



## **MDG Link for Microsoft Visio**

*Welcome to the MDG Link for Microsoft Visio.*



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# MDG Link For Microsoft Visio User Guide

## Introduction

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*by Geoff Sparks*

*MDG Link for Microsoft Visio provides a light weight bridge between Enterprise Architect and Microsoft Visio.*

# MDG Link for Microsoft Visio User Guide

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# Foreword

MDG Link for Microsoft Visio provides a light weight bridge between Enterprise Architect and Microsoft Visio.

## 1 Welcome



Welcome to the MDG Link for Microsoft Visio, Version 1.0. This Add-In is designed to provide an interface between Enterprise Architect and Microsoft Visio. For instructions on using this product, refer to the [Overview](#) topic.

### **See Also**

- [Copyright Notice](#) <sup>3</sup>
- [Acknowledgement of Trademarks](#) <sup>6</sup>
- [License Agreement](#) <sup>4</sup>
- [Support](#) <sup>7</sup>
- [System Requirements](#) <sup>8</sup>

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### MDG Link for Microsoft Visio, Version 1.0

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## ***1.3 Acknowledgement of Trademarks***

### **Trademarks of Microsoft**

- Visio®
- Windows®.

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## 1.4 Support

Technical support for MDG Link For Microsoft Visio is available to registered users. Responses to support queries are sent by email. Sparx Systems endeavors to provide a rapid response to all product-related questions or concerns.

Registered users can lodge a support request, by visiting:  
[http://www.sparxsystems.com/registered/reg\\_support.html](http://www.sparxsystems.com/registered/reg_support.html).

Trial users can contact Sparx Systems with questions regarding their evaluation at:  
[support@sparxsystems.com](mailto:support@sparxsystems.com).

An online user forum is also available for your questions and perusal, at  
<http://www.sparxsystems.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.cgi>.

## 1.5 System Requirements

The following software must be installed to use the MDG Link for Microsoft Visio.

### Operating System

- Windows ME
- Windows NT® (SP5 or later)
- Windows XP Professional
- Windows XP Home
- Windows XP Media Edition
- Windows XP Tablet Edition
- Windows 2000 Professional (SP3 or later )

### Enterprise Architect

- Enterprise Architect Professional Edition, Version 7.0 (or later)
- Enterprise Architect Corporate Edition, Version 7.0 (or later)

### Microsoft Visio

- Microsoft Visio 2002
- Microsoft Visio 2003

### Microsoft XMI Export Add-In

Install this Add-In in Visio.

- For Microsoft Visio 2002, download installer from <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&FamilyID=BE6D20EF-36BA-4ABF-A26F-91434C7E7B7F>
- For Microsoft Visio 2003, download installer from <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=3DD3F3BE-656D-4830-A868-D0044406F57D&displaylang=en>

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## 2 Overview

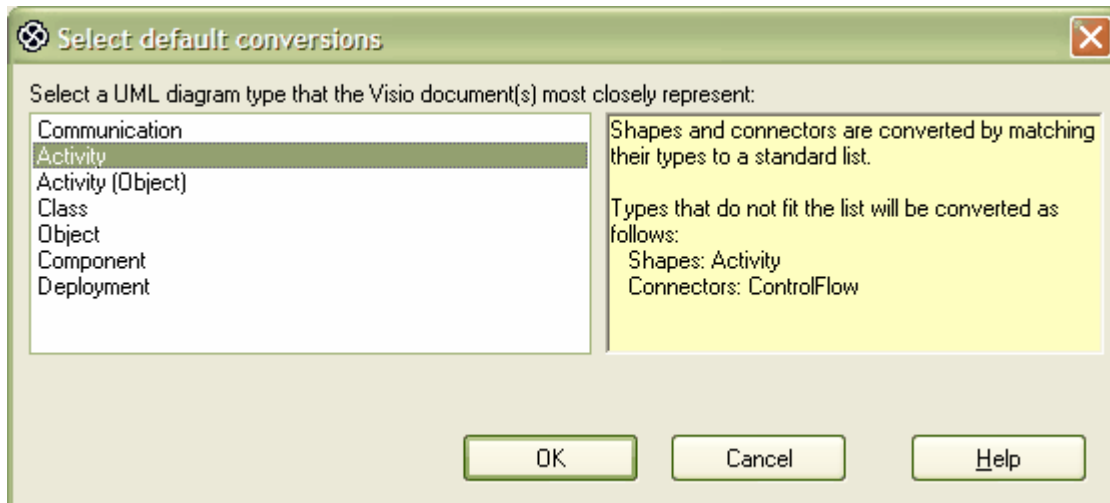
MDG Link for Microsoft Visio is an add-in for Enterprise Architect that attempts to translate Microsoft Visio diagrams (ie. files with .vsd and .vdx extensions) into the Enterprise Architect UML equivalent.

While the MDG Link for Microsoft Visio does its best to convert Visio shapes to UML equivalents, there are a number of obstacles to ensuring a complete translation:

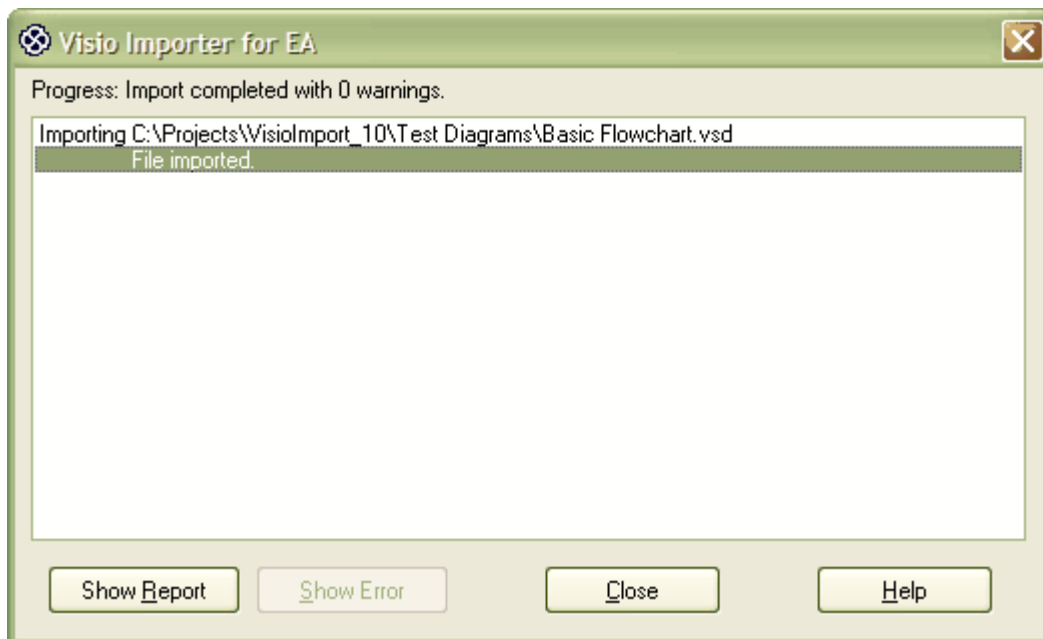
- There is not necessarily a direct mapping between a particular Visio shape and any UML element.
- The intention of the Visio drawing might not always be clear.
- There can be mistakes in the Visio drawing.
- Microsoft Visio does not always provide an appropriate means to access information stored in its diagrams.

To aid the process of ensuring that information is not lost during the import, the importer provides a comprehensive report as well as the ability to highlight Visio shapes that could not be imported.





Click on a profile. It does not matter which profile you select as the profile only applies to shapes and connectors that cannot be automatically matched to UML equivalents. Click on the **OK** button. A status dialog displays.

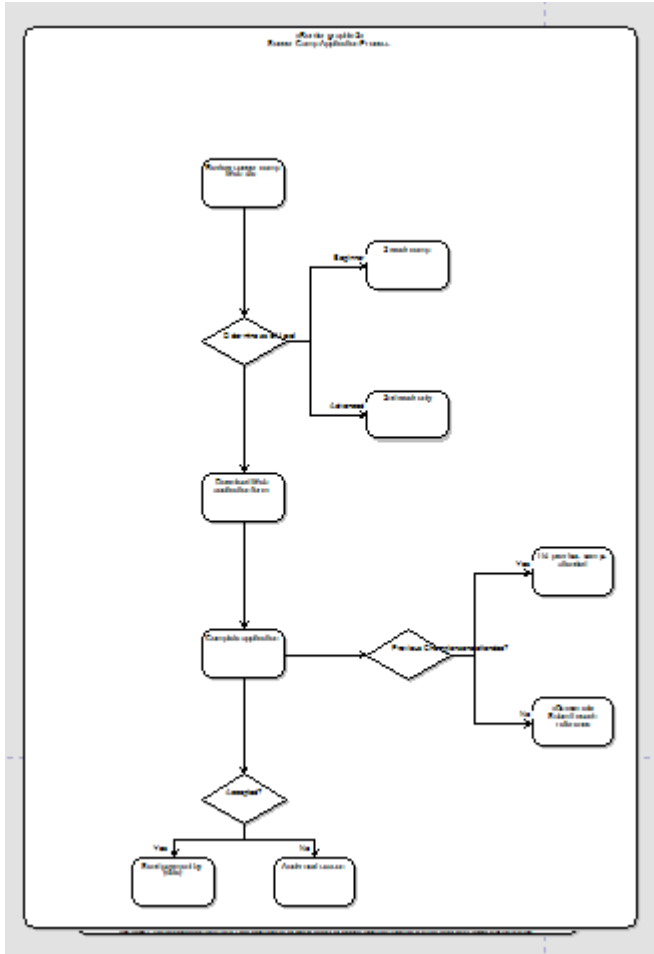


In this case the import has completed without error.

- Click on the **Show Report** button to display a summary of how the Visio shapes were translated to UML elements.
- Click on the **Close** button to display the imported diagram.

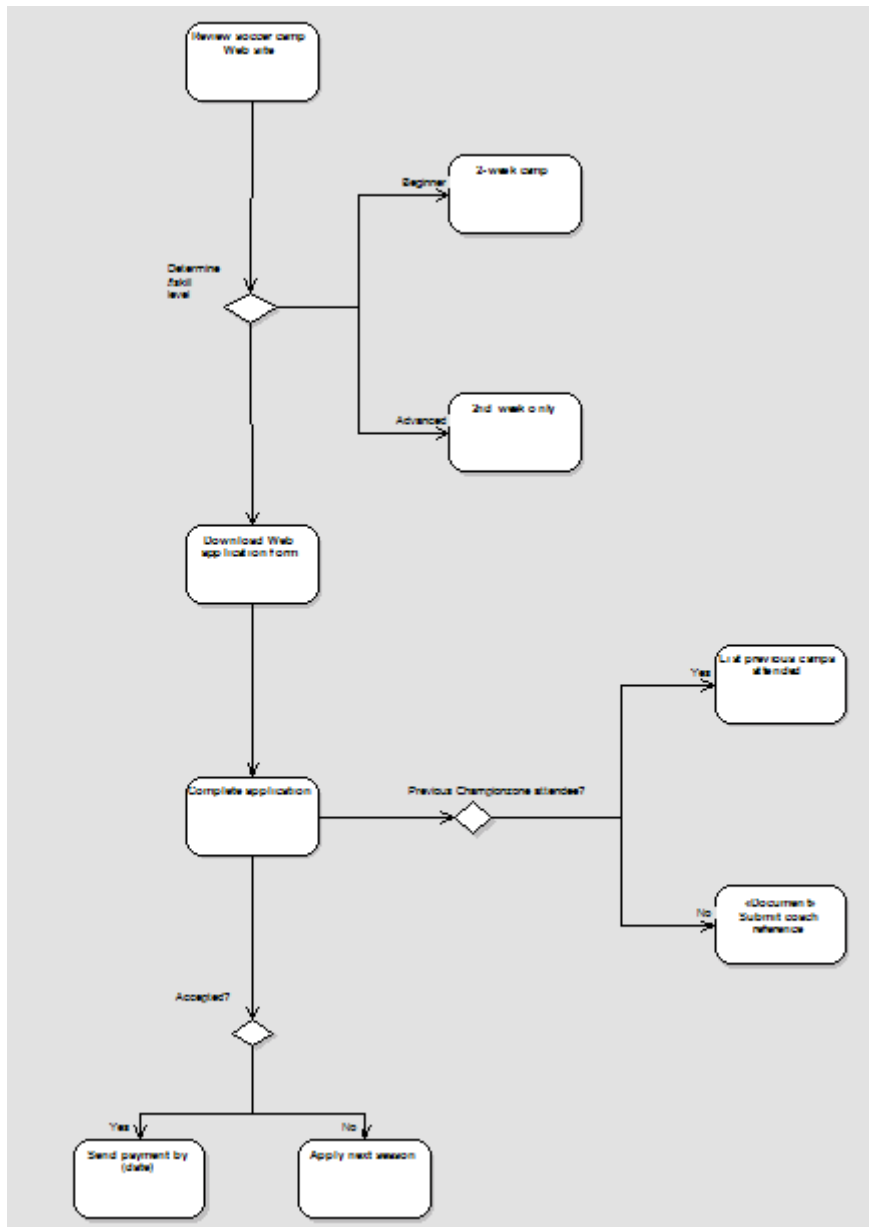
After the diagram is imported you might want to edit the resultant diagram. In the Basic Flowchart example a border shape that has been imported dominates the drawing and can be removed. At the bottom of the diagram is a loose piece of text that also has no UML equivalent and can be removed.

UML decisions are usually drawn smaller than the flowchart equivalents, so you could resize these.



This now leaves a diagram that conforms to the UML 2.0 standard.





## 2.2 *Errors on import*

Some Visio shapes cannot be imported into Enterprise Architect. These might be connectors with one end not attached to anything, or shapes that simply do not make sense in a UML diagram.

During an import any Visio shape that has failed to import is shown in the progress window. Once the import is complete you can click on such an entry and press the **Show Error** button. This causes Visio to open with the particular shape highlighted.

If you cannot see the highlighted (green) shape it might not be in view. Use the mouse wheel to zoom out until the selected shape appears.

Errors can be addressed by:

- Making changes to the original file, then importing
- Making post-import changes to the Enterprise Architect diagram
- Ignoring them.

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