

# Goal and Scenario Modeling, Analysis, and Transformation with jUCMNav

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## Abstract

*jUCMNav is an open-source Eclipse plug-in that supports the definition, analysis, transformation, and management of requirements engineering models expressed with the User Requirements Notation (URN). In November 2008, URN was approved as a standard by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T). URN is the first standard that combines modeling concepts and notations for goals and intentions (mainly for non-functional requirements, quality attributes, and reasoning about alternatives) and scenarios (mainly for operational requirements, functional requirements, and reasoning about scenario interactions, performance, and high-level architecture). jUCMNav has been instrumental in validating key concepts for the current standard as well as prototyping new concepts.*

## 1. Introduction

jUCMNav [3] is the most comprehensive tool available to date that supports the *User Requirements Notation* (URN) standard [2]. jUCMNav is an open-source Eclipse plug-in that can handle URN's two complementary sublanguages – GRL (the *Goal-oriented Requirement Language*) for modeling goal-oriented and intentional concepts and UCM (*Use Case Maps*) for modeling scenario concepts.

URN supports the elicitation, analysis, specification, and validation of requirements. URN is the first standard to address explicitly, in a graphical way and in one unified language, goals and scenarios, and the links between them. URN models do not intend to provide detailed specifications of “how” functionalities are to be supported but are primarily concerned with exposing “why” certain choices for behavior and/or structure were introduced, combined with an abstract view of “what” capabilities and architecture are required. Modeling goals and scenarios is complementary and may aid in identifying additional or spurious

goals and scenarios, thus contributing to the completeness and accuracy of requirements.

URN has concepts for the specification of stakeholders, goals, non-functional requirements, rationales, behavior, structure, and scenarios. URN is suitable for describing most types of service-oriented, concurrent, distributed, reactive, and information systems, covering abstractions from business goals and requirements description to high-level design. For more details, the reader is referred to the (210+) publications and these available at the URN Virtual Library [8].

## 2. Features of jUCMNav

jUCMNav's features can be broadly grouped into basic URN model definition, analysis, transformation, and advanced research. The **basic model definition features** are based on the URN standard and ensure that syntactically correct URN models are created and that definitions of URN model elements can be shared among multiple interlinked GRL and UCM diagrams.

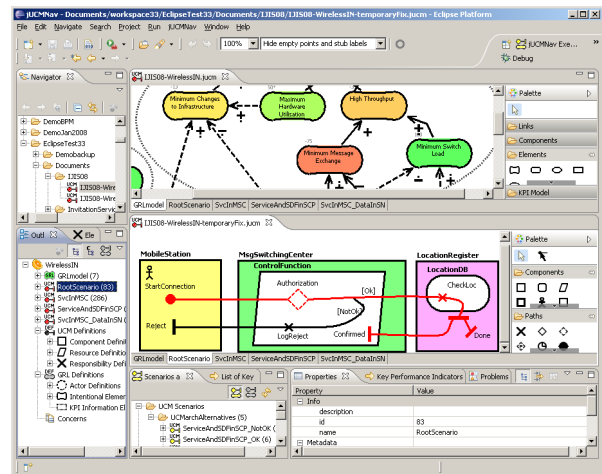


Fig. 1. URN modeling with jUCMNav

The two key URN **analysis features** supported by jUCMNav are GRL model evaluation with strategies and UCM model interpretation with scenario definitions and the path traversal mechanism. jUCMNav has

an extensible architecture that allows customized GRL and UCM analysis techniques to be added to the tool with little effort. Currently, the three sample **GRL evaluation mechanisms** in the URN standard are supported (quantitative, qualitative, as well as a mixed analysis), plus a fourth one proposed in [7]. jUCMNav gives immediate visual feedback for global tradeoffs among conflicting stakeholder goals (see Fig 1.).

jUCMNav's **path traversal mechanism** conforms to the requirements defined in the URN standard and traverses a UCM model based on a scenario definition provided by the modeler. A scenario definition specifies scenario start points, preconditions, expected scenario end points, postconditions, and initializations of global variables. The actual path to be traversed is determined by the initial, user-defined values of these global path variables and the changes to their values during the traversal. The URN data model contains a simple action language that supports variable assignments, expressions, and conditional statements and is fully supported by the jUCMNav tool. Various errors and warnings are reported if the traversal cannot proceed, when non-deterministic choices are encountered, or when preconditions, postconditions, or expected scenario end points are violated. This enables the (regression) testing and validation of the UCM model, as well as the detection of undesired scenario interactions.

jUCMNav also uses scenario definitions to highlight, in red, the paths traversed while running the scenario on a UCM model. In addition, strategies and scenario definitions can be combined for an integrated analysis of a URN model and their results can influence each other [4]. jUCMNav automatically creates UCM integer variables for each GRL graph element. The current satisfaction levels of such elements can hence be used to influence the selection of UCM paths. Also, new values can be assigned to these variables during the traversal, hence influencing the propagation of satisfaction levels in a GRL graph.

Recently, jUCMNav has been extended with the concept of **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** [6]. KPIs represent real metrics of a system that can be retrieved from external sources of information (e.g. data warehouses or performance management tools) and are used in URN as input for the GRL evaluation mechanism. Therefore, KPIs may change the satisfaction level of high-level goals which in turn may cause changes to the parts of the UCM model that are linked to the goal model. A feedback-based framework for online monitoring of system metrics and runtime adaptation of scenario models is therefore established.

The **transformation features** of the jUCMNav tool support advanced functionalities such as scenario export to MSC [4] with an integrated MSC viewer,

export of performance models based on UCM performance annotations, and integration with the IBM/Telelogic DOORS requirements management system [6] (for requirements and model evolution, and for compliance). The tool can also generate reports and export diagrams in various formats.

### 3. Conclusion

jUCMNav is the most popular and feature-rich modeling tool for the User Requirements Notation, a goal and scenario modeling standard recently approved by ITU-T. jUCMNav has been and continues to be very useful in validating new ideas and concepts for URN and to demonstrate the usefulness of the notation. jUCMNav is currently used at a dozen universities and in several companies around the world for education, research, and industrial modeling purposes. We ourselves have been using it successfully for 4 years in our undergraduate Software Requirements Analysis and graduate Software Engineering courses.

Future versions of jUCMNav will focus on better supporting new URN constructs recently standardized as well as concepts and capabilities from **advanced research** in the areas of business process monitoring / runtime adaptation [6], composition of aspect-oriented models [5], OCL-based semantic model verification [1], and advanced workflow patterns.

### References

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