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UML

Unified Modeling Language (UML)

Snippet from [Wikipedia: Unified Modeling Language](#)

The **unified modeling language (UML)** is a general-purpose visual modeling language that is intended to provide a standard way to visualize the design of a system.

UML provides a standard notation for many types of diagrams which can be roughly divided into three main groups: behavior diagrams, interaction diagrams, and structure diagrams.

The creation of UML was originally motivated by the desire to standardize the disparate notational systems and approaches to software design. It was developed at Rational Software in 1994–1995, with further development led by them through 1996.

In 1997, UML was adopted as a standard by the Object Management Group (OMG), and has been managed by this organization ever since. In 2005, UML was also published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) as the **ISO/IEC 19501** standard. Since then the standard has been periodically revised to cover the latest revision of UML.

In software engineering, most practitioners do not use UML, but instead produce informal hand drawn diagrams; these diagrams, however, often include elements from UML.^{:536}

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