

Starting point for the identification of classes. Use case descriptions and scenarios can provide the starting point for the identification of classes for the class diagram. One of the standard ways of finding classes is to examine the nouns in a clear and concise description of what the system does (see Chapter 5). One of the best places to find such a description is in the collection of use case descriptions provided by the use case model.

Technical points

The points discussed in this section may be ignored by readers who simply want a basic understanding of use case modelling. However, for those who want to probe a little deeper, this section will provide a more complete understanding of the topic.

Documenting extension points in a use case diagram. When a base use case has an «extend» link to another use case, it is sometimes useful to indicate on the use case diagram the point at which a jump to the extending use case is made. For example (see Figure 3.10), in the 'Issue bike' use case, we will want to use the extra functionality specified in the 'Maintain customer list' use case at the point where the Receptionist needs to add details about a new customer, or change the details of an existing one. Extension points can be documented on the use case diagram as in Figure 3.12. In the lower half of the use case ellipse we specify the names of the extension points – in this case 'Add customer' and 'Edit customer'.

We can also specify the circumstances under which the extending use case is executed by adding a comment on the relationship – in this case 'New customer or change customer details'.

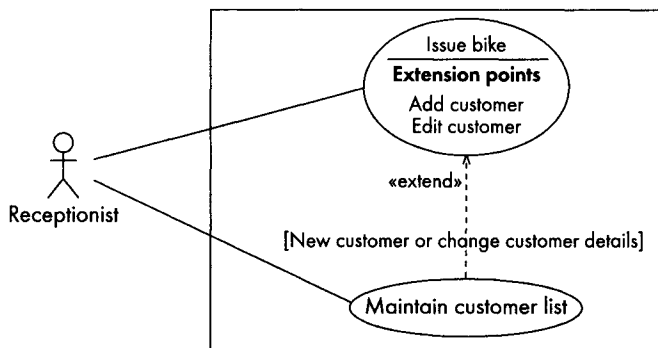


Figure 3.12 Documenting extension points in a use case diagram