Stencil and template for UML 1.1

Important tips for users

•When you right-click most of the shapes, a useful menu appears.
•You can open additional compartments of a class, an object, a state, and use case. To do so, click the control on the bottom line of the shape and drag it up.
•You can easily change a class to an object and vice versa by changing its text style from "UM Classifier" to "UM Instance". In this way, you can easily create a collaboration diagram from a class diagram by copying and pasting the class diagram and then selecting all the classes and changing their text style.
•Use the UML stencil together with the UML template. If, for some reason, you open the stencil from another template, click Tools, Snap & Glue and place check marks in the Glue and Shape Vertices check boxes.

Advanced tips for users

•The text style UM Connector applies only to the text format. In contrast to the style UM Normal, the text is left-aligned.
•The controls used for text positioning ensure a constant distance is kept between the text and the closest line end, or the text and the closest side or sides of a two-dimensional shape. Likewise, if the text is positioned in the middle of the shape, it will remain in the middle regardless of how you change the shape size.
•Visio automatically creates new connection points on Object lifelines and Activations when you connect messages to them. However, if you disconnect the object lifeline and the message, Visio does not automatically remove the connection point. If you do not want to see the extra connection points, you can click View and deselect Connection Points. Alternatively, you can delete them manually by selecting Connection Point Tool. You can then select the extra connection point, which turns magenta, and press the Delete key.
•The version of the stencil for Visio 5.0 contains a routable connector that automatically changes its path to avoid crossing through two-dimensional symbols. However, due to the bugs in the Visio 5.0, this connector sometimes changes its path unexpectedly when certain events occur, for example, when the connector is enclosed inside a symbol (like a package). Visio did not fix this problem with the Service release C . I recommend, therefore, that you continue to use the angled or straight connectors instead of the routable connector.

Details about the stencil design

•Class and object are the same shape, differing only in their initial states. Therefore, if you redesign one, you must redesign both.
•Although the stencil is designed to allow maximal drawing freedom, there is a restriction on formatting the text in additional compartments of Class, Object, State and Use Case. If you format the text in the additional compartments using Horizontal Alignment: Center and Vertical Alignment: Middle, the first character cannot be underlined or typed in boldface. (It can, however, be bold and underlined). If you choose one of these two formats for the first character, the format automatically switches to the default format for this compartment, which is Horizontal Alignment: Left, Vertical Alignment: Top, and regular font. These two formats are rarely used. You might use them only if you apply your own text styles to the shape.

My intention is to update the stencil whenever there is an update of UML or when I get some good suggestions from you. Send me an e-mail to ph@navision.com if you would like to be informed about new releases of the stencil.

I would appreciate feedback in order to facilitate future improvements, or if you make improvements yourself, please visit my homepage or send me an e-mail to ph@navision.com.