

SMILA 0.8 Release Review



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Communication Channel:

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Introduction

- SMILA is an extensible framework for building search solutions to access unstructured information in the enterprise. Besides providing essential infrastructure components and services, SMILA also delivers ready-to-use add-on components, like connectors to most relevant data sources.

Features

Project Website: <http://www.eclipse.org/smila/>

- This is the second release which brings two minor new features. The first is the extension for BPEL designer which offers a comfortable definition and maintenance of SMILA's workflows. The second is the simplification of the data model.

Non-Code Aspects

- The user documentation, how-tos and tutorials for current version is provided and maintained in wiki <http://wiki.eclipse.org/SMILA>. The documentation of previous releases is exported from the wiki and archived on the website <http://www.eclipse.org/smila/documentation.php>

APIs

- Since this release introduces a new and simplified data model some internal APIs have been changed accordingly. This mainly occurred in handling the BlackBoard service.

Architectural Issues

- SMILA consists of several different parts
 - Data Connectors / Connectivity
 - Processing
 - Search
 - Persistence

Each of these parts contains several bundles, but each can be started on different host and they communicate with an embedded JMS Queue (Apache ActiveMQ)

- The use of declarative OSGi Services wherever possible
 - OSGi Services are used as API (interface definition)
 - SMILA contains several implementations for these services
 - Services can be replaced by integrators/customers

Tool Usability

- Management of SMILA components
 - SMILA contains a small JMX client (remote)
- JConsole can also be used for fully framework management and monitoring
- Designing BPEL workflows is now significantly easier due to BPEL designer support

End-of-Life

- Initial data model has been replaced with the new simplified one. This largely eases the entry in developing components for SMILA.

Bugzilla

Severity	Status						
	NEW	ASSIGNED	REOPENED	RESOLVED	VERIFIED	CLOSED	Total
	blocker	.	.	<u>3</u>	.	.	<u>3</u>
	critical	.	.	<u>2</u>	.	.	<u>2</u>
	major	.	.	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	.	<u>3</u>
	normal	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	.	<u>5</u>	<u>103</u>
	minor	<u>2</u>	.	<u>3</u>	.	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
	trivial	<u>2</u>	.	<u>1</u>	.	.	<u>3</u>
	enhancement	<u>22</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	.	.	<u>55</u>
	Total	<u>31</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>175</u>

Standards

- Attempt to base as much as possible using OSGi standards
 - OSGi declarative services for the internal communication
- Internal distributed communication uses JMS
- BPEL for the definition and execution of workflows
- XML / XML schema for configuration files (including validation)

UI Usability

- SMILA runs in an OSGi Runtime (Equinox) and provides the extension of the OSGi console with a dozen of commands for operating crawlers and agents.
- BPEL designer extensions are seamlessly integrated into the BPEL designer so that no change in GUI paradigm has been done.

Schedule

- We release on our schedule as planned
- One milestone (0.8 M1) has been published on March 31st as planned/announced.

Communities

- After its first release SMILA received a very good community resonance. Activity in mailing-list and newsgroup activity is quite good. The issues are being tracked in Bugzilla.

IP Log

- The project leadership verifies that the Eclipse IP policies and procedures have been followed.
- IP Log is available at the following location
http://www.eclipse.org/projects/ip_log.php?projectid=rt.smila

IP Issues

- None currently identified.

Notes

- None at this time.

Credits and Kudos

- Attensity Europe
- brox