>	Client page has links to absolute URL
href "http://www.abc.com"		
ClientPage: index.html Title = "Relative link"	<pre>«IF(link.url!= null && link.page != null)»«link.url»/«link.page.nam e».«link.ext»</pre>	Link to relative a relative path, extension of the webpages are enum type
Link : link href "URL/server.php"		<pre>enum EXT: HTML = 'html' PHP = 'php';</pre>

Translation process (Cont.)

MetaModel Pattern	Abstract Syntax	OCL/Description
Link: link href="http://details.php?p1=v1&	<pre>"FOR link : c.links" FOR p : link.parameters SEPARATOR "&"" """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""</pre>	Link passing parameters in URL.
Link : link Title = "links to target" ClientPage : index.html href="http://www.abc.com"	<pre>«IF link.target !=null» target="«link.target.name»"«END IF»«IF link.targetframe.literal !='_none'» target="«link.targetframe»"«END IF»</pre>	Link source to a webpage, either client to server page.
ClientPage: index.html Title = "Forms" Form: form1 action="server.php" method="POST"	<pre>"FOR form : c.form" <h2>"form.name"</h2> <form action="" form.action.name".php"="" form.method""="" method=""> </form> "ENDFOR"</pre>	A client page can submits form to a server page only. if ((!form.action instanceof ServerPage)) { warning('Form action must be a Server Page', WDslPackage.Literal s.FORM_ACTION) }
Input: input1 type="text" name="input1" value="First Name" Form: form2 form action="server.php" method="POST" Input: input2 type="Submit" name="input5" value="Submit"	<pre>"FOR input : form.inputs"</pre>	A form contains several inputs elements and each input can be of type, text, submit, radio, checkbox or password.

MetaModel Pattern	Abstract Syntax	OCL
Form : form3		
form action="server.php" method="POST" TextArea: textarea1 rows="20" cols="30" Text= "this is text"	<pre>"FOR form : c.form"</pre>	A form contains one or more text area elements. Option to adjust rows and columns of textarea.
Form : form3 form action="server.php" method="POST"	<pre>"FOR form : c.form" <form "="" .php"="" action="«form.action.name" form="" method="«form.method"> «ENDFOR" Server Rule: '''<?php foreach(\$_POST as \$key=>\$value)</form></pre>	<pre>enum Method: GET = 'GET' POST = 'POST';</pre>
ServerPage : redirect = "index.html"	<pre>{ if(\$key != "Submit"){ echo "<h4>\$key=\$value</h4>"; echo " ";} } header("refresh:10; «s.redirect.name».html"); ?>'''</pre>	
SelectElement : car name=car multiple="true" Option : volvo Option = Volvo value volvo	<pre>"FOR select : form.selectelement" <select name='«select.name"' «select.multiple"=""> «FOR option : select.option"> <option "="" value="«option.value"> «option value="«option) «ENDFOR" /<select> «ENDFOR"</select></option></select></pre>	If "multiple" propertiy is true, the list box appears and multiple selection is possible using control key.
Input: input1 name "input1" value "Text Box" Label "Text Box" Type: radio1 name Radio1 value "Male" Label "Radio 1"	<pre>«FOR input : form.inputs» «FOR type : input.types» «input.label» <input name="«input.name»" type="«type.eClass_name.toString»" value="«input.value»"/> «ENDFOR» «ENDFOR»</pre>	The input types are Type: text radio checkbox Submit password;





2 (b) Implementation

The objective of the WebDSL is an attempt to automate the navigational model of cloud-based applications. Jim Conallel in his book has explained the use of the DSL for designing web applications [2]. The tool supports the web designers by automating the generation process of HTML pages. The syntax of the language resembles HTML to which most web developers already familiar and they are not required to learn a new language.

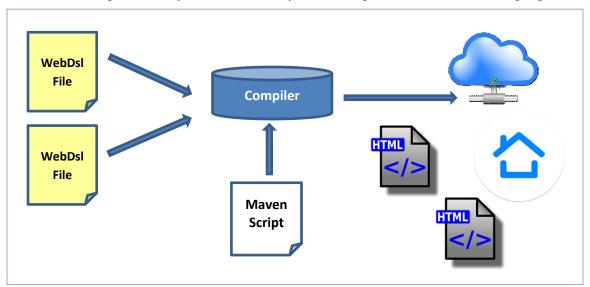


Figure 5: Overall concept of Cloud base Application using WebDSL

Client Pages

Xtend is used for code generation, doGenerate methods overrided in the IGenerator.xtend file. Xtend org.eclipse.xtext.generator.IGenerator Interface is useful for code generation. When a user save the file, this Generator is called by the Builder using org.eclipse.xtext.builder.IXtextBuilderParticipant.

XText Grammar

The templates for client and server pages defined in separate methods. The client page renders frames outside the <body> tag and inside it renders clientpage if a controller is attached to the page, it also render form and link in the html body tag.

```
override void doGenerate(Resource resource, IFileSystemAccess fsa) {
   for (c : resource.allContents.toIterable.filter(typeof(ClientPage))) {
     fsa.generateFile( c.name + ".html", c.generateClientPage)
   }
```

Server Pages

In cloud based web application the server has two roles, it build the client pages and redirect to a specific URL. The following section describes the generation of server pages. The following Xtend code generates the server pages.

```
override void doGenerate(Resource resource, IFileSystemAccess fsa) {
   for (s : resource.allContents.toIterable.filter(typeof(ServerPage))) {
     fsa.generateFile( s.name + ".php", s.generateServerPage)
   }
```

Figure 6: Generated PHP code

Build

Grammar

```
ServerPage: 'ServerPage'
name=ID
('build' build=[ClientPage])?
```

Template

```
def generateServerPage(ServerPage s) '''<?php</pre>
 «IF s.build != null»
 «renderClientPage(s.build)»
 «ENDIF»
def renderClientPage(ClientPage c) '''
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>
     «FOR tr : c.controller.instances»
     <(tr><(tr><(tr)</pre>
        «FOR td : tr.attribute_values»
           <
           <
        «ENDFOR»«»
     <br>
     «ENDFOR»
</body>
</html>'''
```

Cloud Applications

First created a "Teacher" class in the "Data layer", Create a controller for Teacher Class and added two instances of teacher class. In the navigation layer created a "server page" and a "client page". The controller Teacher defined in the client page. In the last used "build" statement in the server page to generate the client page based on the "teacher" class.

Programming in WebDSL

To implement the navigational model of cloud base web application the suggested framework uses model, view and controller based approach. Each page is assigned a controller. The model layer is the Data layer in which Classes and attributes can be are defined. In the following example using the webDSL languages programmer can define in a single program in few step.

The steps are simplified as:

Data Layer:

Step 1: Create classes and attributes (e.g. ClassTeacher with attribute "First and Last name")

Step 2: Create a Controller

Step 3: Create instances of Controller (e.g. "Teacher1" and "teacher2")

Navigation Layer:

Step 1: Create a Server Page

Step 2: Assign which page the server will build

Step 3: Create Client page (e.g. "displayTeacher")

Step 4: Set controller to be used for "displayTeacher" page

Step 5: Upload the generated pages to a Web Server.

Complete code used in the scenario.

```
DataLayer DataLayer {
Class Teachcer { Attribute FirstName { type String }
                                                                                Attribute LastName { type String } }
Controller Teachcer {
                                                                   instance Teachcer "teacher1"
                                                                                 Attribute FirstName value "My name is <a href="Mobin" "Mobin" Mobin" Mobin" Mobin "Mobin" Mobin" Mobin "Mobin" Mobin "Mobin "Mob
                                                                                Attribute LastName value "My last name is Idrees"
                                                                  instance Teachcer "teacher2"
                                                                                Attribute FirstName value "His first name is peter"
                                                                               Attribute FirstName value "His last name is john" } }
NavigationLayer {
                                                               ServerPage Server_Page{
                                                                                redirect homePage
                                                                                build clientPage
                                                                                                                                                                                              }
                                                             ClientPage displayTeacher
                                                                                 controller Teachcer
                                                             ClientPage homePage {}
```

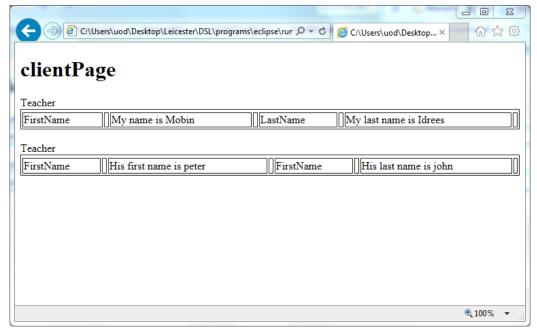


Figure 7: Generate Client Page

Redirect

Grammar

```
ServerPage:
    'ServerPage' name=ID
    ('redirect' redirect=[ClientPage])?
```

Template

```
«IF s.redirect != null»
echo "<h3>Redirecting to page after 10 sec «s.redirect.name».html</h3>";
header("refresh:10; «s.redirect.name».html");
?>
```

The following example illustrates the redirect process, the following generated client form submits to the server page using HTTP Post, the contents of the form are displayed and the server redirects to a different page after a certain time interval.

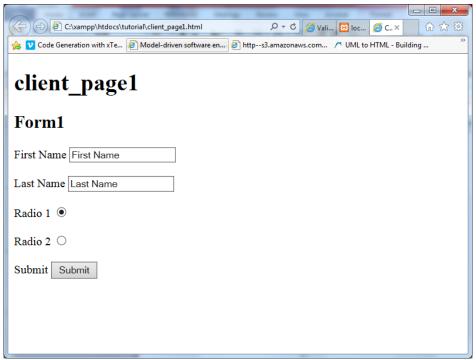


Figure 8: Client page submiting to the Server Page.

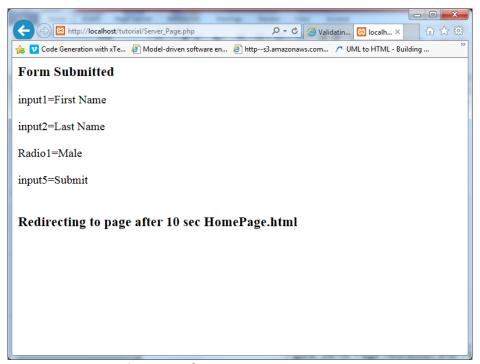


Figure 9: Server Page Redirection

Forms

Grammar

```
def renderForm(ClientPage c) '''
«FOR form : c.form»
      <h2>«form.name»</h2>
      <form action="«form.action.name».php" method="«form.method»">
      «FOR input : form.inputs»
             «FOR type : input.types»
              «input.label» <input type="«type.eClass.name.toString»"</pre>
name="«input.name»" value="«input.value»"><br>
             «ENDFOR»<br>
       «ENDFOR»<br>
       «FOR select : form.selectelement»
              <select name= «select.name» «select.multiple»>
       «FOR option : select.option»
              <option value="«option.value»"> «option.name» </option>
             «ENDFOR»
                    /<select> <br>
       «ENDFOR»<br>
       «FOR select : form.textarea»
             <textarea rows="«select.rows»" cols="«select.cols»">
              «select.text»
              </textarea>
       «ENDFOR»
  </form>
 «ENDFOR» '''
```

Submit

Grammar

```
Input: {Input}
    'type' types+=Type*
Type:
    text | radio | checkbox | Submit | password;

Submit: {Submit} 'submit';
enum Method:
    GET = 'GET' | POST = 'POST';
```

Template Server

```
foreach($_POST as $key=>$value)
{
   if($key != "Submit"){
   echo "<h4>$key=$value</h4>";
   echo "<br>";} }
```

FrameSet

Grammar

```
def renderFrameset(ClientPage c) '''
«FOR fs : c.frameset»
<frameset rows="«fs.rows»" cols="«fs.cols»">
                      «FOR frame : fs.frame»
                      <frame name="«frame.name»"</pre>
src="«frame.source.name».html">
                           «FOR fs2 : fs.frameset»
                           <frameset rows="«fs2.rows»" cols="«fs2.cols»">
                               «FOR frame2 : fs2.frame»
                            <frame name="«frame2.name»"</pre>
src="«frame2.source.name».html">
                               «ENDFOR»
                           «ENDFOR»
                       «ENDFOR»</frameset>
 </frameset>
«ENDFOR» '''
```

Links

Grammar

```
Link: {Link}

'href' ('url' url=STRING)?

('page' page=[WebPage|ID])?('.' ext=EXT)?

('label' label=STRING)?

('target' target=[Frame])?

('target' targetframe=frames)?

('parameters' parameters+=P_Link*)?
```

Template

Target

Grammar

TargetLink

Grammar

```
Link: {Link}
    'href'('url' url=STRING)?
    ('target' targetframe=frames)?
```

Template

```
def renderLinks(ClientPage c) '''
```

FrameContent

Grammar

```
Frame: name=ID
    'source' source=[ClientPage|ID]
```

Template

```
<frame name="«frame.name»" src="«frame.source.name».html">
```

InputElement

Grammar

```
Input: {Input}
    'type' types+=Type*;
Type:
        text | radio | checkbox | Submit | password;
text: {text} 'text';
radio: {radio} 'radio' ('checked' checked=ID)?;
Submit: {Submit} 'submit';
checkbox: {checkbox} 'checkbox';
password: {password} 'password';
```

SelectElement

Grammar

```
SelectElement:name=ID
        (multiple='multiple')?
        ('size' size=INT)?
        ('option' '{' option+=option* '}' )?;
option:
        'option' name=ID
        ('value' value=ID)?
        ('size' size=INT)?
```

Template

TextAreaElement

Grammar

Automated Code Generation

The goal is to develop a DSL where we have a .xtext grammar file and xtend templates. Taking these files as an input and running Maven would execute xtext, generate all srcgen and xtend-gen files, perform all automated task like compile and build an executable jar. The executable jar would be able to compile end-user webDSL files to generate the HTML files.

```
fragment = generator.GeneratorFragment {
    generateJavaMain = true
}
```

A new file "Main.java" will be created in the generator folder

This main file takes argument to parse an input file, validate or generate code.

POM. xml in the "cloud.mini.wdsl"

```
<artifactId>maven-assembly-plugin</artifactId>
    <version>2.5.5
    <configuration>
        <descriptors>
            <descriptor>jar-with-ecore-model.xml</descriptor>
        </descriptors>
     <descriptorRefs>
        <descriptorRef>jar-with-dependencies</descriptorRef>
    </descriptorRefs>
    <appendAssemblyId>false</appendAssemblyId>
    <archive>
        <manifest>
           <mainClass>cloud.mini.wdsl.generator.Main/mainClass>
    </archive>
 </configuration>
 <executions>
     <execution>
       <id>make-assembly</id>
       <phase>package</phase>
        <goals>
          <goal>single</goal>
        </goals>
     </execution>
 </executions>
</plugin>
```

jar-with-ecore-model.xml

```
<assembly xmlns="http://maven.apache.org/plugins/maven-assembly-</pre>
plugin/assembly/1.1.3"
      xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
      xsi:schemaLocation="http://maven.apache.org/plugins/maven-assembly-
plugin/assembly/1.1.3 http://maven.apache.org/xsd/assembly-1.1.3.xsd">
      <id>jar-with-ecore-model</id>
      <formats>
             <format>jar</format>
      </formats>
      <includeBaseDirectory>false</includeBaseDirectory>
      <fileSets>
             <fileSet>
                    <outputDirectory>/</outputDirectory>
                    <directory>target/classes</directory>
             </fileSet>
             <fileSet>
                    <outputDirectory>model/generated</outputDirectory>
                    <directory>model/generated</directory>
             </fileSet>
      </fileSets>
</assembly>
```

Compiler generation

The following command is used to generate the compiler.

mvn clean install

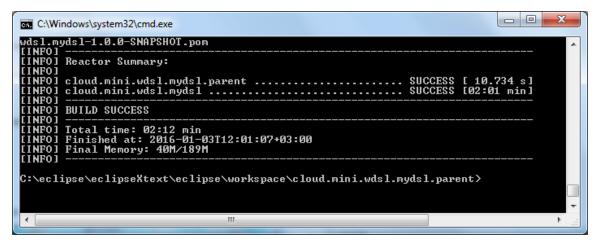


Figure 10: Generation of Compiler

Compiling (Automated)

java -jar cloud.mini.wdsl\target\cloud.mini.wdsl-1.0.0-SNAPSHOT.jar cloud.mini.wdsl\src\wDsl**Frames.wdsl**

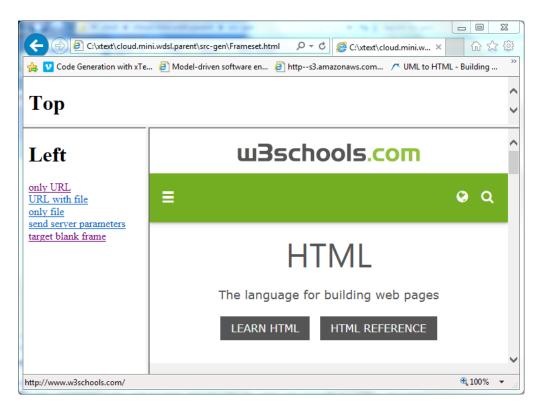


Figure 11: Generation of HTML Pages

Part 3 Tutorial on the use of DSL

Attached in a separate developers_guide.pdf

Link: <u>Developers's guide</u>

Part 4 MDD principles, standards, technology

In this project, I have used Model-Driven concepts particularly Domain Specific modeling at different level of abstraction by using concrete and abstract syntax for representation of the models. The model is the primary artifact in the development process and the code generation is automated. The Platform Independent Model (PIM) is used to describe the "Navigational" and "data layer". At the Platform Specific Model (PSM), the transformations are used that are based on rules that correspond to the processing of objects of elements of the model for generation of JAVA, HTML and PHP code.

Focusing on MDD Principles

- I tried to elevate the domain modeling task on a higher level of abstraction and used EMF models to represents the system elements.
- For developing the modeling language I found the Concrete and Abstract Syntax representation useful, used Diagram Definition (DD) specification for Concrete Syntax.
- Defined the Meta-model by analyzing the behavior and attributes and applying different rules.
- Selected the M3 Layer of the MDD i.e. Meta-Meta Model for language engineering and defining the Meta-Language
- Followed the OMG guidelines for defining the Meta-model using 'Meta Object Facility' (MOF Mode) from its language definition stack.
- Chosen Ecore as it is simple conceptual structural modeling language.
- Used incremental and iterative design approach, started by modeling domain analysis followed by language design and language validation.
- Used OCL and Xtend Validations for formalize the constraints of the models.

Used Features

The following are the main features used in the project from model transformation language to implement the mapping from your DSL to the target language

1. Validation

Xtext provides several methods validation techniques and the default validation checks the uniqueness of each IDs per element type. I have chosen this feature to validate in a given navigational layer the elements like Webpage, frames, forms etc. to detect the duplication. It can be easily done by setting the 'NamesAreUniqueValidator' in the mwe2 file.

Custom validation is useful for defining errors or warnings. I used custom validations for duplicate "WebPages" and for checking the relation of "Redirect" and "Form Action" in the WDslValidator class.

2. Referencing and Scoping

In this project there is an option to either use a single WebDSL file or multiple files. This enables the use of "import statements" in the dsl file. The objects defined in the Client Page will be available in the "ServerPage results in compact files. The following shows the use of this feature in the project.

Figure 12: Referencing and scoping

3. Template Expressions

For mapping from DSL to the target language, xtend provides an option to create multiple templates and inject the data to process them inside the templates. This can also distinguish which indentation is related to the template and indentation related to the output.

```
■ GenerateWDsl...
🔊 *WDslGenera... 🛭 📆 build.prope...
                                                 WDsIGenerat...
 def generateClientPage(ClientPage c)
   <!DOCTYPE html>
    «FOR fs : c.frameset»
   <frameset rows="«fs.rows»" cols="«fs.cols»">
   <frameset rows="«fs2.rows»" cols="«fs2.cols»">
                        «FOR frame2 : fs2.frame»
   <frame name="«frame2.name»" src="«frame2.source.name».html">
                        «ENDFOR»
                     «ENDFOR»
                «ENDFOR»
   </frameset>
                 </frameset>
   «ENDFOR»
   <body>
```

Figure 13:Template expressions

4. OCLinEcore

OCL is short and easier than Xtend ustom validation, in Xtext the OCL can be applied to the generated ecore models using OCLinEcore editor, to use this option I had to modify the genmodel by setting the property "Model Operation Reflection", we have to be careful using it, If we modify the grammar and generate the artifacts the ecore will be regenerated and OCL part will be removed from the ecore.

Automated Code Generation

This feature provides option to generate the compiler and generate the target code in terminal console. First we have to set the "generateJavaMain = true" in the mwe2. This will result in "Main.java" in the generator folder, this file takes argument to parse an input file, validate and generate code.

The maturity of the technology / Eclipse Modeling Project

The Eclipse Modeling project [3] has become one of the vital projects in Model Driven Software Development. Object Management Group (OMG) introduced MDA in 2001, since then MDA and Eclipse served the software industry by providing open source platforms. The Eclipse Modeling Project provides variety of transformation tasks like Model-to-Model (M2M) and Model-to-Text (M2T). Altogether, these transformation tasks fulfill most of the requirement of MDA, MDSD and DSL. The following is a category of the transformation capabilities relevant within the current scope of the Eclipse Modeling Project.

Model to Model	Model to Text
Atlas Transformation Language(ATL)	MOF2Text
Epsilon	Xpand
Acceleo	Java Emitter Templates JET
Query/View/Transformation(QVT)	

Advantages

1. In Model refactoring we can define transformation on a specific model to produce a target model in such a way that the targets instance could be the same as the input mode.

- 2. We can merge different models and transforming models with multiple input and output models. We can use it for combining aspects of GMF's tooling and mapping.
- 3. When migrate a model to a future version we can include the version information in the URI. This enables a platform to distinguish different models versions and enables transformations.
- 4. Using higher order transformation (HOTs) a transformation model itself can be generated or modified by other transformations this is useful in improving internal structure of the model.
- 5. M2M supports automated generation of target model from source modes and it supports one-one, one-many and many to many transformations.
- 6. We can use out-place Transformations to create a new model from scratch or Inplace Transformations to change specific parts of the model
- 7. Transformation chains can be used for modeling the orchestration of different model transformations by using conditional branches, loops or programming logics.

Disadvantages

- 1. When using Model to text transformation the templates can become complex for large projects and might become difficult to maintain if the source evolves.
- 2. ATL does not provide the option to modify the elements of the input model during transformation.
- 3. Bi-directional Transformations .i.e. source to target and target to source transformation is only supported in QVT Relational

Alternative Autmation approaches

Gradle would be an alternate tool in automating the implementation, it is build and automation system based on a Groovy-based domain specific language (DSL), plus it has option to integrate Apache Ant and Maven and support incremental build. The latest Xtext 2.9 has both Maven and Gradle build support for automating the application.

The UML-based Web Engineering (UWE [4] uses model-driven development approach and The UWE approach uses recently emerged technologies: model transformation languages like ATL3 and QVT4

One approach used in MDSE book Web applications uses MVC pattern and uses Java (Model), JSF (View), Servlets (Controller) and Apache Tomcat (Server) [5] Graph

Transformation approach is also helpful help in automated implementation as it has a model completion feature that can instantly introduce dynamic elements in the model.

Conclusion

Model-driven Web Engineering (MDWE) is the model-driven concept is useful as there is a frequent innovation of Web technologies and platforms. Several concepts used in UML for Web applications are addressed by using models e.g. for the data, navigation, controlling and presentation layers. An automated framework for transforming models into code with simplified validation control is significant for the software industry. Thanks to Dr. Artor and Mr.Taimoor for assisted me throughout the project and delivered us wonderful skills.

References

- [1] Build your language using Xtext and Xtend www.xtext.org
- [2] Jim Conallen. Building Web applications with UML. 2000. http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=326370
- [3] The Eclipse Modeling project. www.eclipse.org
- [4] Nora Koch. "Transformations Techniques in the Model-Driven Development Process of UWE". Proc. 2nd Wsh. Model-Driven Web Engineering (MDWE'06), Palo Alto, 2006.
- [5] Marco B, Jordi C, Model Driven Software Engineering in Practice, USA 2012