Application Development with Eclipse RCP





Budapesti Műszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem Méréstechnika és Információs Rendszerek Tanszék

Eclipse RCP

- Rich Client Platform
 - Technology for desktop application development
 - Reuses Eclipse architecture
 - Modular development
 - Every Eclipse plug-in reusable
 - Available since Eclipse 3.0



RCP architecture





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Further components

- EMF
- Forms API
- BIRT: report development
- Welcome page
- Cheat Sheets: short, clickable help sites
- Outline and Properties view support

And every Eclipse plug-in available



Platform size

• RCP 3.5.1:

- Download (binary, runtime): 15 MB
- Extracted: 17 MB
- Consists of 32 plug-ins
- Does not contain additional plug-ins





IBM LotusSymphony

 Office and collaboration software

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Tasktop – Task list management



XMIND – Mind Mapper



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Eclipse Trader – Stock market watcher

MÚEGYETEM 1782



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Eclipse Application

An extension for the org.eclipse.core.runtime.applications extension point

```
<extension id="application"
point="org.eclipse.core.runtime.applications">
     <application>
        <run class="hu.bme.mit.rcpdemo.Application">
        </run>
        </application>
     </extension>
```

Referred class implements IApplication



IApplication

public class Application implements
 IApplication {

public Object
start(IApplicationContext context)
throws Exception {

System.out.println("Hello,
world");

public void stop() {}



IApplication

public class Application implements
IApplication {
 public Object
 start(IApplicationContext context)
 throws Exception {

System.out.print1 world");

Executing application

public void stop() {}



IApplication

public class Application implements
 IApplication {

public Object
start(IApplicationContext context)
throws Exception {

System.out.println("Hello,
world");

Stopping application

public void stop() {}



RCP application:

- Special Eclipse application
- Uses Workbench for event handling

Workbench

- Fixed selection of elements (same as IDE)
- Some elements can be disabled



```
public Object start(IApplicationContext context) throws Exception {
  Display display = PlatformUI.createDisplay();
  try {
    int returnCode = PlatformUI.createAndRunWorkbench(display,
     new ApplicationWorkbenchAdvisor());
    if (returnCode == PlatformUI.RETURN RESTART)
      return IApplication.EXIT RESTART;
    else
                                                      Hello RCP
      return IApplication.EXIT OK;
                                                                       finally {
  }
    display.dispose();
```

public Object start(IApplicationContext context) throws Exception { Display display = PlatformUI.createDisplay(); try { int returnCode = Plat II.createAndRunWorkbench(display, new ApplicationWorkb isor()); if (returnCode == return IAp **Initializing Eclipse** else llo RCP Display return IAp finally { } display.dispose();

```
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  Display display = PlatformUI.createDisplay();
  try {
    int returnCode = PlatformUI.createAndRunWorkbench(display,
     new ApplicationWorkbenchAdvisor());
    if (returnCode == Plat ____UI.RETURN RESTART)
                                ESTART;
      return IApplication.EX
    else
                                                     Hello RCP
      return IApplication
                                                                      finally {
  }
                         Creating Workbench
    display.dispos
                           Advisor (see later)
```

```
public Object start(IApplicationContext context) throws Exception {
  Display display = PlatformUI.createDisplay();
  try {
    int returnCode = PlatformUI.createAndRunVorkbench(display,
     new ApplicationWorkbenchAdvisor());
    if (returnCode == PlatformUI.RETURN RESTA
      return IApplication.EXIT RESTART;
    else
      return IApplication.EXIT OK;
                                           Running Workbench
   finally {
    display.dispose();
```



```
public Object start(IApplicationContext context) throws Exception {
  Display display = PlatformUI.createDisplay();
  try {
    int returnCode = PlatformUI.createAndRunWorkbench(display,
     new ApplicationWorkbenchAdvisor());
    if (returnCode == PlatermUI.RETURN RESTART)
      return IApplication.E
                              RESTART;
    else
                                                     Hello RCP
      return IApplication.EX
                                                                      finally {
    display.dispose
                         Handling return value
                                    2(
```

```
public Object start(IApplicationContext context) throws Exception {
  Display display = PlatformUI.createDisplay();
  try {
    int returnCode = PlatformUI.createAndRunWorkbench(display,
     new ApplicationWorkbenchAdvisor());
    if (returnCode == PlatformUI.RETURN RESTART)
      return IApplication.EXIT RESTART;
    else
                                                      Hello RCP
      return IApplication.EXIT OK;
                                                                       finally {
  }
    display.dispose();
```

```
public void stop() {
  final IWorkbench workbench = PlatformUI.getWorkbench();
  if (workbench == null)
    return;
  final Display display = workbench.getDisplay();
  display.syncExec(new Runnable() {
    public void run() {
        if (!display.isDisposed())
            workbench.close();
        }
    });
```







```
public void stop() {
  final IWorkbench workbench = PlatformUI.getWorkbench();
  if (workbench == null)
    return;
  final Display display = workbench.getDisplay();
  display.syncExec(new Runnable() {
   public void r
      if (!display
                      sposed())
        workbench.c
    }
               Workbench needs to
  });
                 be shut down in UI
                        thread
```



```
public void stop() {
  final IWorkbench workbench = PlatformUI.getWorkbench();
  if (workbench == null)
    return;
  final Display display = workbench.getDisplay();
  display.syncExec(new Runnable() {
    public void run() {
      if (!display.isDisposed())
        workbench.clos
    }
  });
                       Dispose if needed
```



Advisors – Application Settings

- Application of Strategy (or policy) design pattern
 Allows the configuration of
 - Settings
 - Algorithms
 - Value selection happens during runtime



RCP Application Advisors

Multiple advisors available

- WorkbenchAdvisor
 - Callbacks for application lifecycle events
- WorkbenchWindowAdvisor
 - Window configuration
- ActionBarAdvisor
 - Menu, toolbar and status bar settings

Usage

- Rely on default implementation
- Override required methods



WorkbenchAdvisor

- Stores workbench properties

 Selecting default perspective
 Use IWorkbenchConfigurer for further settings
- Application lifecycle callbacks
 - o initialize
 - o preStartup
 - o postStartup
 - 0...



private static final String PERSPECTIVE_ID =
 "hu.bme.mit.rcpdemo.gui.perspective";

public void initialize(IWorkbenchConfigurer configurer){
 super.initialize(configurer);
 configurer.setSaveAndRestore();
}

```
public WorkbenchWindowAdvisor
    createWorkbenchWindowAdvisor(IWorkbenchWindowConfigurer configurer)
    {
        return new
        ApplicationWorkbenchWindowAdvisor(configurer);
    }
    public String getInitialWindowPerspectiveId() {
        return PERSPECTIVE ID;
```



private static final String PERSPECTIVE_ID =
 "hu.bme.mit.rcpdemo.gui.perspective";

public void initialize(IWorkbenchConfigurer configurer){
 super.initialize(configurer);
 configurer.setSaveAndRestore();
}

public WorkbenchWindowAdv createWorkbenchWindowAdv

> return nev Applica

WindowConfigurer configurer)

Enable state saving

public String getInitialWindowPerspectiveId() {
 return PERSPECTIVE_ID;



private static final String PERSPECTIVE_ID =
 "hu.bme.mit.rcpdemo.gui.perspective";

public void initialize(IWorkbenchConfigurer configurer) {
 super.initialize(configurer);
 configurer.setSaveAndRestore();
}

public WorkbenchWindowAdvisor
 createWorkbenchWindowAdvisor(IWorkbenchWindowConfigurer configurer)

return new ApplicationWorkbench

Advisor(configurer);

public String getIr return PERSPEC

Factory method



private static final String PERSPECTIVE_ID =
 "hu.bme.mit.rcpdemo.gui.perspective";

public void initialize(IWorkbenchConfigurer configurer) { super.initialize(configurer); configurer.setSaveAndRestore(); Return default public WorkbenchW createWorkbenc fer configurer) perspective return new ApplicationWorkben SwAdvisor(configurer); public String getInitialWindowPerspectiveId() { return PERSPECTIVE ID;



WorkbenchWindowAdvisor

- Setting window properties

 Sets up IWorkbenchWindowConfigurer
- Window properties
 - o setTitle: title line
 - o setInitialSize: initial size
- Visible elements
 - o setShowCoolBar
 - o setShowMenuBar
 - o setShowPerspectiveBar
 - o setShowFastViewBar
 - o setShowProgressIndicator
 - o setShowStatusLine

ActionBarAdvisor

- Adding Actions to menus and toolbars
- Not required for Command framework

No further information here







Application, Product Branding





Applications and Products

- Extra metainformation required for packaging
 - Branding information
 - Additional configuration files
- Products are used to set them up
 - Extension point:
 - org.eclipse.core.runtime.products
- Alternatively:
 - \odot Creating .product file
 - Synchronization option with corresponding plugin.xml


Branding – Application Icon

- Icon assignment (platform dependent)
 - Windows: 6 types of icons (bmp or ico format)
 - Linux: XPM format
 - OSX: ICNS format
- Main icon:
 - o 5 different sizes (from 16x16 to 128x128)
 - Multiple formats possible



Branding – About Box

Default About dialog reusable





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Branding - Intro

- Welcome page for the application
 Similar to Eclipse Welcome
- Based on HTML/CSS or SWT
- Can execute commands
- Extension point: org.ecipse.ui.intro

pse			_
	Welcome to Eclipse		
Ś	Overview Get an overview of the features		Tutorials Go through tutorials
	Samples Try out the samples	\diamond	What's New Find out what is new
٩	Workbench Go to the workbench		



Extending HTML Intro Screen

- CustomizableIntroPart can be extended via
 org.eclipse.ui.intro.configExtension extension
- Extensions are described in XML





Branding - Themes

- Definition of custom formatting
- Extension point: org.eclipse.ui.themes
- Theme:
 - Colors and fonts
 - Uses JFace colorRegistry and fontRegistry
 - Available for other plug-ins as well
 - Workbench works the same way
 - Categorization



Theme – plugin.xml

<extension

```
point="org.eclipse.ui.themes">
```

<themeElementCategory

```
id="hu.bme.mit.eclipsecourse.rcpdemo.category"
```

label="RCP Demo">

<description>

This category describes the RCP colors and fonts.

```
</description>
```

```
</themeElementCategory>
```

<colorDefinition

categoryId="hu.optxware.eclipsecourse.rcpdemo.category"

id="hu.optxware.eclipsecourse.rcpdemo.text"

```
label="Text color"
```

value="55,112,231">

</colorDefinition>

</extension>



Theme – plugin.xml

<extension

```
point="org.eclipse.ui.themes">
      <themeElementCategory
            id="hu.bme.mit.eclipsecourse.rcpdemo.category"
            label="RCP Demo">
         <description>
            This category describes
                                         RCP colors and fonts.
         </description>
      </themeElementCategory>
      <colorDefinition
                                                                  ^y"
            categoryId="hu
                                   Category selection
            id="hu.optxware
            label="Text color"
            value="55,112,231">
      </colorDefinition>
</extension>
```



Theme – plugin.xml

<extension

point="org.eclipse.ui.themes"> <themeElementCategory id="hu.bme.mit.ecl Default color as RGB label="RCP Demo") <description> constant This category descri </description> </themeElementCategory> <colorDefinition categoryId="hu.optxwar /lipsecourse.rcpdemo.category" id="hu.optxware.eclip _course.rcpdemo.text" label="Text color" value="55,112,231"> </colorDefinition> </extension>



Accessing Theme from Code

//Getting the current theme

IThemeManager themeManager = PlatformUI.getWorkbench()

.getThemeManager();

ITheme currentTheme = themeManager.getCurrentTheme();

//Getting a color from the Theme

ColorRegistry colorRegistry = theme.getColorRegistry();

Color textColor= colorRegistry

.get("hu.bme.mit.eclipsecourse.rcpdemo.text");



Accessing Theme from Code

//Getting the current theme

IThemeManager themeManager = PlatformUI.getWorkbench()

.getThemeManager();

ITheme currentTheme = themeManager.getCurrentTheme();

//Getting a color from the The

ColorRegistry colorRegist

Color textColor= colorRegi

.get("hu.bme.mit.ec

Theme

theme.getColorRegistry();

Select Current Theme





Accessing Theme from Code

//Getting the current theme

IThemeManager themeManager = PlatformUI.getWorkbench()

.getThemeManager();

ITheme currentTheme = themeManager.getCurrentTheme();

//Getting a color from the Theme

ColorRegistry colorRegistry = theme.getColorRegistry();

Color textColor= colorRegistry

.get("hu.bme.mit.eclipsecourse.rcpdemo.text");

Access Color Contant



Additional Features

Eclipse Help; External Libraries





Help

- Extension point: org.eclipse.help.toc
- Consists of TOC (Table of Contents) elements
 - Tree structure
 - Contains sub-TOC elements and topics
 - Main TOC stored in toc.xml (by convention)
- Topics: HTML file
 - Full content
- Do not forget to package the pages
- Web service available for browsing

- Topic elements
 - o Label
 - Reference to HTML content
 - Any HTML content usable
 - Images, links, etc.
 - Parsed by very strict XML parser!
 - Content must be well-formed



Search scope: All topics

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- ammer's Guide
- lcome to Eclipse
- atform architecture
- nple plug-in example
- ntime overview
- igging into the workbench
- alogs and wizards
- ce UI framework
- Indard Widget Toolkit
- Forms
- Controls
- Layouts
- Advanced Topics
- Multi-page form editors
- mmon Navigator Framework
- sources overview
- vanced resource concepts
- vanced workbench concepts

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Using the help system

Browse topics in the **Contents** frame (^(IIII)) on the left. Click on a topic to have it displayed. Use the **Ba Forward** buttons to navigate within the history of viewed topics.

Searching

To quickly locate topics on a particular subject in the documentation, enter a query in the **Search** field **Search** frame ($\stackrel{>}{\gg}$) to display the Search view. You can narrow the **scope** of your search by selecting sections you are interested in.

Synchronizing

Clicking the Show in Table of Contents button (*) will select that topic in the navigation tree. The L Contents button (*) keeps the navigation tree synchronized to the current topic.

Capabilities

To show documentation about capabilities that are disabled in the application, select the **Show All To** button (⁽⁾). This affects the table of contents and search results.

Keyword Index







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Search scope: All topics

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Content area

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- 😑 🗐 Platform Plug-in Developer Guide
 - 🖃 💷 Programmer's Guide
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 - 🗉 💯 Platform architecture
 - 🗉 💴 Simple plug-in example
 - 🗉 💴 Runtime overview
 - 🗉 💴 Plugging into the workbench
 - 🗉 💷 Dialogs and wizards
 - 🗉 💴 JFace UI framework
 - 🗄 💷 Standard Widget Toolkit
 - 🗉 🚅 UI Forms
 - 🗉 🚅 Controls
 - 🗉 💷 Layouts
 - 🖽 💷 Advanced Topics
 - Multi-page form editors















Context Sensitive Help

Help context extension

- Extension point: *org.eclipse.help.context*
- Uses XML
- Maps contexts and topics
- Provides generic description

Mapping

- o WorkbenchHelp.setHelp(Control, String)
- o PlatformUI.getWorkbench().getHelpSystem().setHelp(Control, String)





Accessing External Libraries

- External libraries
 - JDBC driver
 - JPA implementation

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Making it available for our plug-ins





External Eclipse plug-in Dependencies

- Add it to the target platform
- Set up as additional dependency in
 - Plug-in manifest
 - Product definition



External non-Eclipse Dependencies

- Look at Eclipse Orbit
 - Contains many external libraries as Eclipse plug-ins
 - Same legal review as any other project release
- Create custom plug-in
 - Embed corresponding jar file into a new plug-in
 - Jar is added to plug-in classpath
 - Packages needs to exported to other plug-ins



External non-Eclipse Dependencies

- Look at Eclipse Orbit
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 - Packages needs to exported to other plug-ins







Packaging RCP applications

Distributing RCP Applications

- Most important tasks:
 - Create executable version
 - Use Product export wizard
 - Distribution
 - Archives (for install)
 - p2 repositories (for updates)
 - Software update
 - p2 integration



Feature

- Plug-in is too fine-grained for distribution
 - Eclipse SDK (Classic) 3.5.1: 364 plug-in
 - RCP Platform: 32
 - A single plug-in is often not meaningful
 - Grouping is needed
- Feature
 - A group of plug-ins
 - Provides some common functionality
 - Smallest installable unit



Feature information

- Feature project
 - Descriptor: feature.xml
 - No source code, manifest, etc.
- Most important information
 - Identifier (hierarchic, see plug-in)
 - Version number (semantic versioning, see plug-in)
 - Name especially required for updates
- Textual information
 - Description
 - Copyright
 - Licence text



Feature information – 2.

Structural information

Contained plug-ins

- Name
- Version number
- Optionally download/extracted file size (for updater)
- Contained features
- Dependencies
 - Plug-in dependencies
 - Feature dependencies



Feature information – 3.

For updating

Update site (repository) name and URL

- To download updates
- Further update sites
 - Dependency updates
- Platform-specific options
 - Describing supported platforms
 - Operating system, language, windowing toolkit
 - Allows platform-specific plug-in selection



Product export

Goal:

- Provide executable package
- Create repository (for refresh)
- Application plug-ins not enough for execution
 Target platform setup needed



Target Platform

- Plug-in and feature selection
 - Different for IDE, RCP and RAP applications
 - Custom ones can be created
 - Default target platform: Eclipse installation
- Used during build time
 - For accessing dependencies
- Used during execution
 - Target Platform and developed plug-ins are executed together



RCP Target Platform

- RCP application
 - Can be executed with IDE platform
 - But easy to include something with many dependencies
 - RCP Target platform
 - Separate download from eclipse.org
 - Delta Pack Multiplatform support
 - Target Platform extension
 - Separate download from Eclipse.org (~70 MB)


RCPFolder/

- artifacts.xml
- eclipse.exe
- o eclipse.ini
- o configuration/
 - config.ini
- o p2/

o plugins/

- «RCP Target platform plug-ins»
- «Application plug-ins»

o features/

- «RCP Target platform features»
- «Application features»

- RCPFolder/
 - artifacts.xml
 - o eclipse.exe
 - o eclipse.ini
 - o configuration/
 - config.ini
 - o p2/
 - o plugins/
 - «RCP Target platform plug-ins»
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o features/

- «RCP Target platform features»
- «Application features»

Installed plugins



- RCPFolder/
 - artifacts.xml
 - o eclipse.exe
 - o eclipse.ini
 - o configuration/
 - config.ini
 - o p2/
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 - «RCP Target platform plug-ins»
 - «Application plug-ins»

o features/

- «RCP Target platform features»
- «Application features»

Executable and ini file



RCPFolder/

- artifacts.xml
- o eclipse.exe
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- «Application features»

Describes default product, splash screen



RCPFolder/

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Files required for update support



RCPFolder/

- artifacts.xml
- o eclipse.exe
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Application plug-ins



Installation and Execution

Installation

No specific installation required

- Extract archive
- Start executable
- Requires JVM installed before

Update

Include p2 for support





p2 provisioning

- Available since Eclipse 3.4
- Complete rewrite of previously used Update Manager
- Functions:
 - Managing software repositories
 - Following dependencies
 - Multi-protocol downloads
 - Including password support



p2 in Eclipse

Help menu

About/Installation Details

- List installed **features**
- Uninstall installed features
- List installed **plug-ins**

Check for Updates

• Automatic updates

Install new software...

• Starts install wizard



p2 in Eclipse

Help menu

About/Installation Details

- List installed features
- Uninstall installed features
- List installed plug-ins
- Check for Updates
 - Automatic updates

Install new software...

• Starts install wizard

This is a very surprising location!



Installation Details

-



Package install with p2

Check the items that you wish to install.	
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 Modeling Acceleo SDK (Incubation) ATL SDK - ATLAS Transformation Language SDK CDO Model Repository SDK Eclipse Modeling Framework Data Integrity Frame Ecore Tools SDK (Incubation) EMF - Eclipse Modeling Framework SDK EMF Compare SDK EMF Teneo Eclipselink SDK EMF Teneo Hibernate SDK Details 	0.8.1.v200909161003 3.0.1.v200909150941 2.0.0.v200906160459 1.3.1.v20090819-1457-4778_90GCMOEJccl 0.9.0.v200906221231 2.5.0.v200906151043 1.0.1.v200909161031 1.0.0.v200909151729-31184E43QYgJOQQF 1.1.1.v200909151729-42188FAFLafKYLKdv
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Package install with p2

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Package install with p2



Software Repositories

- For automatic updates
- Different terminologies
 - Repository
 - Software Site
 - Update Site
- Contents
 - Installable plug-ins and features
 - Metadata files (dependencies)
- Any web server works
 - Only file sending is required



Software Repositories

- For automatic updates
- Different terminologies
 - Repository
 - Software Site
 - Update Site

Similar; Update Site legacy terminology

Contents

- Installable plug-ins and features
- Metadata files (dependencies)
- Any web server works
 - Only file sending is required



Repository Management





Repository Management – p2

- Instead of update site project
 - Create category.xml file
 - Use the Export deployable features wizard
- Keep older versions in release repository

 Compatibility with older users
 Keep URLs stable!





RCP repositories

Product export wizard also creates repository

- Contains RCP platform as well
- BUT: Uncategorized
- BUT: No descriptions for features



Using p2 in RCP applications

Reuse p2 UI:

- org.eclipse.equinox.p2.user.ui feature
- Several different plug-ins
- Complex, IDE-specific user interface
 - Might be too complex for RCP application
- Reuse p2 core
 - org.eclipse.equinox.p2.core feature
 - No UI component
 - Custom update needs to be written
- Details

<u>https://wiki.eclipse.org/Equinox/p2/Adding_Self-Update_to_an_RCP_Application</u>



p2 UI inclusion

Add p2 menu items

- Check for updates command
 - ID: org.eclipse.equinox.p2.ui.sdk.update
- Install new software command
 - ID: org.eclipse.equinox.p2.ui.sdk.install

Requires

- Status line
- Progress indicator



Package installation in RCP application

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Package installation in RCP application





Package installation in RCP application

Check the items that you wish to install.





p2 in RCP Applications

- Not the most common option
 p2 is relatively new project
 User interface is complex
- In practice
 - Custom solutions
 - E.g., IBM Expeditor platform

