



COM on

Developing Component based Information Systems

with tools supporting the Microsoft Component Object Model

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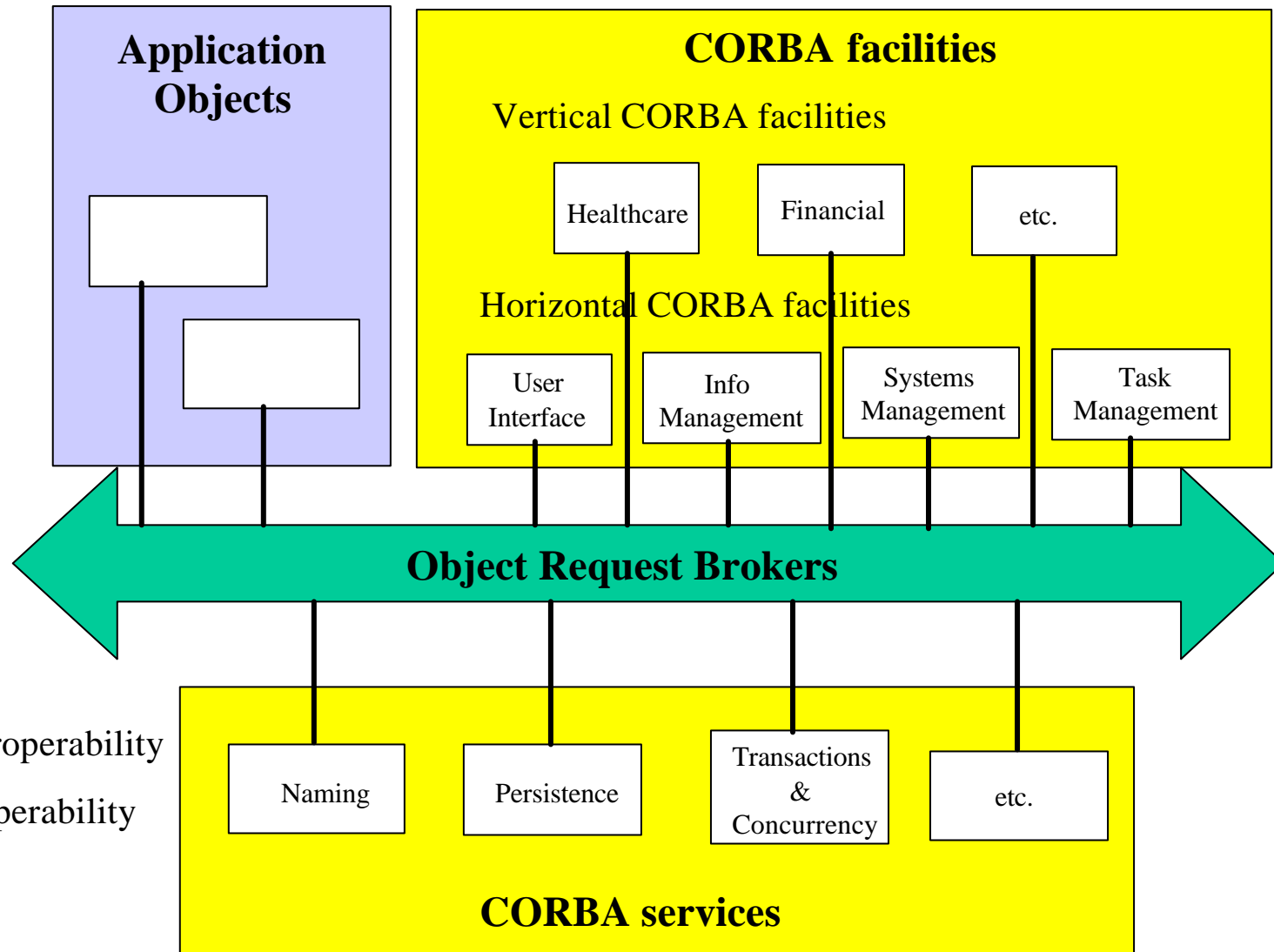
Outline

Some tools and technologies for the development of Component based Information Systems

- Object Management Architecture, CORBA (Common Object Request Broker Architecture)
- Microsoft COM (Component Object Model), DCOM (Distributed COM)
- Component Object Models, IDL (Interface Description Language)
- Layered Architectures, 3-tier/n-tier, Business Objects
- Rational Rose/UML (Unified Modelling Language)
- Visual Basic, Visual C++, ATL (Active Template Library), J++ (MS Java)
- Compound Documents, ActiveX Controls, ActiveX Documents
- Universal Data Access, OLE DB, ADO (ActiveX Data Objects)
- MTS (Microsoft Transaction Server)
- IIS (Internet Information Server), ASP (Active Server Pages), Scripting
- SOAP - Simple Object Access Protocol
- XML, DTD (Document Type Definition), DOM (Document Object Model), XSL (eXtensible Stylesheet Language)
- Microsoft Repository, Visual Component Manager (VCM)
- Microsoft Message Queue Server (MSMQ)
- OODB (??)
-and more....puh....



OMG's Object Management Architecture



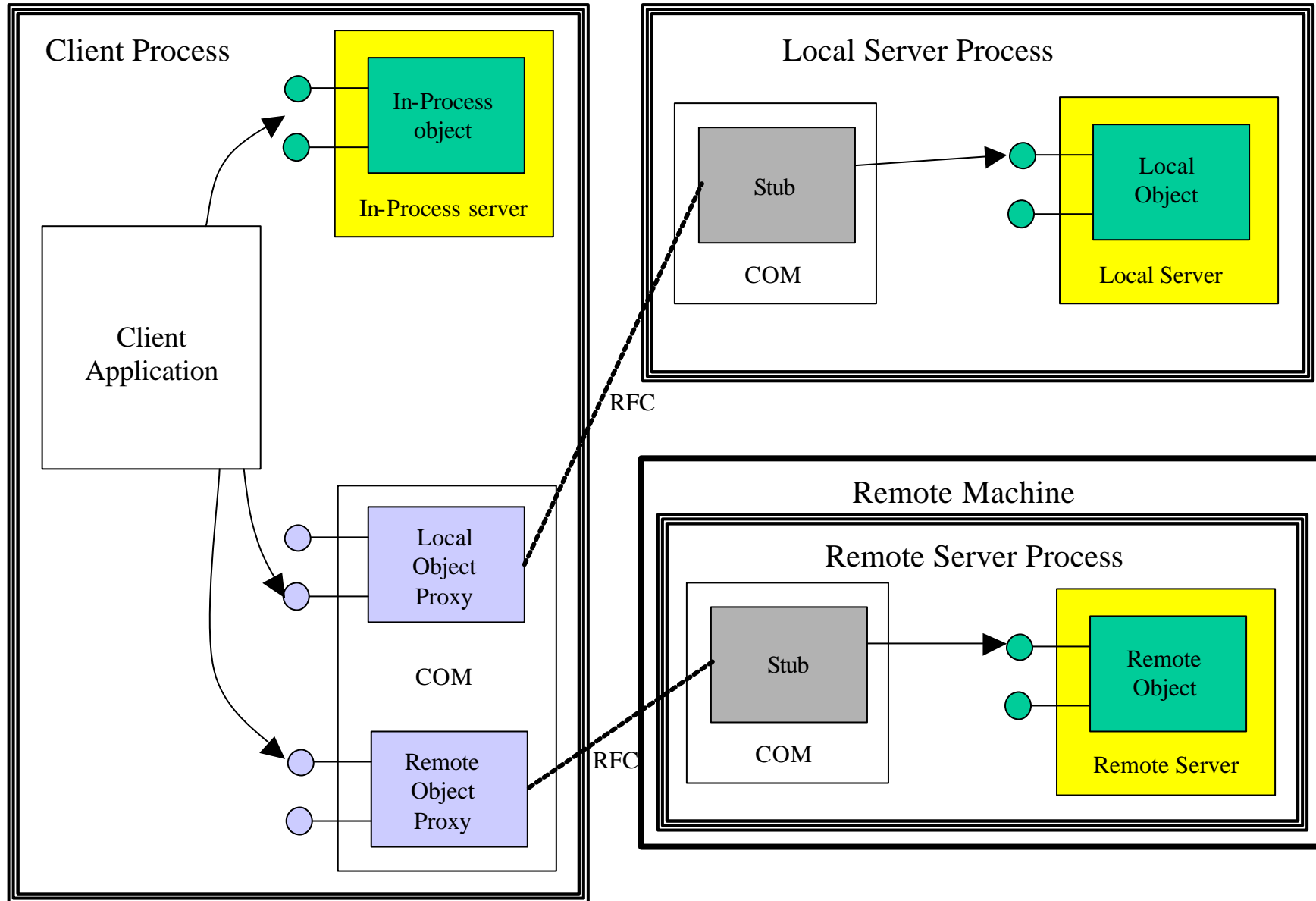
- Syntactical interoperability
- Semantic interoperability

OMG - Object Management Group

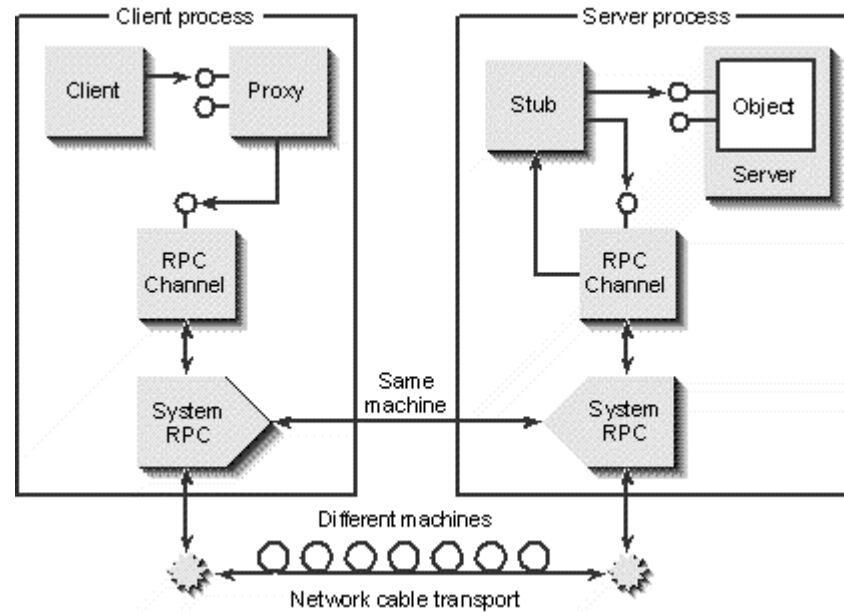
CORBA - Common Object Request Broker Architecture



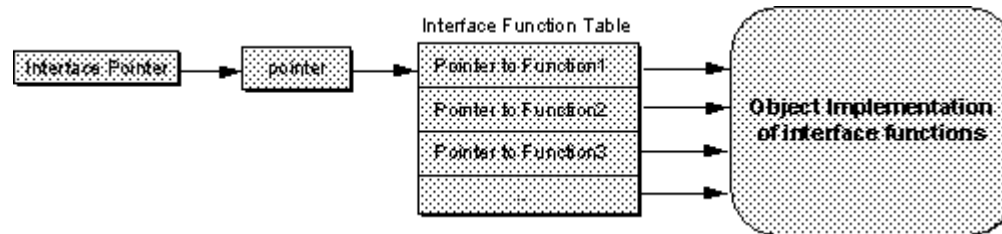
Local in-process, Local out-of-process, Remote



Marshalling for Out-of-Process Components



Basic COM (Component Object Model)



- **VTable interfaces** - a binary standard with interfaces based on a memory layout corresponding to that of abstract classes in C++

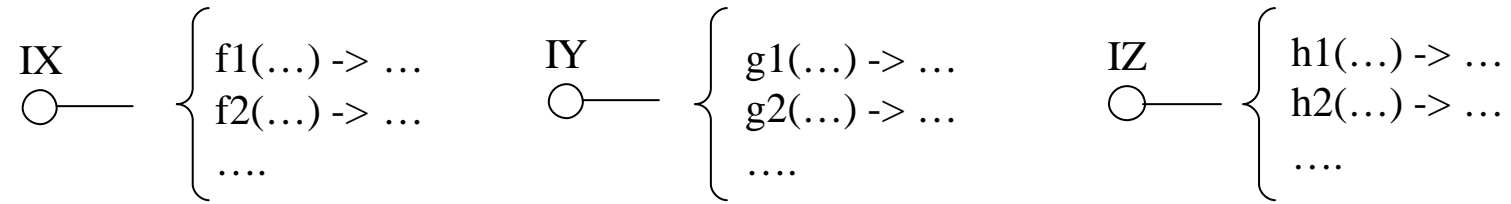
A COM interface and its functions is similar to an abstract base class with a set of virtual functions in C++

The extra level of indirection provides flexibility with respect to how interfaces are implemented.

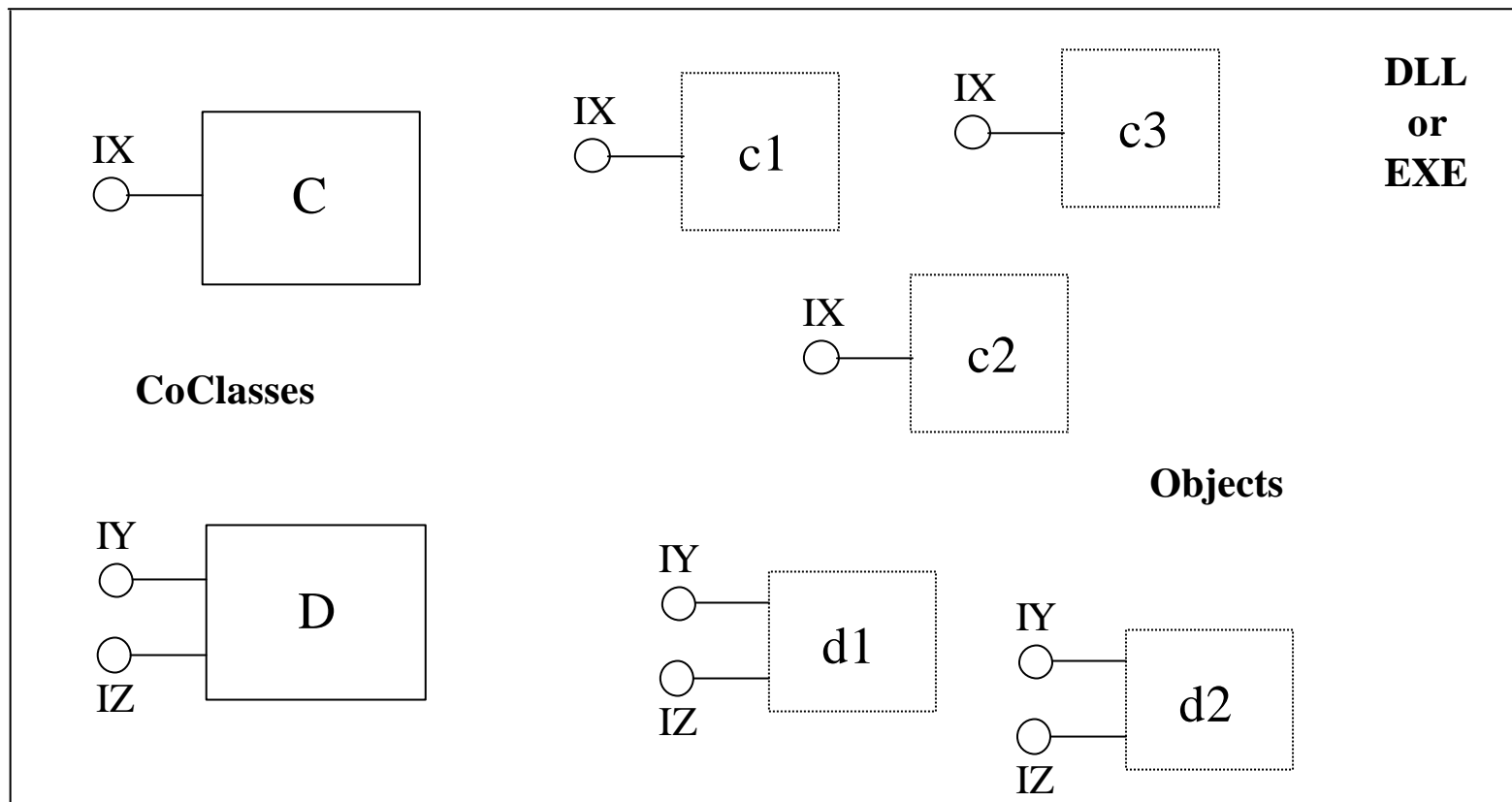
- **Dispatch interfaces** - query the interface for its functions and their signatures
- **Dual interfaces** - available both for efficient vtable access and for scripting languages



Interfaces, Components/CoClasses, Objects, GUID (Globally Unique Identifiers), CLSID, IID

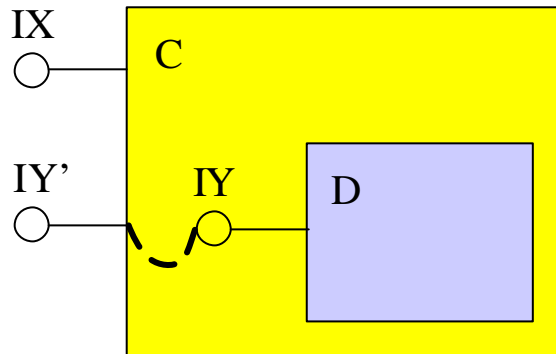


Interfaces: Versioning - Multiple interfaces - Single inheritance - IUnknown

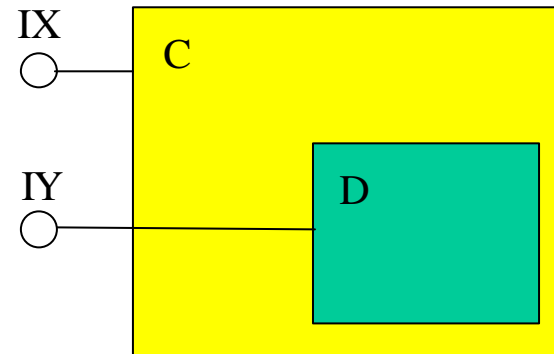


Integrating COM Components via Containment vs Aggregation

Containment



Aggregation





IDL - Interface Definition Language

```
[ object,  
  uuid(EA762187-A99A-11d3-95F4-0060979B4844),  
  oleautomation,  
  dual,  
  ....]  
interface IOSSMLogin : IDispatch  
{ [id(1), helpstring("Function LogOn")]  
  HRESULT LogOn([in] BSTR user, [in] BSTR pwd, [out] VARIANT_BOOL* okLogOn);  
  
  [id(2), helpstring("Function LogOff")]  
  HRESULT LogOff([out] VARIANT_BOOL* okLogOff);  
};  
  
[ object,  
  uuid(EA762188-A99A-11d3-95F4-0060979B4844),  
  oleautomation,  
  dual,  
  ....]  
interface IOSSMXML : IDispatch  
{ [id(1), helpstring("Function GetRecordInfo")]  
  HRESULT GetRecordInfo([in] long recordID, [in] short retrievalMode,  
                        [in] VARIANT_BOOL getHTML, [out] BSTR* XMLString);  
  .... };
```

The screenshot displays two windows from the Windows 95/NT era:

- OLE/COM Object Viewer:** Shows a tree view of system components on the left. The selected component is `OSSCOMInterface.ISMLogOn` (GUID: {C38A7CEF-A50C-11D3-8C1A-0431F7C00000}). The right pane shows registry information:
 - Registry: Implementation
 - CLSID = {0000031A-0000-0000-C000-000000000046}
 - {C38A7CEF-A50C-11D3-8C1A-0431F7C00000} = OSSCOMInterface.ISMLogOn
 - ProgID = OSSCOMInterface.ISMLogOn
 - TypeLib = {C38A7CEF-A50C-11D3-8C1A-0431F7C00000}
- ITypeLib Viewer:** Shows the IDL definition for the `OSSCOMInterface` library. The tree view on the left shows:
 - `dispinterface _ISMLogOn`
 - `interface _ISMLogOn`
 - `m LogOn`
 - `m LogOff`
 - `Inherited Interfaces`
 - `IDispatch`
 - `m GetTypeInfoCount`
 - `m GetTypeInfo`
 - `m GetIDsOfNames`
 - `m Invoke`
 - `Inherited Interfaces`
 - `IUnknown`
 - `m QueryInterface`
 - `m AddRef`
 - `m Release`

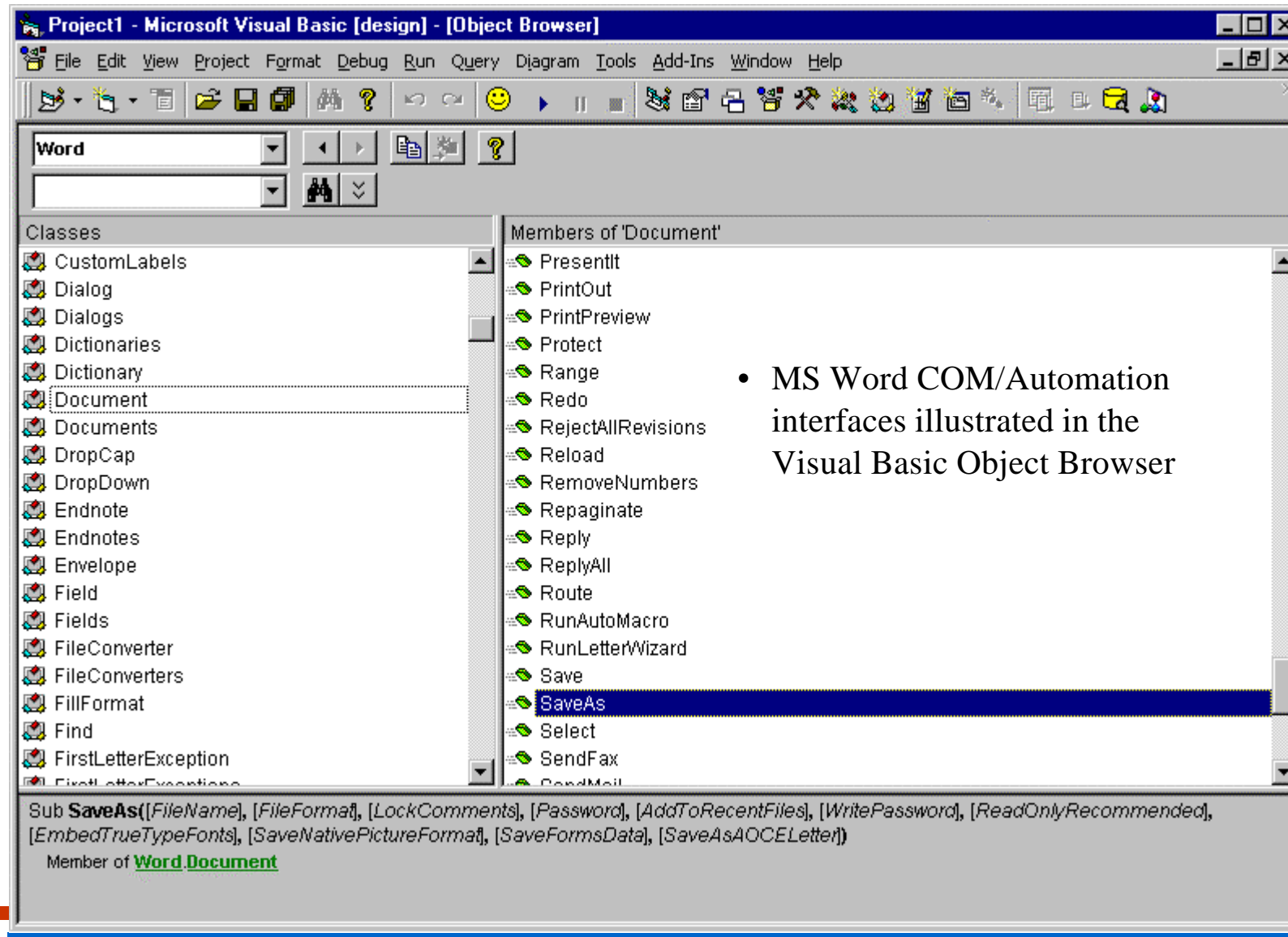
The right pane of the ITypeLib Viewer shows the generated IDL code:

```
// Generated .IDL file (by the
// OLE/COM Object Viewer)
//
// typelib filename: <could not
// determine filename>
[
  uuid(5CF2244D-86C3-11D3-95DD-
  0060979B4844),
  version(1.0)
]
library OSSCOMInterface
{
  // TLib :           // TLib : OLE
  Automation : {00020430-0000-0000-
  C000-0000000000046}
  importlib("StdOle2.Tlb");

  // Forward declare all types
  defined in this typelib
  interface _ISMLogOn;
```

Component Object Models

- In component based systems an object model consists of classes, interfaces, functions, etc, typically specified by an IDL (interface definition language).





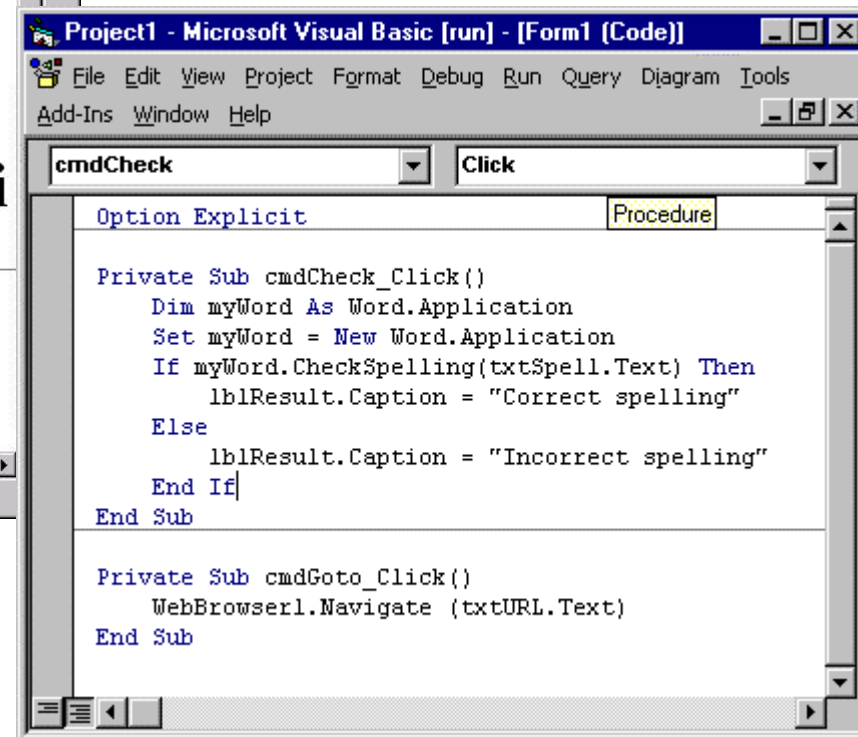
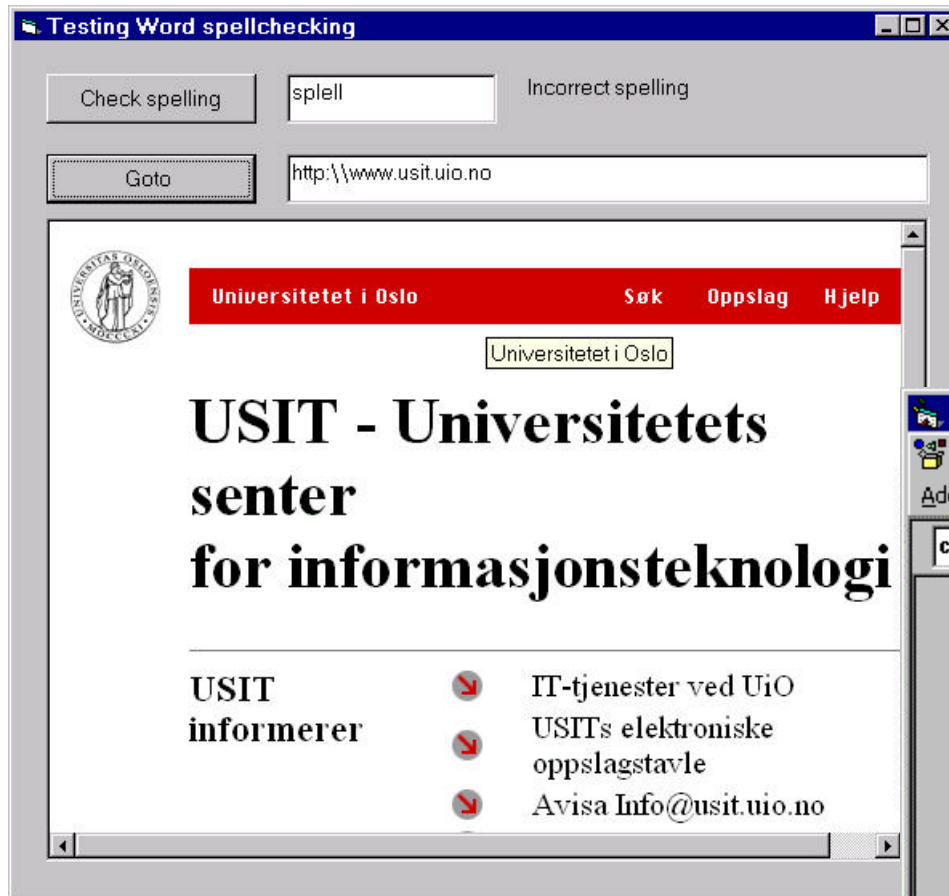
Programming Languages and Development Environment

- **Microsoft Visual Studio** - an elaborate development environment
- **Visual Basic** - very(!) easy to learn and use - inflexible - performance
- **Visual C++** - powerful and flexible - complex - wizzardmania....
- **Visual J++** - no experience with it.....
- **ATL (Active Template Library)** - utility for creating COM components in VC++

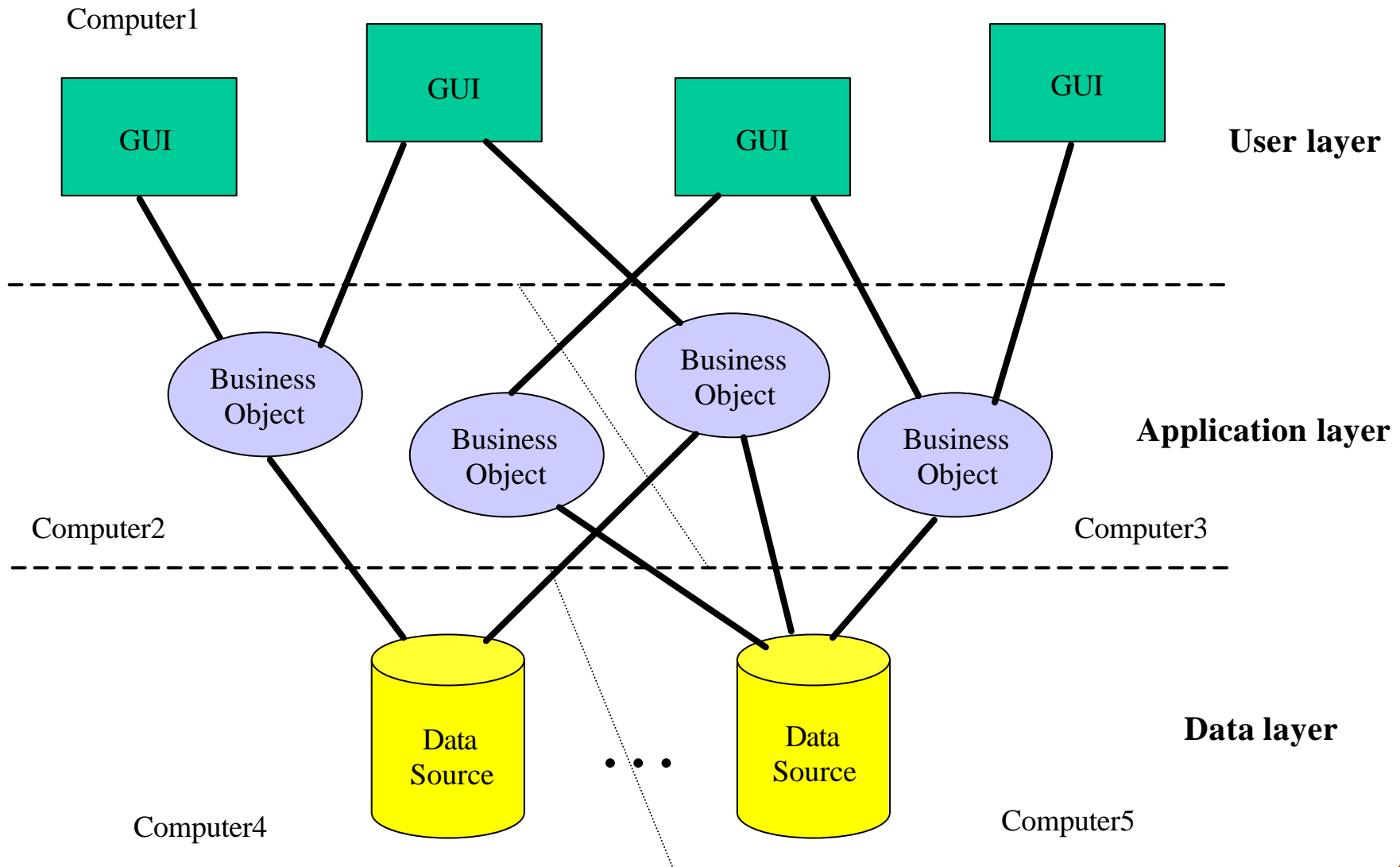


Compound Documents

with ActiveX Controls and ActiveX Documents



Layered Architectures - 3-tier/n-tier





Characteristics of Rational Rose/UML

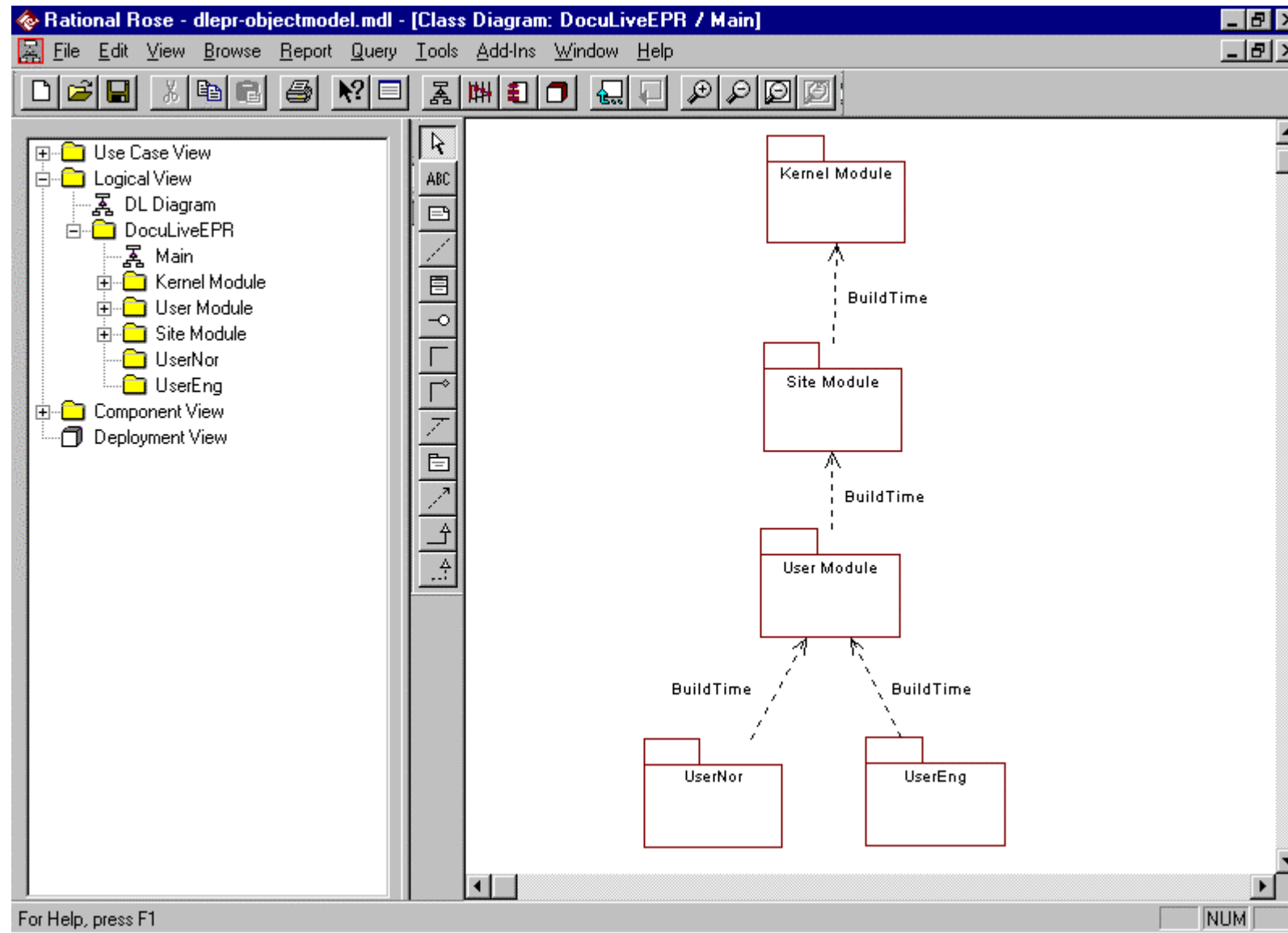
- + “Mainstream” - well-known and seen as a standard
- + Information modelling and explicit object interaction modelling
- + Object model available via COM/automation - it can be extended and customised
- + Code generation (but **not** production code...)
- + Informal (is this a plus??)

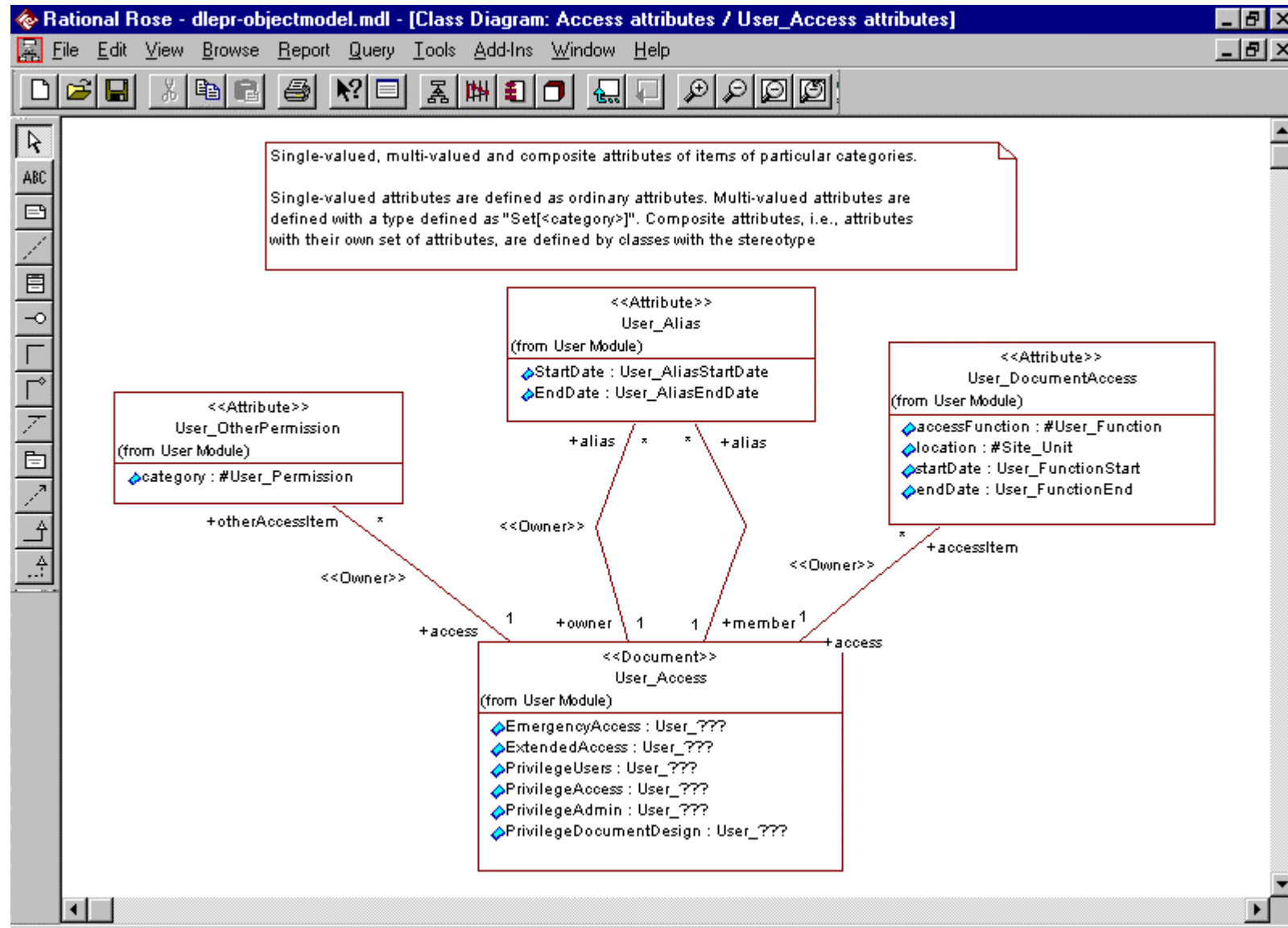
- ÷ Business rules and behaviour other than explicit object interaction
- ÷ Conceptual errors cannot be detected - models are not correct/incorrect - no modelling tool can distinguish good from bad models (and this is difficult also for experienced modellers)
- ÷ Incomplete
- ÷ Slightly confusing organization (at least at first...)

- Consider it mainly as a drawing tool and as a model repository
- Use only those parts that are well understood/agreed upon, and use it consistently - do **not** “over-model”
- Modelling syntax is not essential, but you are not likely to do e.g. Class Diagrams any better...
- Assuming that analysis/design is essential to large-scale software development, then a modelling tool can be useful to establish good routines for planning and documentation, and as a means for unambiguous communication internally and externally.



Rose (cont.) - a model is organized into a set of logical packages





The screenshot shows the Rational Rose interface with the following elements:

- Expand Selected Elements Dialog:**
 - Limit: Expand to n levels (Levels: 1), Expand indefinitely
 - Relations to Expand: Clients, Suppliers, Both
- Relations Dialog:**
 - Type: Generalize, Dependency, Has, Realizes, Instantiates, Metaclass, Association
 - Access: Public, Protected, Private, Implementation
- Class Diagram:**

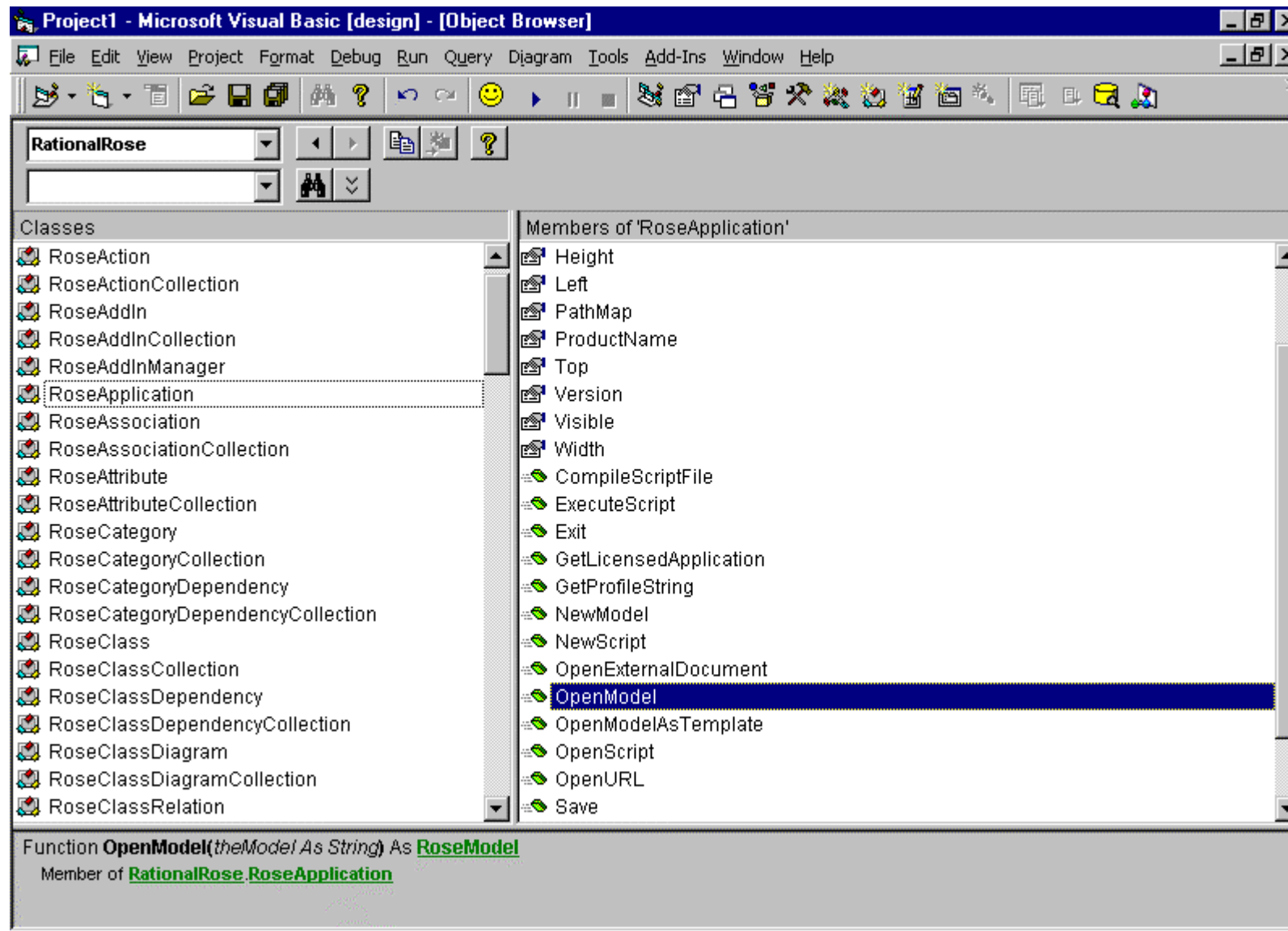
```

classDiagram
    class _Category["_Category (from Kernel Module)"]
    class _Item["_Item (from Kernel Module)"]
    class _Folder["_Folder (from Kernel Module)"]
    class _RecordFolder["_RecordFolder (from Kernel)"]
    class User_Record["<<Record>> User_Record (from User)"]
    _Category <|-- _Item
    _Item <|-- _Folder
    _Folder <|-- _RecordFolder
    _RecordFolder <|-- User_Record
    
```
- Text Box:**

... is meant to be used for queries against the logical model; i.e., ...
 ... presented different views on the overall model.
 ... below is a complete view of the User module components except
 ... category inheritance relationships.



Rose (cont.) - COM/Automation - the Rational Rose Object Model





Rose (cont.) - retrieving the classes defined in a particular model

```
Project1 - Microsoft Visual Basic [run] - [Form1 (Code)]
File Edit View Project Format Debug Run Query Diagram Tools Add-Ins Window Help
Command1 Click
Dim roseApplication As RationalRose.roseApplication
Dim roseModel As RationalRose.roseModel
Dim roseClassCollection As RationalRose.roseClassCollection
Dim roseClass As RationalRose.roseClass
Dim i As Integer

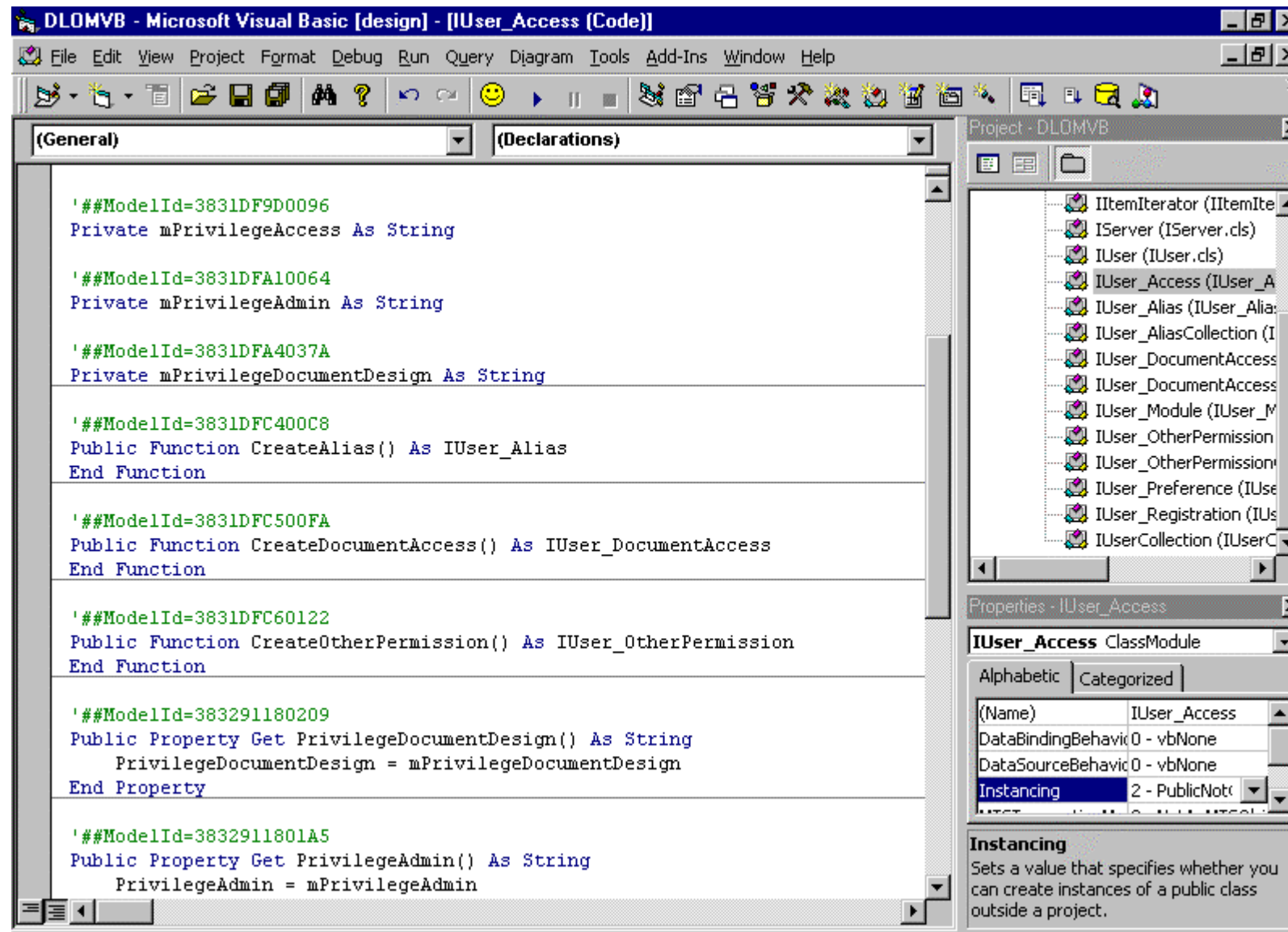
Set roseApplication = New RationalRose.roseApplication
Set roseModel = roseApplication.OpenModel("C:\siemens\objectmodelEPR\dlepr-objectmodel.mdl")
Set roseClassCollection = roseModel.GetAllClasses

For i = 1 To roseClassCollection.Count
    Set roseClass = roseClassCollection.GetAt(i)
    Debug.Print "Class: " & roseClass.Name
Next

Call roseApplication.Exit
```

Immediate

```
Class: User_FamilyName
Class: IItemIterator
Class: _ViewItem
Class: _QueryItem
Class: _Relation
Class: IUser
Class: User_OtherPermission
Class: User_CardID
Class: User_Registration
Class: User_UserQuit
```



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Visual Basic IDE with the following components:

- Window Title:** DLOMVB - Microsoft Visual Basic [design] - [IUser_Access (Code)]
- Menu Bar:** File, Edit, View, Project, Format, Debug, Run, Query, Diagram, Tools, Add-Ins, Window, Help
- Toolbox:** Standard Visual Basic toolbox icons.
- Code Editor:**
 - Tab: (General)
 - Section: (Declarations)
 - Code:


```

          '##ModelId=3831DF9D0096
          Private mPrivilegeAccess As String

          '##ModelId=3831DFA10064
          Private mPrivilegeAdmin As String

          '##ModelId=3831DFA4037A
          Private mPrivilegeDocumentDesign As String

          '##ModelId=3831DFC400C8
          Public Function CreateAlias() As IUser_Alias
          End Function

          '##ModelId=3831DFC500FA
          Public Function CreateDocumentAccess() As IUser_DocumentAccess
          End Function

          '##ModelId=3831DFC60122
          Public Function CreateOtherPermission() As IUser_OtherPermission
          End Function

          '##ModelId=383291180209
          Public Property Get PrivilegeDocumentDesign() As String
          PrivilegeDocumentDesign = mPrivilegeDocumentDesign
          End Property

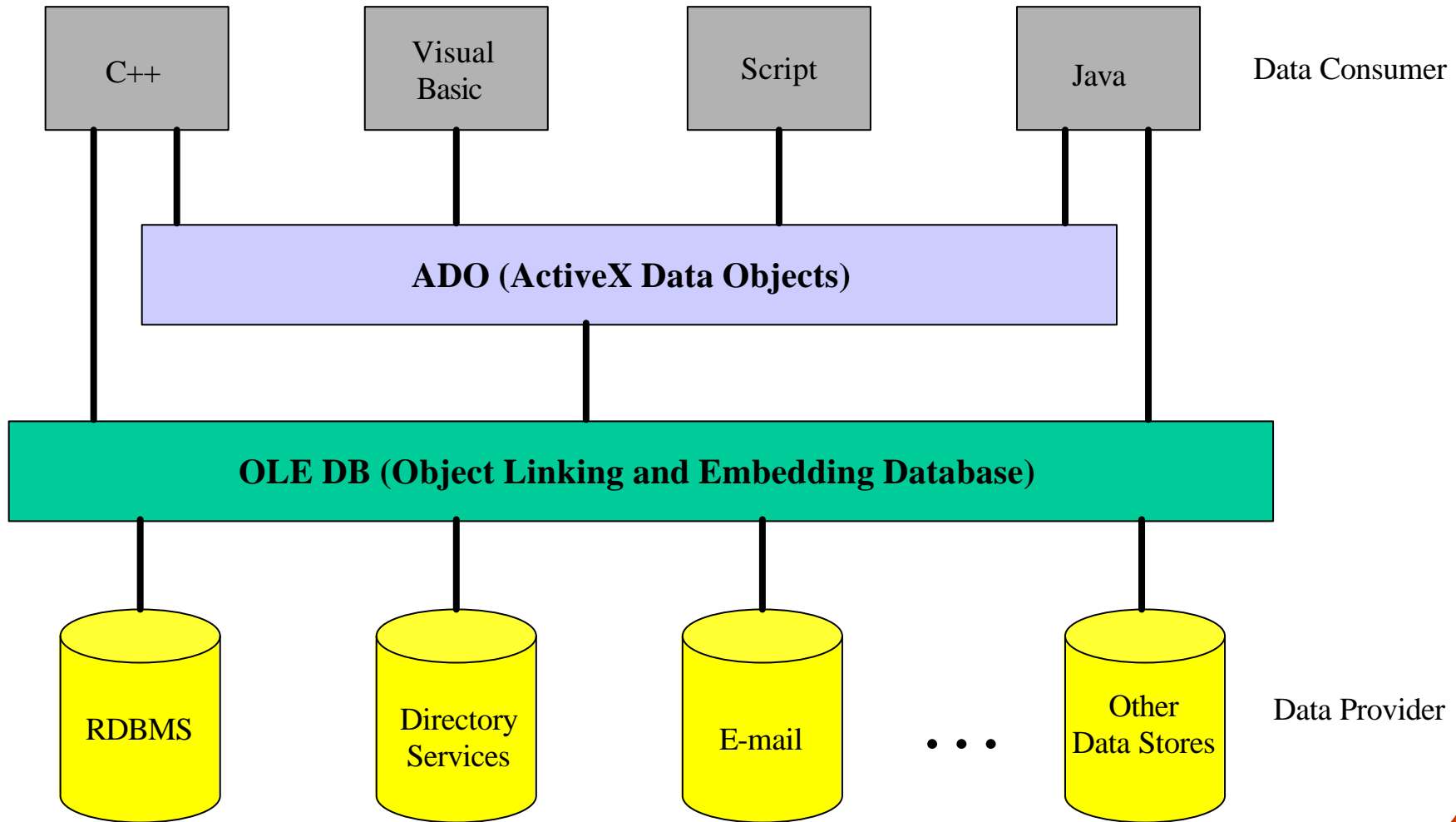
          '##ModelId=3832911801A5
          Public Property Get PrivilegeAdmin() As String
          PrivilegeAdmin = mPrivilegeAdmin
          
```
- Project Explorer:**
 - Project: DLOMVB
 - Classes:
 - IItemIterator (IItemIt...
 - IServer (IServer.cls)
 - IUser (IUser.cls)
 - IUser_Access (IUser_A...
 - IUser_Alias (IUser_Alias...
 - IUser_AliasCollection (I...
 - IUser_DocumentAccess
 - IUser_DocumentAccess
 - IUser_Module (IUser_M...
 - IUser_OtherPermission
 - IUser_OtherPermission
 - IUser_Preference (IUse...
 - IUser_Registration (IUs...
 - IUserCollection (IUserC...
- Properties Window:**
 - Properties - IUser_Access
 - ClassModule: IUser_Access ClassModule
 - Alphabetic | Categorized
 - Table:

(Name)	IUser_Access
DataBindingBehavior	0 - vbNone
DataSourceBehavior	0 - vbNone
Instancing	2 - PublicNot...
 - Instancing:

Instancing
Sets a value that specifies whether you can create instances of a public class outside a project.

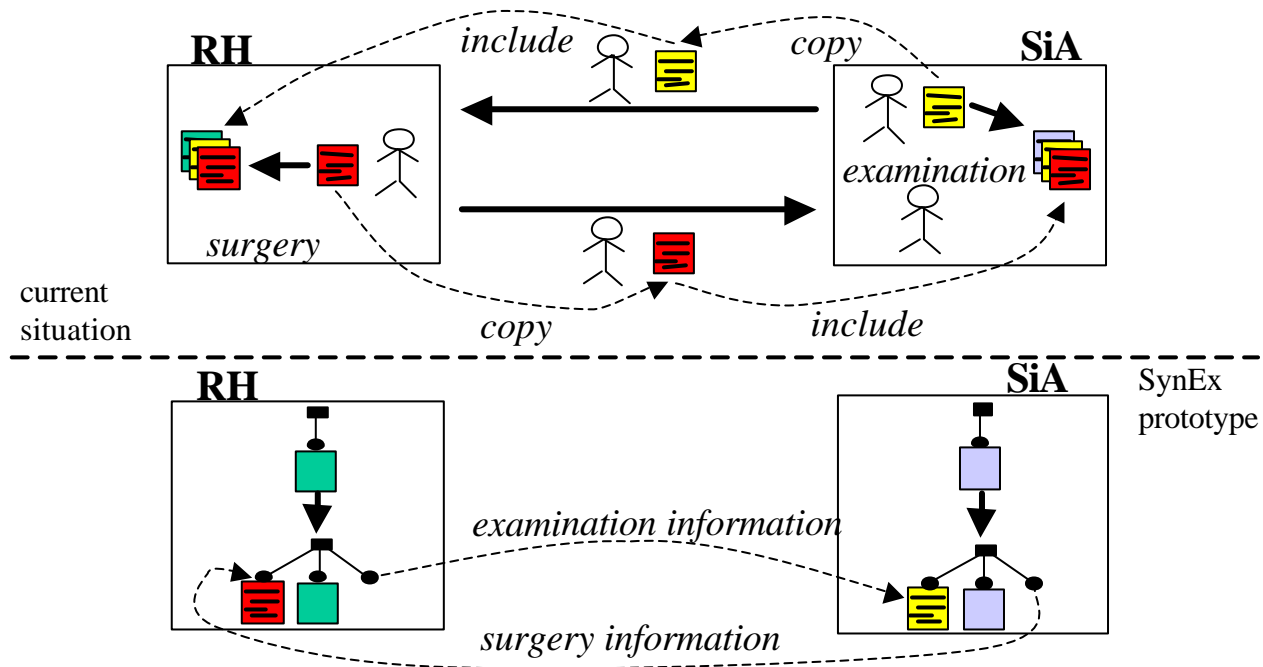


Universal Data Access (UDA) with OLE DB and ADO



SynEx - Synergy on the Extranet

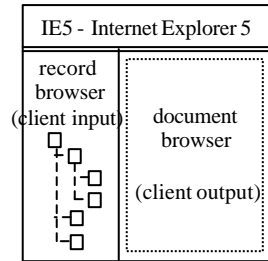
Shared, Federated Electronic Healthcare Records





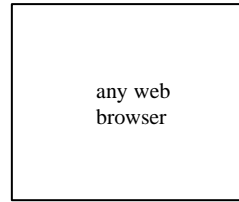
SynEx Demonstrator Architecture

① SynEx Client

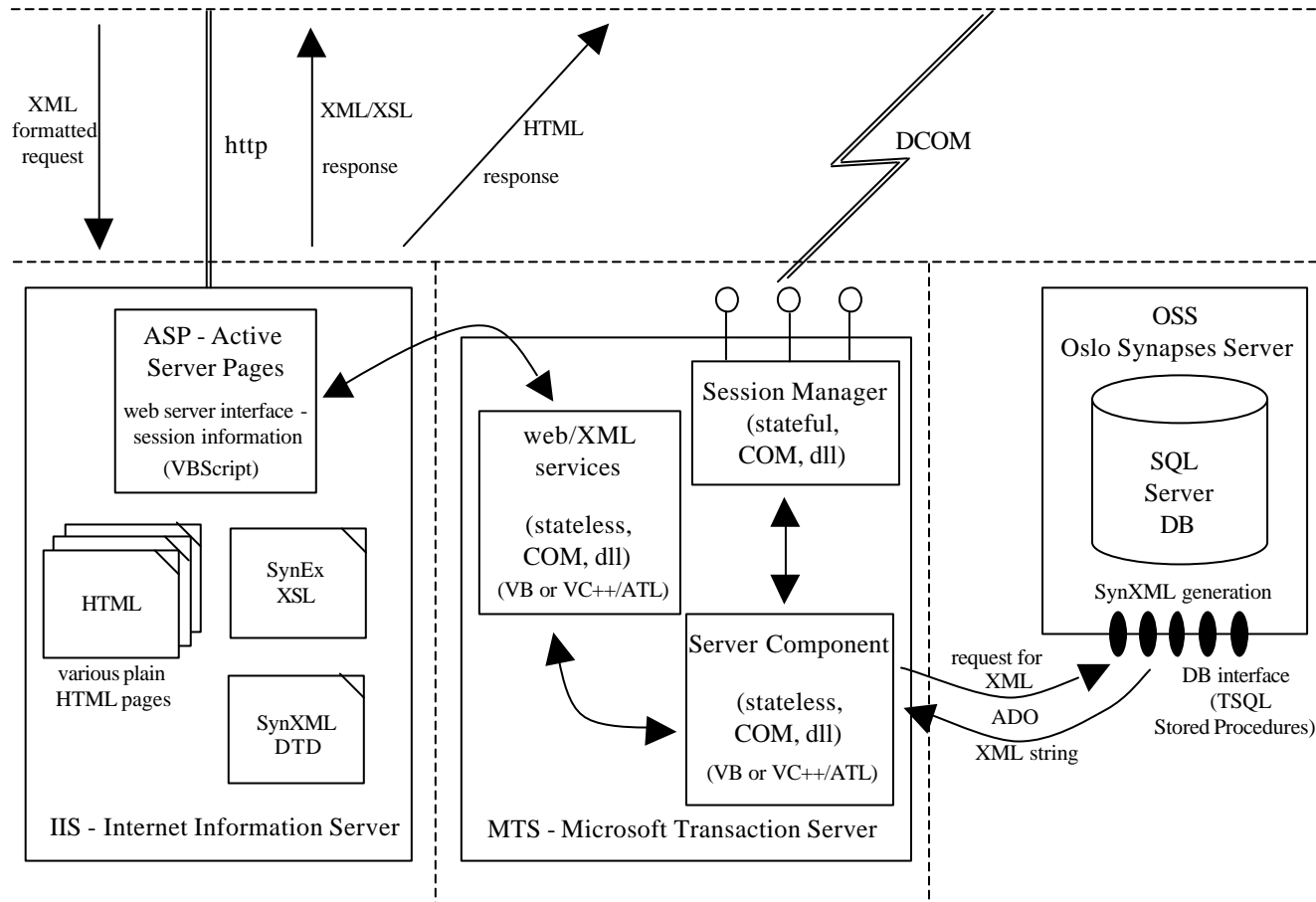
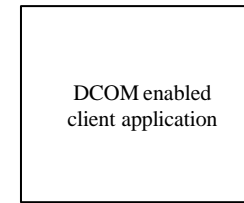


ActiveX, XML browser, XML parser, XSL processor

② Simple Client



③ DCOM Client





SOAP - Simple Object Access Protocol

XML formatted Server Requests via http

Server request:

```
http:\\www.nr.no\\synexdemo\\oss.asp?<OSSrequest>  
<RecordInfo RecordID="12082373463" Retrieval="all"/>  
</OSSrequest>
```

The parameter "**<OSSrequest>...</OSSrequest>**" is received by the Active Server Page "**oss.asp**", at the specified address, for further server-side processing.

Benefit:

Enable access to server-side business objects via http - less problems with Firewalls

PS: SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) uses a different XML format.



Active Server Pages (ASP)

- Avoid the use of scripting languages (e.g. VBscript) except as "glue" between COM components.
VB, VC++ or J++ offers better development environments

```
<%@ Language=VBScript %>
<%
'--| The ASP script for retrieval of record and document XML from the Oslo Synapses Server.
'--|
'--| The script creates a COSSASPServer object and forwards its parameter client request to this
'--| object's PerformSynXMLRequest function. The COSSASPServer object will handle the request
'--| and forward the requested XML information, or an error message, back to the client via the
'--| Response object of this ASP script.
```

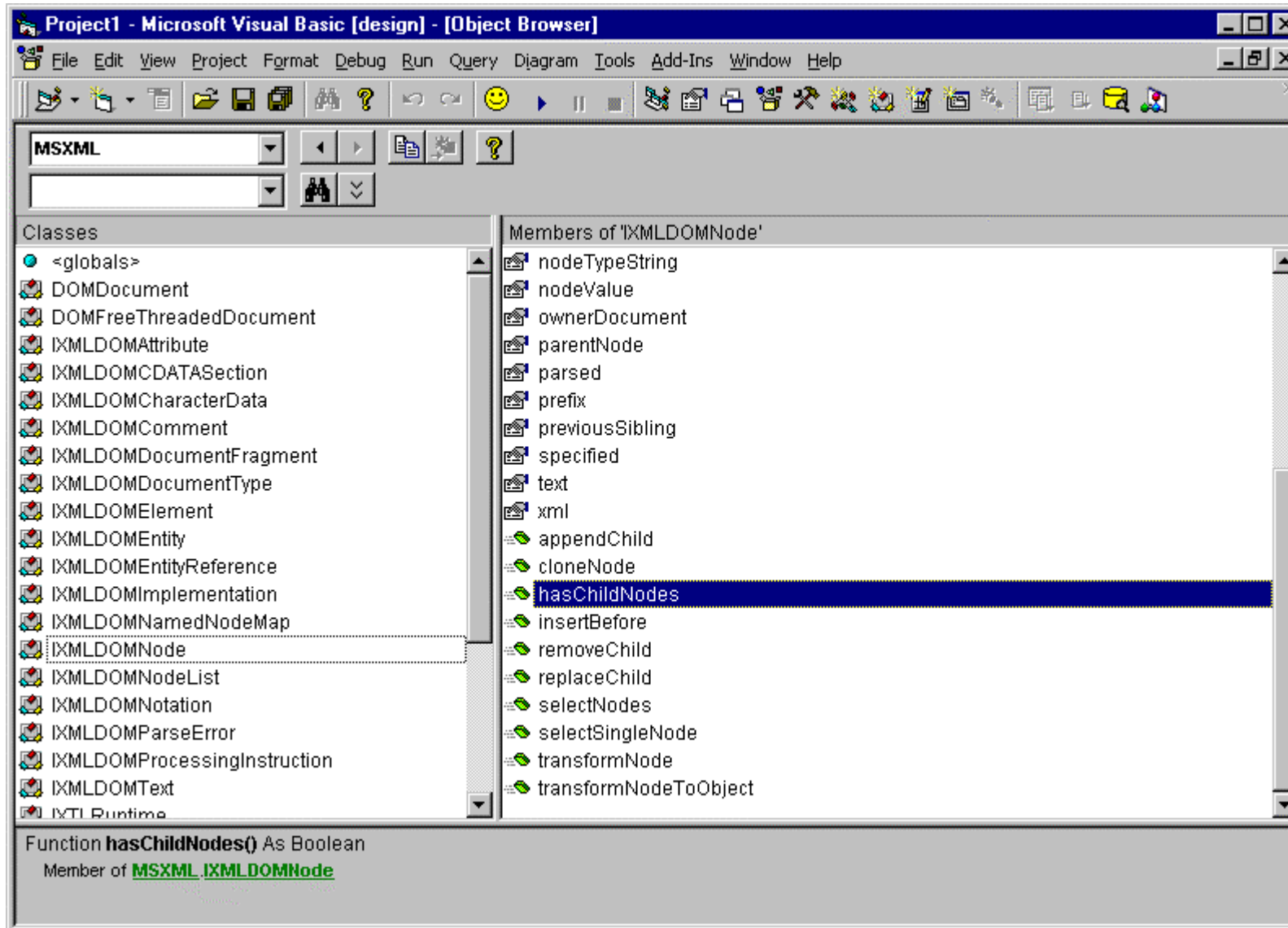
On Error Resume Next

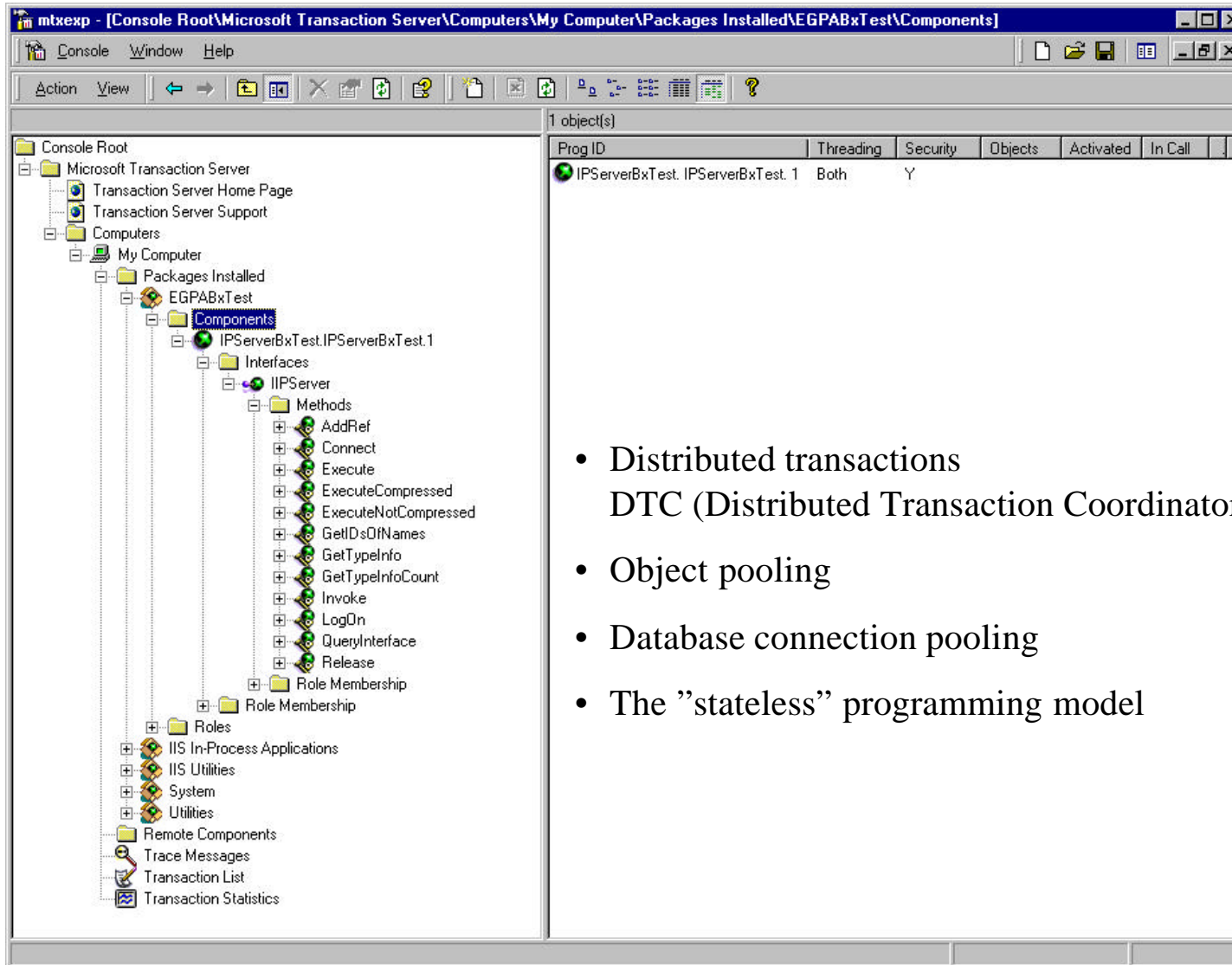
```
Set objServer = Server.CreateObject("OSSSynExDemo.COSSASPServer")
objServer.PerformSynXMLRequest(Request.ServerVariables("QUERY_STRING"))
```

```
If Err.Number <> 0 Then
    Response.Write("...error message to client - e.g. XML formatted...")
    Err.Clear
End If
%>
```



Document Object Model (DOM) of the MS XML Parser





The screenshot shows the Microsoft Transaction Server console. The left pane displays a tree view of the server's structure, including the 'Components' folder for 'EGPABxTest'. The right pane shows a table of objects with the following data:

Prog ID	Threading	Security	Objects	Activated	In Call
IPServerBxTest.IPServerBxTest.1	Both	Y			

- Distributed transactions
DTC (Distributed Transaction Coordinator)
- Object pooling
- Database connection pooling
- The "stateless" programming model

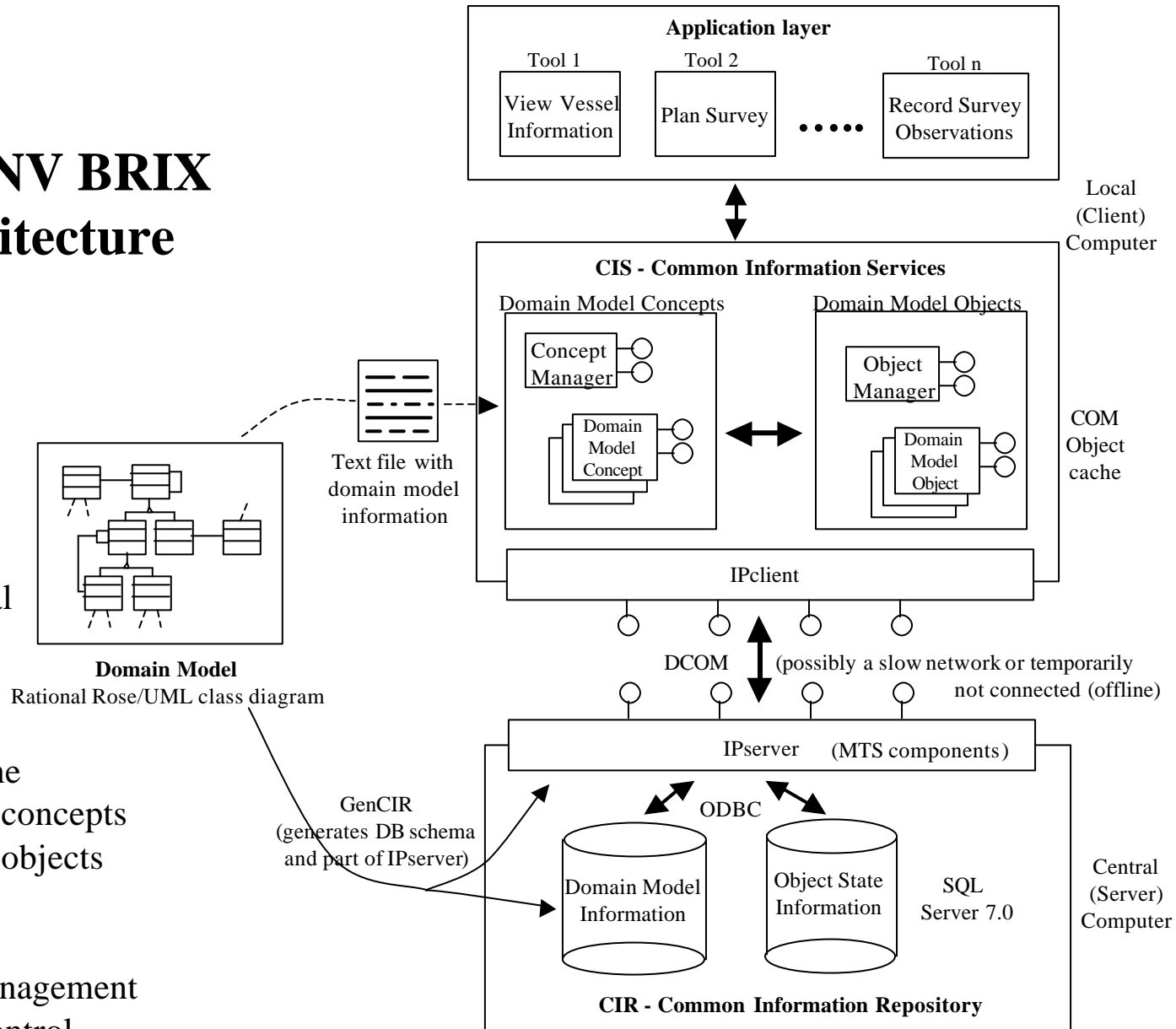


Microsoft Message Queue Server (MSMQ)

- Message - “piece” of information sent between two applications
- Messages can be formatted in e.g. XML
- MSMQ allow different applications to communicate with each other using “store-and-forward”
- MSMQ is similar to E-mail servers -
more mechanisms for assuring the reception of messages sent

The DNV BRIX Architecture

- Domain model
- CIR - Relational database
- IPserver
- CIR generation
- CIS object cache
- Domain model concepts
- Domain model objects
- IPclient
- CIS generation
- Transaction management
- Concurrency control



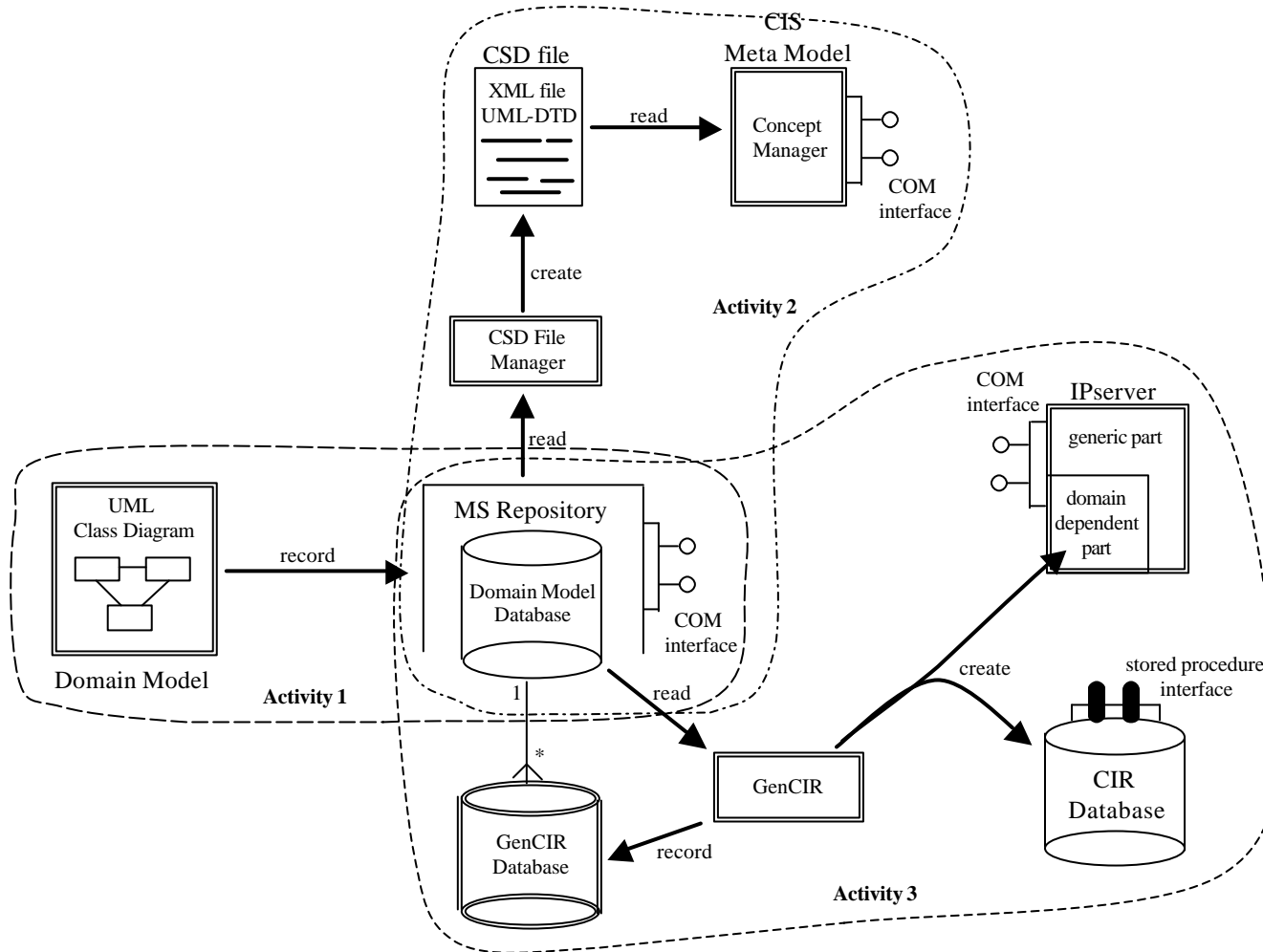
Motivation for BRIX

- Uniform access to a shared domain model
- Application developers only need to know the domain model to know how to operate on persistent objects instantiated from classes defined in the model
- Genericity is achieved without a generic domain model
- Services offered and transactions executed cannot be entirely predefined
- Change control - being able to handle changes in a flexible manner
Different parts of the architecture provides relatively good encapsulation such that major changes or revisions do not affect the entire architecture
- Model independent CIS - easier to change the server centrally than to change all the distributed clients

Problems and Challenges for BRIX

- Performance
- Transaction handling and Concurrency control
- Caching strategies
- Enforcing general business rules
- Managing the software development process
- Roles and role modeling
The generic caching services and the transaction and concurrency control mechanisms does not utilize knowledge on how the objects involved will be used and operated on by the application tools.
Instead of creating a single overall domain model, create several smaller sub-domain models that each model a more specific and narrow domain; e.g. a single task or activity.

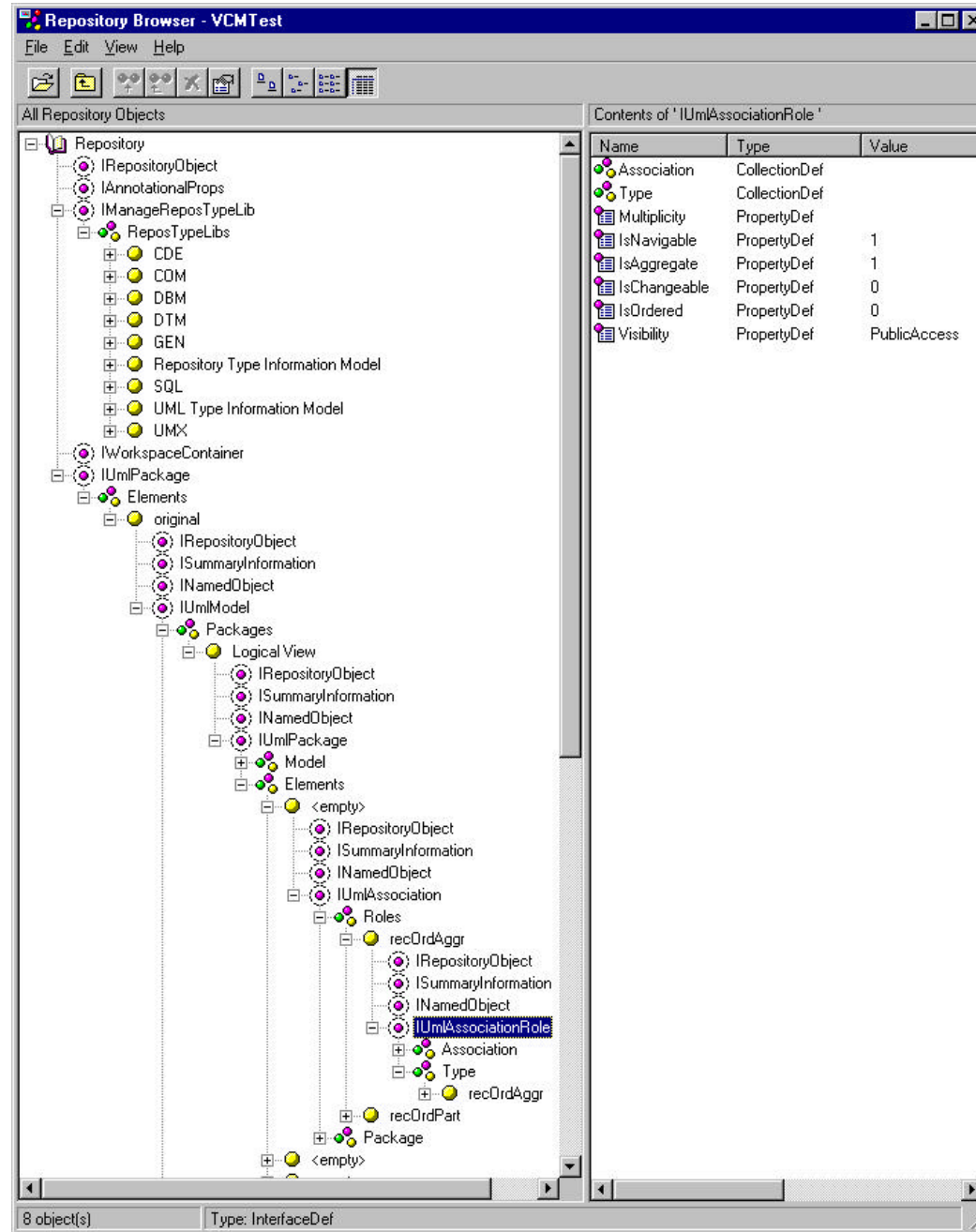
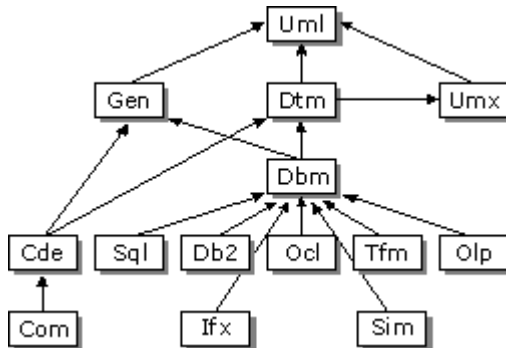
Microsoft Repository in the BRIX Architecture





Microsoft Repository

- Meta-information management
- Object Information Model
- Extendable Subject Areas
- COM/Automation access





Object Information Models of Microsoft Repository

RTIM - Repository Type Information Model

- A domain independent information model
- Made to record and retrieve meta-information on a variety of domains (e.g. UML, DB Schemas, Components, Datatypes, and more)
- Basic concepts: Class, Interface, Property (attribute and method), Collection, Relationship

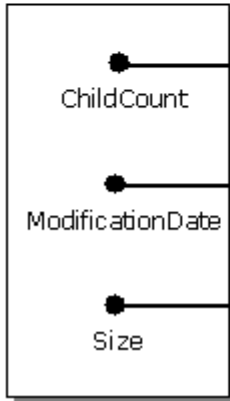
Relationship Types



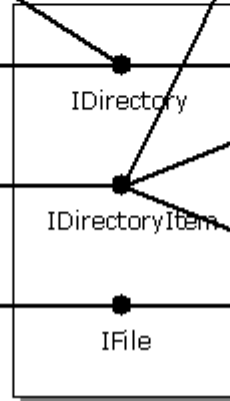
Collection Types



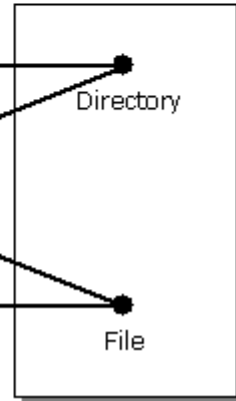
Properties



Interfaces

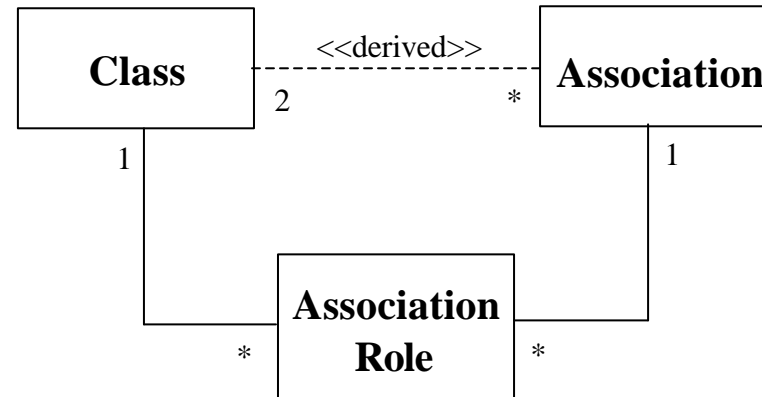


Classes



Repository UML Information Model

- A domain dependent information model
- Made to record and retrieve meta-information on UML models (e.g. from Rational Rose models)
- Accompanies COM/Automation interfaces
- Implemented by RTIM
- Currently “too normalized” - should allow for “redundancy”; e.g. Class-Association-Role relationships



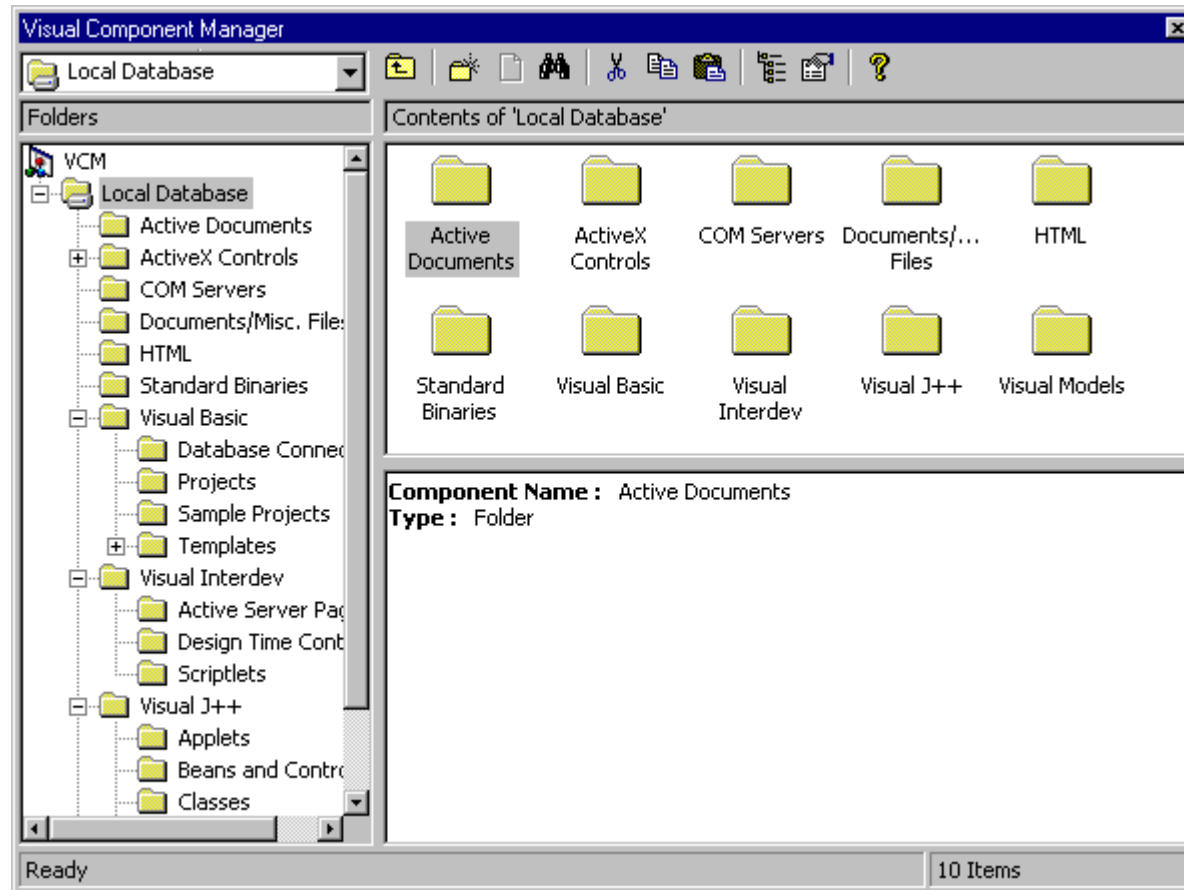
```

IClass ==
    GetRoles()->IAssociationRoleColl
    + [GetAssociations()->IAssociationColl]
IAssociation ==
    GetRoles()->IAssociationRoleColl
    + [GetClasses()->IClassColl]
IAssociationRole ==
    GetAssociation()->IAssociation
    GetClass()->IClass
  
```



Visual Component Manager (VCM)

A repository for organizing and storing information on components, models, projects, and more, to make them readily available to the development organization.





What about Object-Oriented Databases?

- Main benefit

Avoids mismatch between relational data and object-oriented applications;
e.g. inheritance relationships, recursive structures,

- Do they scale well, do they perform well - may be - but many in industry considers it an added risk to rely on this for large enterprise information systems

- Developers will be happy with them - but will this reduce development cost enough to outweigh the “risk” (real or perceived)?

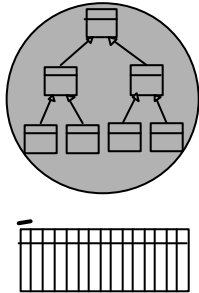
- What about customers - do they benefit from it?

- Main problem

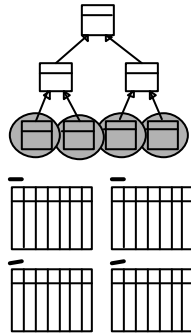
No “killer application” - there seems to be no undisputable need for it

Object-Oriented to Relational

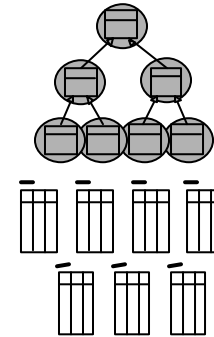
a) Single table



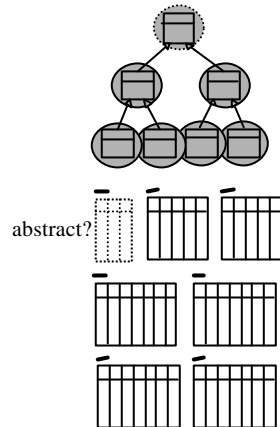
b) Leaf tables only



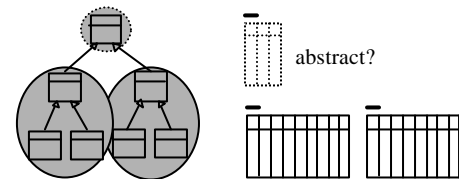
c) One partial table per class



d) One full table per class



e) Logical split in the inheritance hierarchy



“Componentifying” FS?