

Actifsource

Language Workbench Challenge 2011

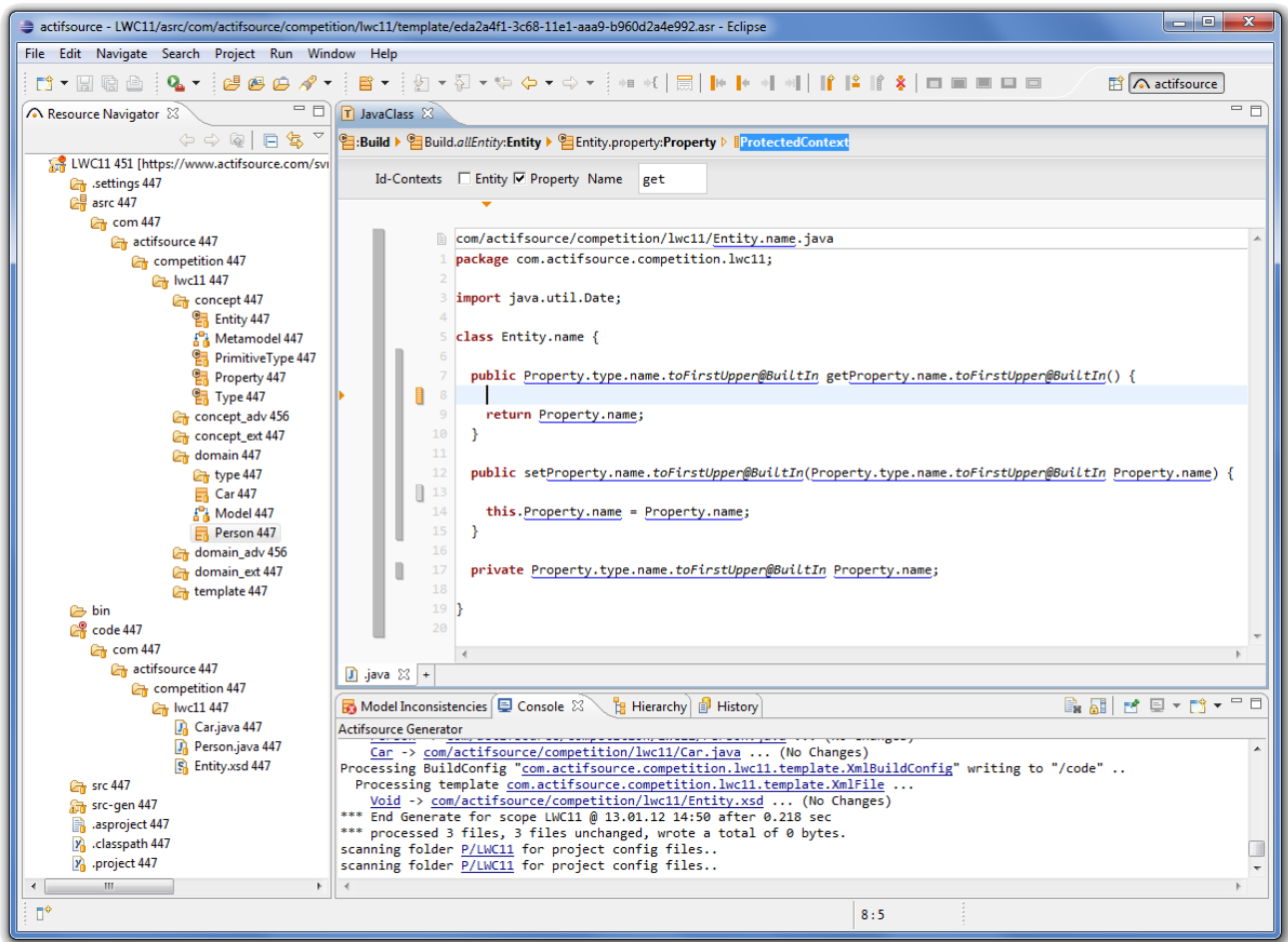
This paper shows how the problems of the Language Workbench Challenge 2011 are solved with Actifsource. The tasks of the LWC11 are described in the assignments at <http://www.languageworkbenches.net>. Further information about Actifsource can be found at <http://www.actifsource.com>.

LWC11

Phase 0 - Basics

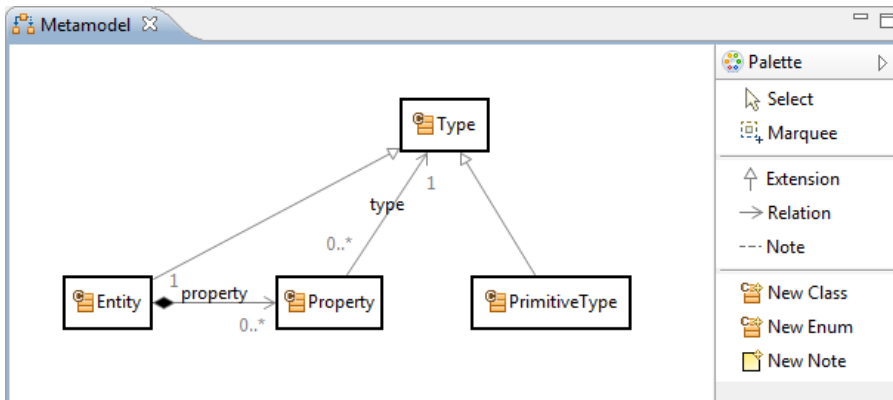
This phase is intended to demonstrate basic language design, including IDE support (code completion, syntax coloring, outlines, etc).

Actifsource is implemented as Plugin to the Eclipse IDE and fully integrated into this environment.

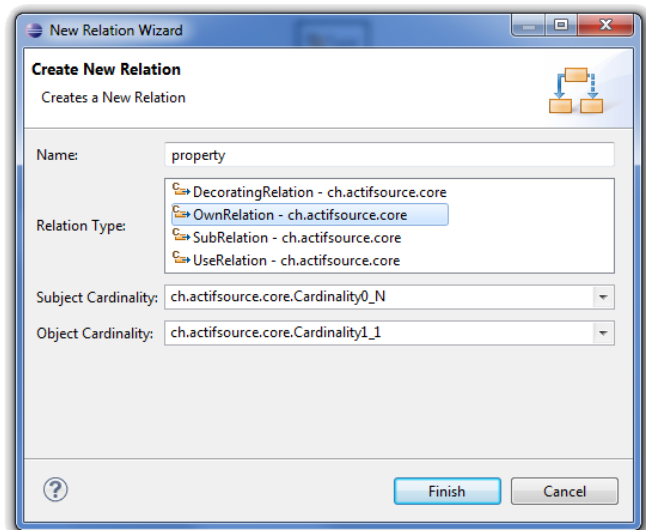
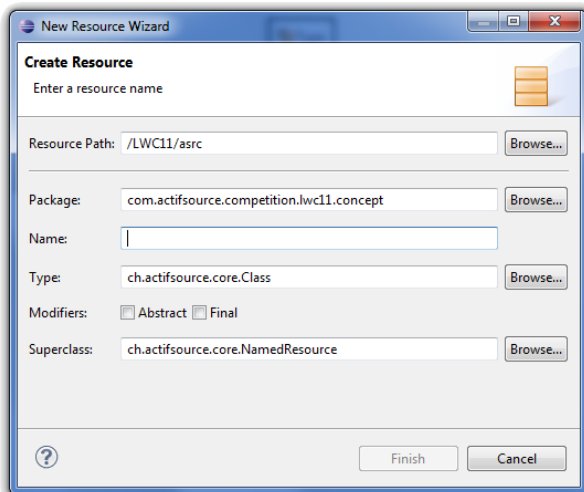


0.1 Simple (structural) DSL without any fancy expression language or such.

The meta-model is created straight-forward in the graphical Class Diagram editor:



Using the *New Class* and *Relation* tool, objects are created by just clicking into the diagram area and choosing the desired type in a dialog.



Ctrl+Click on a diagram element shows the respective model element in the Resource editor.

The following elements are created:

The first screenshot shows the details of the `Type` class. It is an abstract class that extends `NamedResource`. It has a unique `name` property and no other properties. The second screenshot shows the details of the `PrimitiveType` class, which is a concrete subtype of `Type` and inherits the `name` property.

`Type` has a (unique) `name`, and no other properties. It cannot be instantiated.

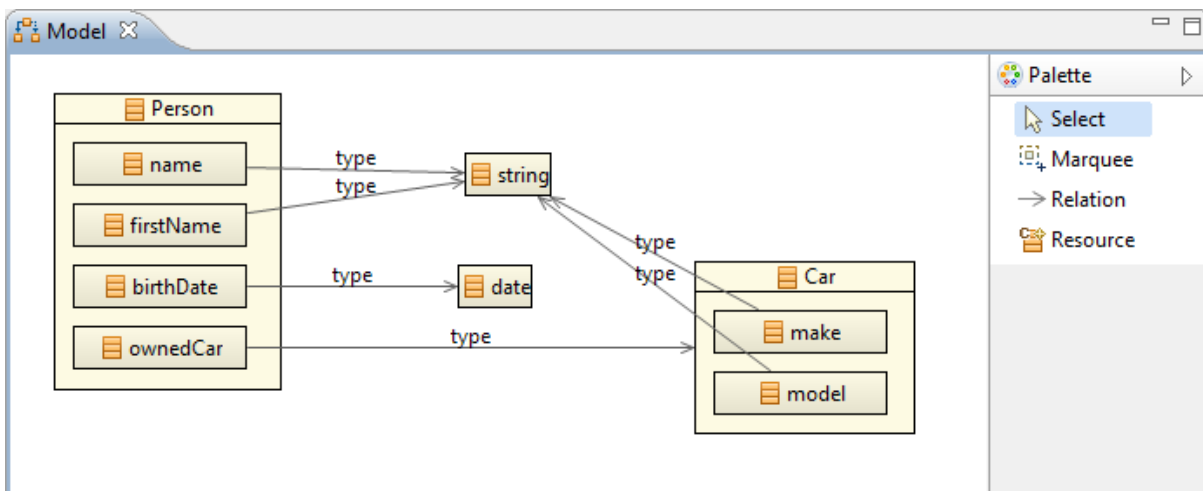
`PrimitiveType` is a concrete subtype of `Type` with no other properties than the inherited `name`.

The third screenshot shows the details of the `Entity` class. It is a concrete subtype of `Type` and has a `property` property of type `OwnRelation`. The fourth screenshot shows the details of the `Property` class. It is a concrete subtype of `NamedResource` and has a `type` property of type `UseRelation`.

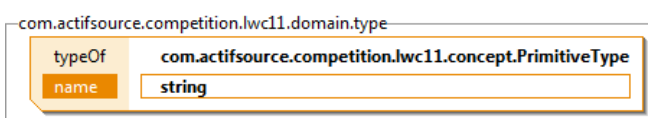
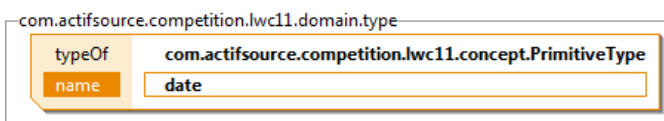
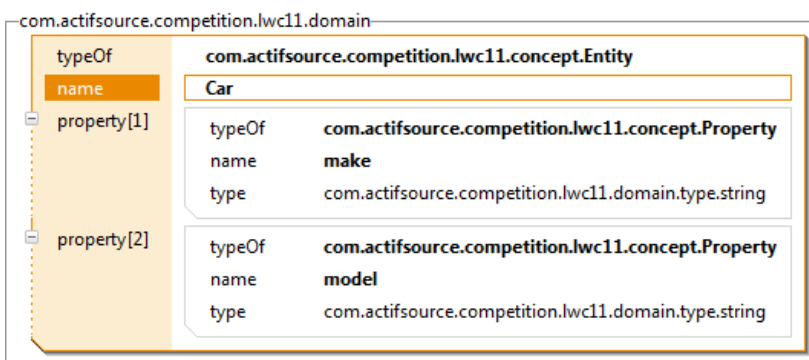
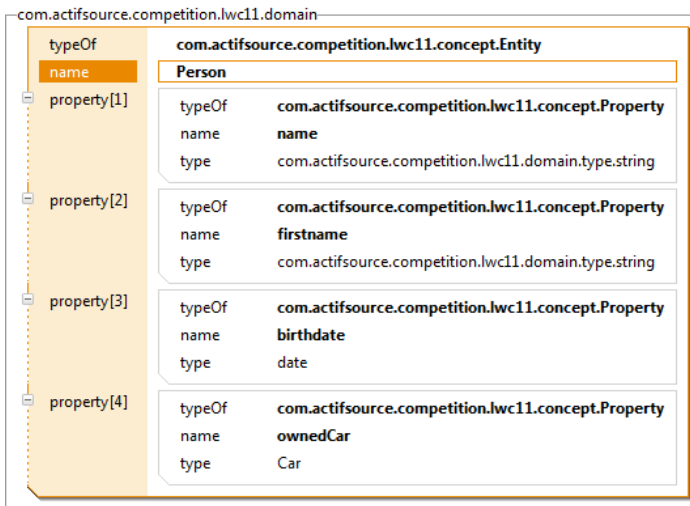
`Entity` is also a concrete subtype of `Type`. It has a property `property` which points to the type `Property`, and the `name` it inherits from `Type`.

`Property` has a property `type`, which points to `Type`. The `Type` is not owned but shared among all properties, so `type` is only a `UseRelation`, not an `OwnRelation`.

Users of the Enterprise Edition can create the model itself in a graphical Domain Diagram editor:

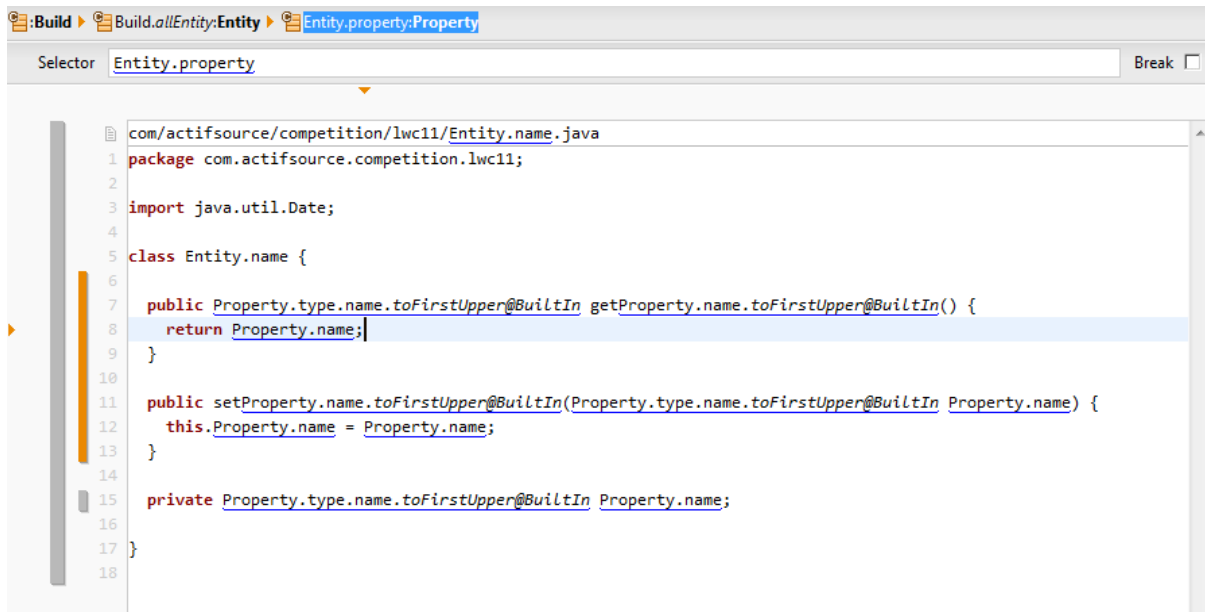


The following elements are created – either by the diagram editor or by hand:



0.2 Code generation to GPL such as Java, C#, C++ or XML

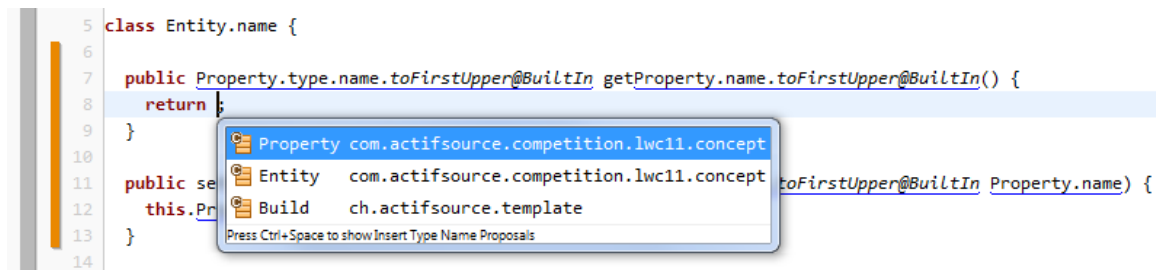
Code is generated using templates.



The screenshot shows the Eclipse IDE with a Java file open. The file path is `com/actifsource/competition/lwc11/Entity.name.java`. The code is as follows:

```
1 package com.actifsource.competition.lwc11;
2
3 import java.util.Date;
4
5 class Entity.name {
6
7     public Property.type.name.toFirstUpper@BuiltIn getProperty.name.toFirstUpper@BuiltIn() {
8         return Property.name;
9     }
10
11     public setProperty.name.toFirstUpper@BuiltIn(Property.type.name.toFirstUpper@BuiltIn Property.name) {
12         this.Property.name = Property.name;
13     }
14
15     private Property.type.name.toFirstUpper@BuiltIn Property.name;
16
17 }
18
```

There is no syntax needed to access the model elements – model elements can be selected using the Eclipse QuickAssist feature (Ctrl+Space) as shown below:



The screenshot shows the Eclipse IDE with a Java file open. The code is as follows:

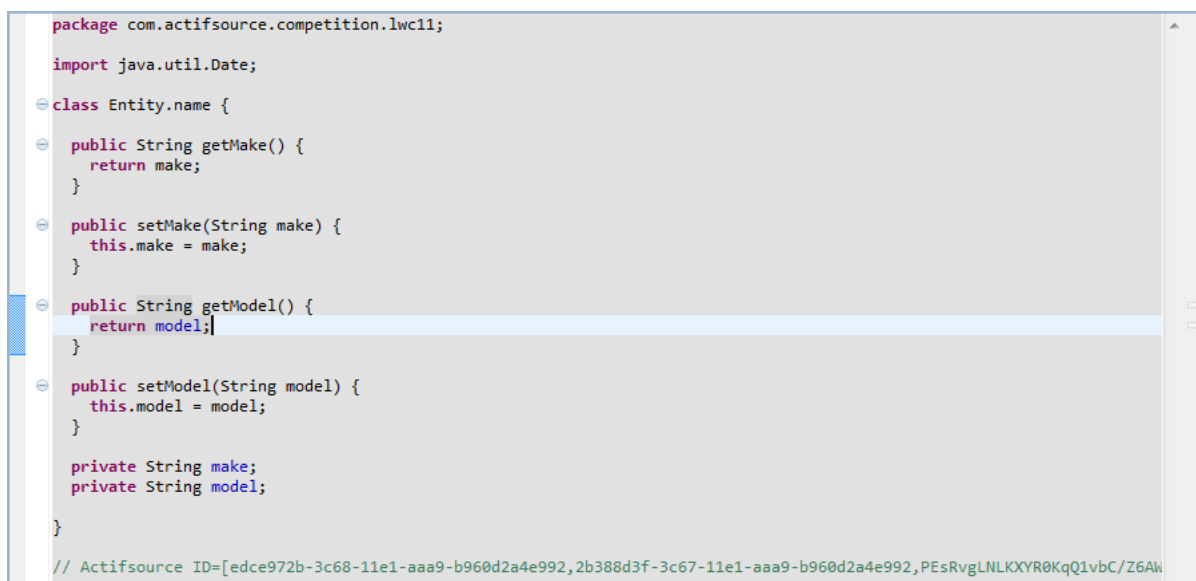
```
5 class Entity.name {
6
7     public Property.type.name.toFirstUpper@BuiltIn getProperty.name.toFirstUpper@BuiltIn() {
8         return ;
9     }
10
11     public se Entity com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept toFirstUpper@BuiltIn Property.name) {
12         this.Pr Build ch.actifsource.template
13     }
14
```

A QuickAssist popup is visible over the code, showing the following options:

- Property com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept
- Entity com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept
- Build ch.actifsource.template

Press Ctrl+Space to show Insert Type Name Proposals

The generated Java file is shown in the common Eclipse Java editor (or the editor, that is registered for the generated file type).

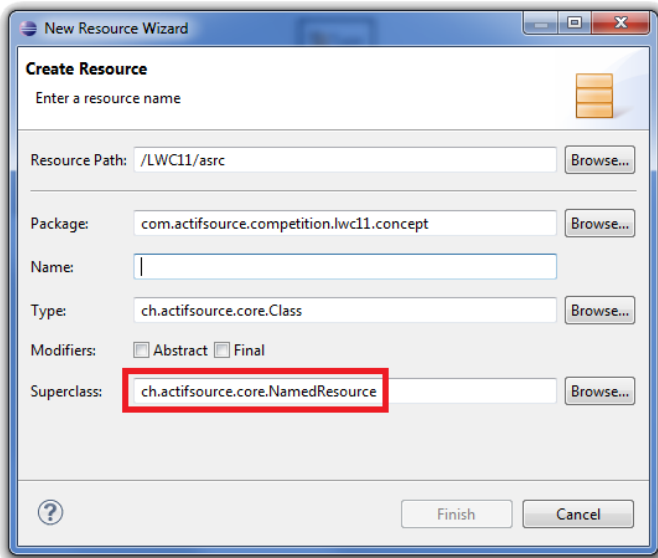


The screenshot shows the Eclipse IDE with a Java file open. The code is as follows:

```
package com.actifsource.competition.lwc11;
import java.util.Date;
class Entity.name {
    public String getMake() {
        return make;
    }
    public setMake(String make) {
        this.make = make;
    }
    public String getModel() {
        return model;
    }
    public setModel(String model) {
        this.model = model;
    }
    private String make;
    private String model;
}
// Actifsource ID=[edce972b-3c68-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992,2b388d3f-3c67-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992,PEsRvgLNLKXYR0KqQ1vbC/Z6Aw
```

0.3 Simple constraint checks such as name-uniqueness

Name-uniqueness is already checked, if your class extends the built-in class *NamedResource*, which is the regular case.



If you are using anonymous classes, that only extend *Resource*, it is necessary to write a *ResourceValidationAspect* in Java, which checks, whether an object is conflicting and gives some error messages.

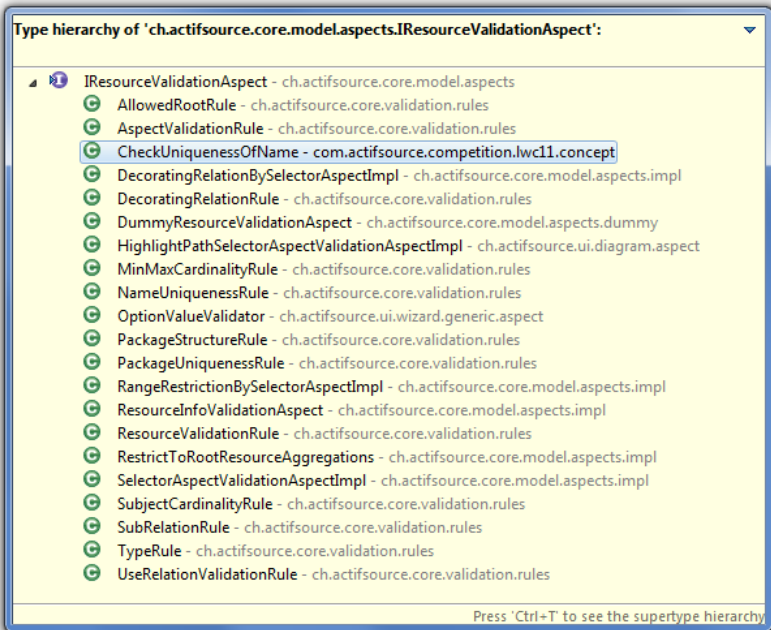
```
package com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept;

import java.util.List;

import ch.actifsource.core.model.aspects.IResourceValidationAspect;
import ch.actifsource.core.validation.ValidationContext;
import ch.actifsource.core.validation.inconsistency.IResourceInconsistency;

public class CheckUniquenessOfName implements IResourceValidationAspect {

    @Override
    public void validate(ValidationContext context, List<IResourceInconsistency> inconsistencyList) {
        // TODO Auto-generated method stub
    }
}
```

The image shows a code editor with the Java code for the *CheckUniquenessOfName* class. Below the code, a 'Type hierarchy of 'ch.actifsource.core.model.aspects.IResourceValidationAspect':' dialog box is open, listing various classes that implement the *IResourceValidationAspect* interface. The class *CheckUniquenessOfName* is highlighted in blue in the list.

For the case, that the referenced object is not only a Literal but a Resource, the uniqueness can be specified by setting the cardinality of an association to 1 resp. 0..1.

typeOf	OwnRelation
name	property
comment	
aspect [RangeRestrictionAspect]	
subjectCardinality	Cardinality0_N
objectCardinality	Cardinality1_1
relationMode	
style	
defaultValue	
range	com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept.Property

0.4 Show how to break down a (large) model into several parts, while still cross-referencing between the parts

In Actifsource, every aggregate structure is saved in its own file. References are handled with *globally unique identifiers* (GUIDs). It is even possible to save the structure in different projects, while still referencing resources from another project.

There can be different visualizations of the model referring to the same model elements. Each of them can contain a subset of elements which it is supposed to visualize.

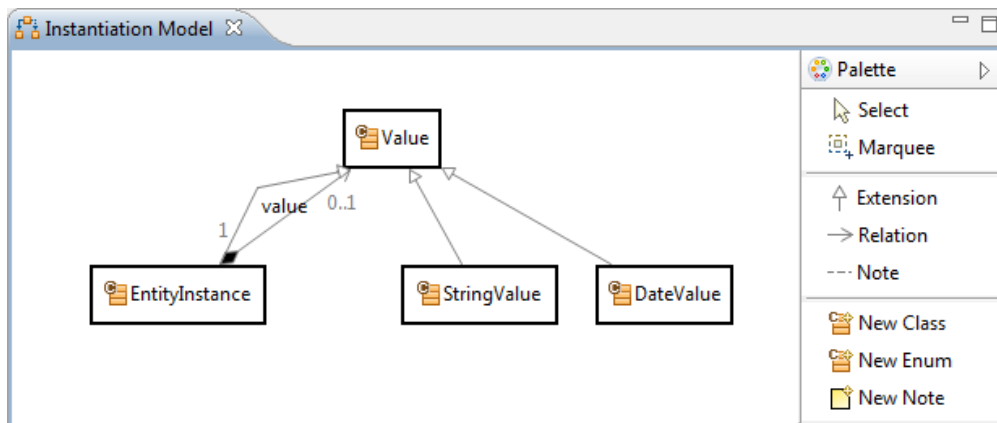
Phase 1 - Advanced

This phase demonstrates advanced features not necessarily available to the same extent in every LWB.

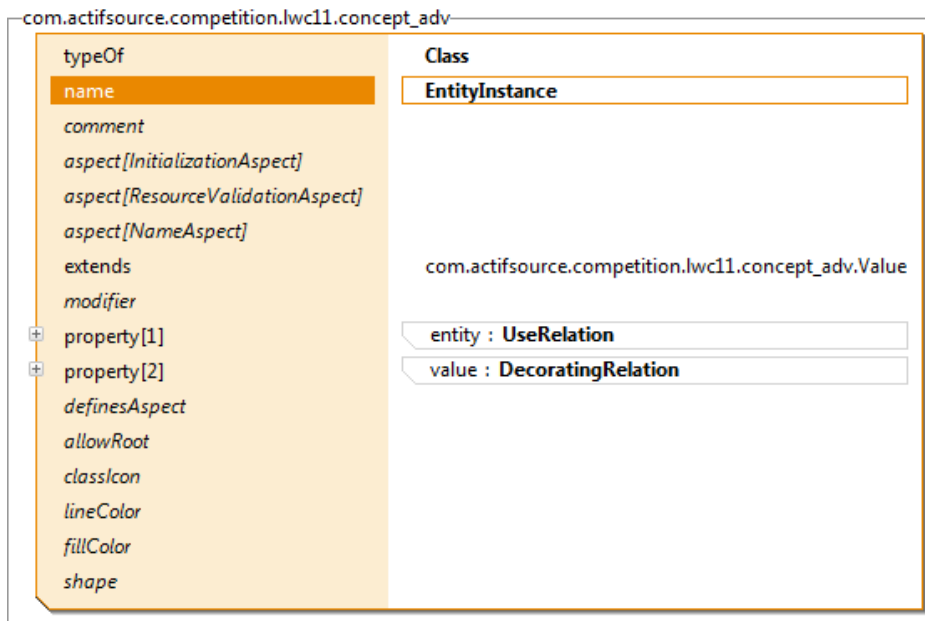
1.1 Show the integration of several languages

There is no instantiation of domain objects provided. As a workaround for instantiation, the properties of the model can be decorated with values.

The following meta-model shows how it is done.



There is a new type *EntityInstance* which refers via the property *entity* to the *Entity* object.



The *value* property of *EntityInstance* is a decorates every *property* of the *Entity* with a *Value*.

typeOf name comment aspect [RangeRestrictionAspect] aspect [DecoratingRelationAspect]	DecoratingRelation value
subjectCardinality objectCardinality relationMode style defaultValue range	Cardinality0_1 Cardinality1_1 com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.Value

typeOf implements selector	SelectorAspectImplementation ch.actifsource.core.DecoratingRelation.DecoratingRelationAspect EntityInstance.entity.property
----------------------------------	--

Value is the abstract type for *EntityInstance*, *StringValue* and *DateValue*.

com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv			
typeOf name comment aspect [InitializationAspect] aspect [ResourceValidationAspect] aspect [NameAspect] extends modifier property	Class Value Decorator Abstract		
definesAspect allowRoot classIcon lineColor fillColor shape	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> typeOf name comment aspect [RangeRestrictionAspect] subjectCardinality objectCardinality relationMode style range extends </td> <td> SubRelation type Cardinality1_1 Cardinality0_1 Resource target </td> </tr> </table>	typeOf name comment aspect [RangeRestrictionAspect] subjectCardinality objectCardinality relationMode style range extends	SubRelation type Cardinality1_1 Cardinality0_1 Resource target
typeOf name comment aspect [RangeRestrictionAspect] subjectCardinality objectCardinality relationMode style range extends	SubRelation type Cardinality1_1 Cardinality0_1 Resource target		

The property *type* will be an alias for the relation to the decorated object.

StringValue and DateValue are implemented as Resources encapsulating the string literals and date literals.

com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv

typeOf name comment <i>aspect[InitializationAspect]</i> <i>aspect[ResourceValidationAspect]</i> <i>aspect[NameAspect]</i> extends modifier property <i>definesAspect</i> <i>allowRoot</i> <i>classIcon</i> <i>lineColor</i> <i>fillColor</i> <i>shape</i>	Class StringValue com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.Value <table border="1"> <tr> <td>typeOf</td> <td>Attribute</td> </tr> <tr> <td>name</td> <td>data</td> </tr> <tr> <td>comment</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>subjectCardinality</td> <td>Cardinality1_1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>range</td> <td>StringLiteral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>defaultValue</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	typeOf	Attribute	name	data	comment		subjectCardinality	Cardinality1_1	range	StringLiteral	defaultValue	
typeOf	Attribute												
name	data												
comment													
subjectCardinality	Cardinality1_1												
range	StringLiteral												
defaultValue													

com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv

typeOf name comment <i>aspect[InitializationAspect]</i> <i>aspect[ResourceValidationAspect]</i> <i>aspect[NameAspect]</i> extends modifier property <i>definesAspect</i> <i>allowRoot</i> <i>classIcon</i> <i>lineColor</i> <i>fillColor</i> <i>shape</i>	Class DateValue com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.Value data : Attribute
--	--

The instantiated object looks as follows:

The screenshot shows a Java object instance of type `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain_adv`. The object's structure is as follows:

- `typeOf`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.EntityInstance`
- `type`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Person`
- `entity`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Person`
- `value[name]`:
 - `typeOf`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.StringValue`
 - `type`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Person.name`
 - `data`: Voelter
- `value[firstName]`:
 - `typeOf`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.StringValue`
 - `type`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Person.firstName`
 - `data`: Markus
- `value[birthDate]`:
 - `typeOf`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.DateValue`
 - `type`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Person.birthDate`
 - `data`: 14.02.1972
- `value[ownedCar]`:
 - `typeOf`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.EntityInstance`
 - `type`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Person.ownedCar`
 - `entity`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Car`
 - `value[make]`:
 - `typeOf`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.StringValue`
 - `type`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Car.make`
 - `data`: VW
 - `value[model]`:
 - `typeOf`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv.StringValue`
 - `type`: `com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Car.model`
 - `data`: Touran

The types of the instances are not checked – that would require the writing of a *ResourceValidationAspect*.

The screenshot shows the same Java object instance as above, but with a dialog box titled "Select Decoration Type" overlaid. The dialog box contains the following text:

There are multiple possible types. Please select one from the following list:

- DateValue - com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv
- EntityInstance - com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv
- StringValue - com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_adv

The dialog box has "OK" and "Cancel" buttons at the bottom.

1.2 Demonstrate how to implement runtime type systems

See: 1.1 – Actifsource does not support runtime type systems.

1.3 Show how to do a model-to-model transformation

There is no model-to-model transformation provided in Actifsource. There are only transformations resulting in a text and are defined in a template.

However, it is possible to integrate Java functions (as described in 1.5) as an abstraction layer that allow to navigate and iterate over the model as if it was a transformed model.

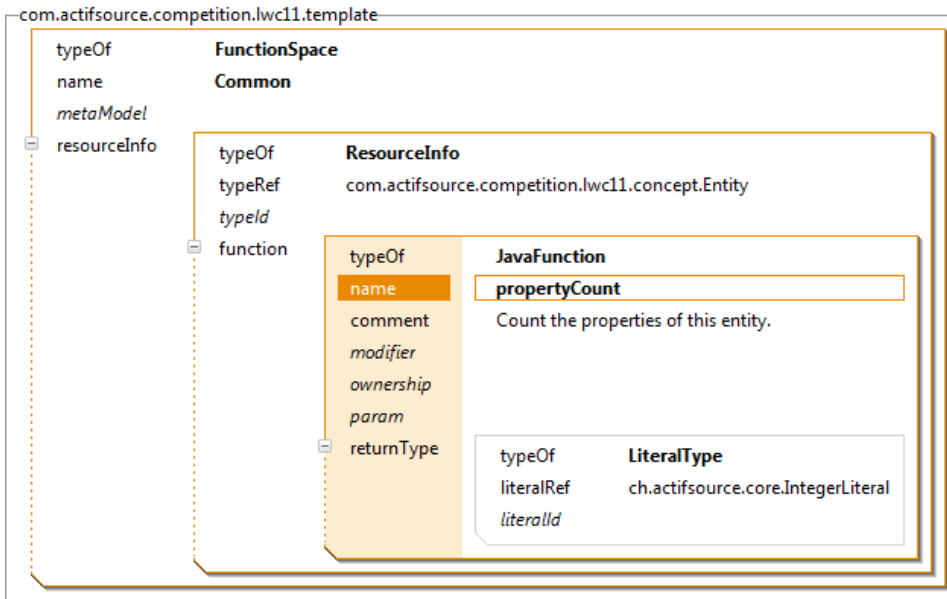
1.4 Some kind of visibility/namespaces/scoping for references

In Actifsource, the package name is the path to the folder which the resource is saved in. It is arbitrary for non-aggregated resources. Aggregated resources have the same package as their owner.

There is no concept of namespace - resources are referenced by their GUID.

1.5 Integrating manually written code (again in Java, C# or C++)

User-defined functions are written in Java and can be attached to any model element.



The functions are declared in a *FunctionSpace* resource, so a Java class is generated out of the declarations.

The generated Java file contains so-called *Protected Regions* in which we can fill in the user code and which will be preserved upon generation.

```
Common.java
package com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.template;

import java.util.List;

/* Begin Protected Region [[07fd8eab-3cff-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992,imports]] */
import com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept.javamodel.IProperty;
/* End Protected Region [[07fd8eab-3cff-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992,imports]] */

@SuppressWarnings("unused")
public class Common {

    /* Begin Protected Region [[07fd8eab-3cff-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992]] */

    /* End Protected Region [[07fd8eab-3cff-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992]] */

    public static class EntityFunctions {

        private EntityFunctions() {}

        /**
         * Count the properties of this entity.
         */
        public static java.lang.Integer propertyCount(final com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept.javamodel.IEntity entity) {
            /* Begin Protected Region [[17ea6616-3cff-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992]] */
            List<? extends IProperty> properties = entity.selectProperty();
            return properties.size();
            /* End Protected Region [[17ea6616-3cff-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992]] */
        }

    }

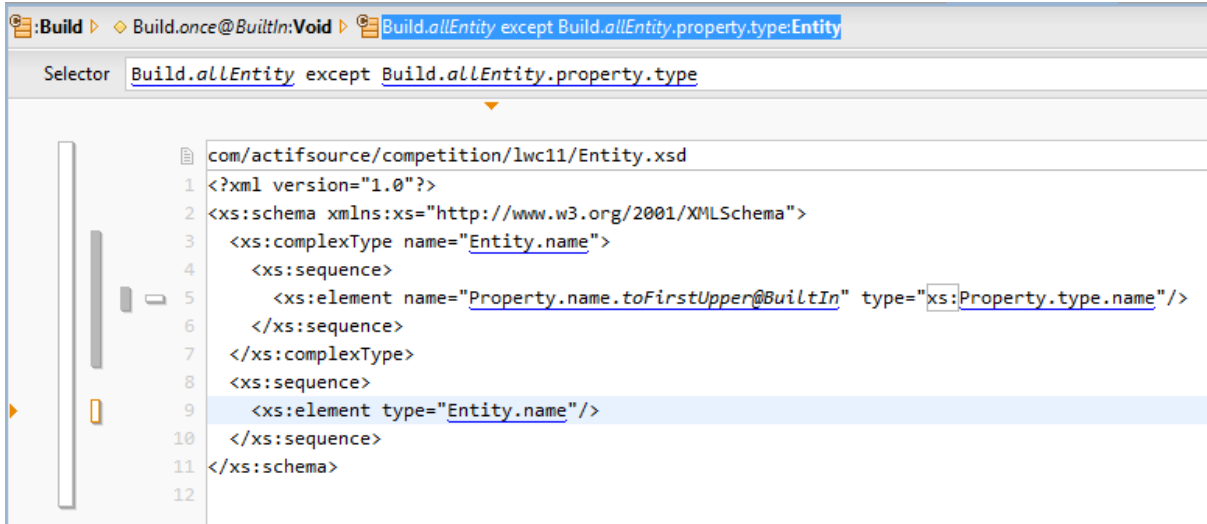
}

/* Actifsource ID=[5349246f-db37-11de-82b8-17be2e034a3b,07fd8eab-3cff-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992,3z0ItyQu29vGcgPd6IOEK8nMBHU=] */
```

1.6 Multiple generators

The Actifsource Template editor is not restricted to any language. It can generate any textual language desired.

Instead of Java code, we can also generate e.g. an XML schema definition as seen below:



The screenshot shows the Actifsource Template editor interface. The top bar displays the path: Build > Build.once@BuiltIn:Void > Build.allEntity except Build.allEntity.property.type:Entity. Below this, the 'Selector' field contains the text: Build.allEntity except Build.allEntity.property.type. The main editor area shows the XML schema definition for the file 'com/actifsource/competition/lwc11/Entity.xsd'. The schema is as follows:

```
1 <?xml version="1.0"?>
2 <xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
3   <xs:complexType name="Entity.name">
4     <xs:sequence>
5       <xs:element name="Property.name.toFirstUpper@BuiltIn" type="xs:Property.type.name"/>
6     </xs:sequence>
7   </xs:complexType>
8   <xs:sequence>
9     <xs:element type="Entity.name"/>
10  </xs:sequence>
11 </xs:schema>
12
```

This will be the generated file:



The screenshot shows the generated XML schema definition file 'Entity.xsd'. The schema is as follows:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
  <xs:complexType name="Person">
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element name="Name" type="xs:string"/>
      <xs:element name="Firstname" type="xs:string"/>
      <xs:element name="Birthdate" type="xs:date"/>
      <xs:element name="OwnedCar" type="Car"/>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
  <xs:complexType name="Car">
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element name="Make" type="xs:string"/>
      <xs:element name="Model" type="xs:string"/>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element type="Person"/>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:schema>

<!--Actifsource ID=[43cb46af-3c6e-11e1-aaa9-b960d2a4e992,a6d1b8c9-cedd-11de-80c2-87ac3
```

Phase 2 - Non-Functional

Phase 2 is intended to show a couple of non-functional properties of the LWB. The task outlined below does not elaborate on how to do this.

2.1 How to evolve the DSL without breaking existing models

If an extension to the model is needed, without touching the model itself, then decorations are the means of choice.

As an example we will add a property persistent to Entity, without touching the model we have created.

First, there is a path to the resources needed, we want to decorate. In our case, we have to add a resource which has a *UseRelation* to the entities, e.g. a type *System*.

com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_ext

typeOf	Class
name	System
comment	
aspect[InitializationAspect]	
aspect[ResourceValidationAspect]	
aspect[NameAspect]	
extends	NamedResource
modifier	
property[1]	entity : UseRelation
property[2]	implementation : DecoratingRelation

Second, we add a *DecoratingRelation* which decorates the given path to the entities.

typeOf	DecoratingRelation
name	implementation
comment	
aspect[RangeRestrictionAspect]	
aspect[DecoratingRelationAspect]	
subjectCardinality	
objectCardinality	
relationMode	
style	
defaultValue	
range	

typeOf	SelectorAspectImplementation
implements	ch.actifsource.core.DecoratingRelation.DecoratingRelationAspect
selector	System.entity
Cardinality0_1	
Cardinality1_1	

new	ch.actifsource.core	Class
new	ch.actifsource.core	Enum
new	ch.actifsource.core.selector.metaelement	ElementEnumMetaClass
new	ch.actifsource.core.selector.metaelement	ElementMetaClass
new	ch.actifsource.core.selector.metaelement	ParentElementMetaClass
new	ch.actifsource.ui.diagram.classes.connection	ConnectionRouter
new	ch.actifsource.ui.diagram.classes.shape	MetaShape
AbstractAspectImplementation	ch.actifsource.core	Class
BorderItem	ch.actifsource.ui.diagram	Class
ClassShape	ch.actifsource.ui.diagram.classes	MetaShape
Decorator	ch.actifsource.core	Class
JavaAspectImplementation	ch.actifsource.core	Class
LiteralEditorAspect	ch.actifsource.ui.builder	Class

Finally, we create a new type for the new property, and set it as *range* of the *DecoratingRelation*.

com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.concept_ext

typeOf	Class
name	Implementation
comment	
aspect[InitializationAspect]	
aspect[ResourceValidationAspect]	
aspect[NameAspect]	
extends	Decorator
modifier	
property	

typeOf	Attribute
name	<input type="text" value="persistent"/>
comment	
subjectCardinality	Cardinality1_1
range	ch.actifsource.core.BooleanLiteral
defaultValue	

definesAspect
allowRoot
classIcon
lineColor
fillColor
shape

In an instance of the new *System* type, there is an item for every entity, so we can set the new property.

com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain_ext

typeOf	System
name	PersonInformationSystem
entity[1]	com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Person
entity[2]	com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Car
implementation[Person]	
implementation[Car]	

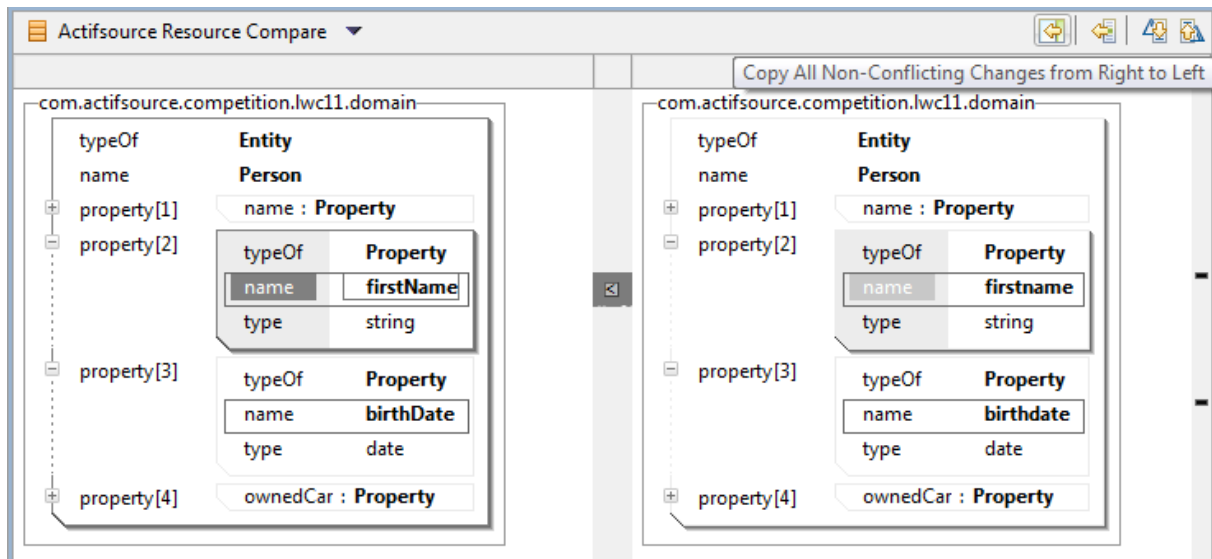
typeOf	Implementation
target	com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Person
persistent	true

typeOf	Implementation
target	com.actifsource.competition.lwc11.domain.Car
persistent	<input type="text"/>

true
 false

2.2 How to work with the models efficiently in the team

All Actifsource resources are saved as XML files together with the generated artifacts in the source control system of the user. Changes can be visualized in the editor and merged as desired.



2.3 Demonstrate Scalability of the tools

Phase 3 - Freestyle

Every LWB has its own special "cool features". In phase three we want the participants to show off these features. Please make sure, though, that the features are built on top of the task described below, if possible.

Actifsource does not require the knowledge of a new syntax: The model elements are selected using QuickAssist and are displayed graphically.

The format of the generated code can be any textual format. Since there are no template keywords, the template already looks very similar to the generated code.