

New Text Editor in TopEase®

TopEase is a unique business management platform for corporate development. It supports stakeholders at all levels throughout the product, project and enterprise lifecycle: from analysis, through implementation, operation and monitoring, to renewed change.

As an integrated solution for corporate modeling, TopEase has been offering the possibility for formatting description texts for many years now. The options available in TopEase have been constantly expanded and adjusted to customer requirements. The integration of RealObject edit-on® allows us to meet the steadily escalating demands of our users.

*Author: Markus Schlegel, Senior Software Engineer, pulinco
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About pulinco

pulinco engineering ag is a business engineering company that has been active on the market with great success for more than 15 years. By dint of the TopEase Approach and the corresponding software platform TopEase XBench, customers are able to network individual tasks, such as process optimization; strategy implementation; quality, risk and compliance management; requirements, portfolio and service management; and to realize crucial added value in the change process as well as in day-to-day operations.

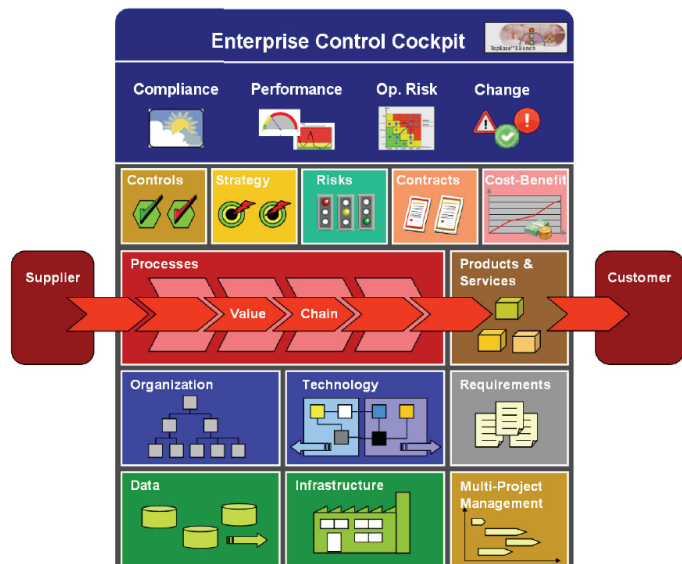


TopEase is recognized as the leading platform for holistic and integrated corporate modeling and is deployed by national and international companies alike as a strategic control instrument for tackling complexity and achieving sustainable corporate development.

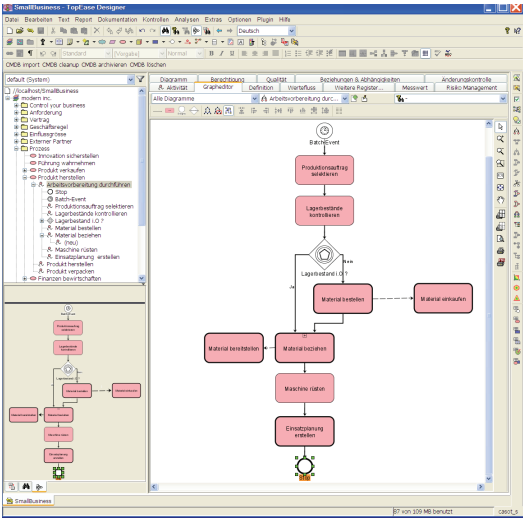
pulinco was founded in 1992. Well-known corporations from a wide range of industries number among its clients. A rapidly growing international network of partners, consisting of system integrators, solution providers and consultant firms attends to the steadily burgeoning number of TopEase® customers.

Point of departure

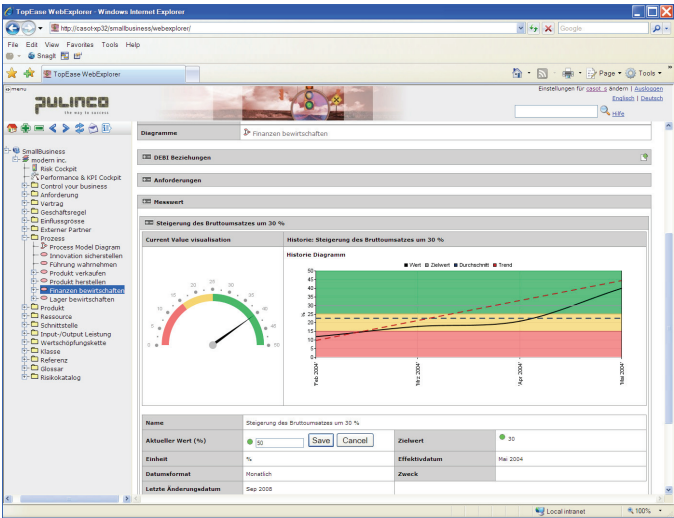
TopEase XBench enables the creation of business models that can capture the entire landscape – from board level strategy, to the people, processes and technology that produce the goods and services, and the vast array of artefacts including risks, controls, performance measures and beyond. As relationships are mapped, the interdependences and true complexity are revealed. The unique object-oriented technology at the core of TopEase XBench provides 360 degree visibility and with it, transparency. Any factor – risks, change, impacts, disaster, legislation - which touch the business are now traceable across the entire landscape – from any viewpoint, for any stakeholder. The company becomes transparent



The graphic modeling of processes and entire value chains, the documentation of corporate architectures as well as the analysis of complex structures of compliance, performance and risk are typical areas to apply the TopEase platform. The powerful Reporting Engine and WebServer technology integrated in TopEase® enables the customer specific generation of diverse outputs. Examples include complete, navigatable HTML portals, Office documents, diagrams as well as dashboards/cockpits.



Graphical process modeling



Web portal

Motivation

Since the initial release of TopEase, description texts can be updated in HTML format in a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) Editor. To do this, an advancement of Java’s “JTextPane” was used.

This solution, though, was never completely satisfactory, since the implementation of this component supports only HTML 3.2 and displays numerous errors in the editing area. After being initially confident that Sun would rectify these errors in some future version, after a few sobering years it has to be acknowledged that this won’t be happening in the near future. This is the reason we’ve been looking around for a replacement for the HTML editor.

Challenge and objective

The most pivotal requirements are:

- HTML 4 / CSS support
- Error-free editing (particularly in lists and tables)
- Support for TrueType fonts, correct display of type size
- Support for Copy/Paste – in particular from MS Word – as a fragment or as a complete document, incl. drag and drop
- Internal linking (navigation within TopEase)
- Option for integration/expansion

The spelling check and the optional support of a compare operation constitute further criteria. In addition, the component has to meet our requirements in terms of performance and memory as well as developer support.

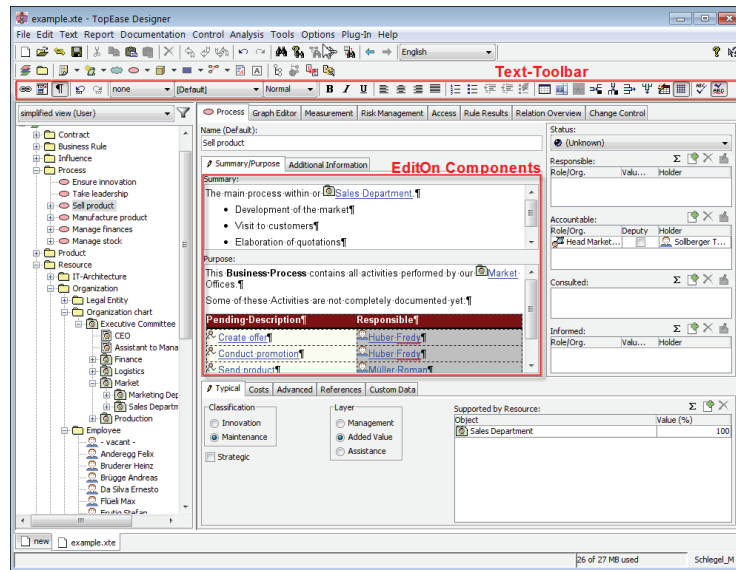
After a thorough evaluation of the Java HTML editors available on the market, RealObject’s edit-on gained the top evaluation.

Its primary distinguishing feature is the error-free editing of texts, something none of the competitors achieved. This can probably be attributed to the fact that edit-on is alone among the available components in not deriving from Java’s JText or JEditorPane but is a proprietary development of RealObjects.

Realization

TopEase is not a classical HTML editor application and certainly not a word-processing one but an interface for editing a complex and highly networked object model. This object model includes instances of more than 40 different object types averaging 20 features each. There is a specific UI for each object type, and up to 9 HTML text editors can be concurrently displayed on the interface.

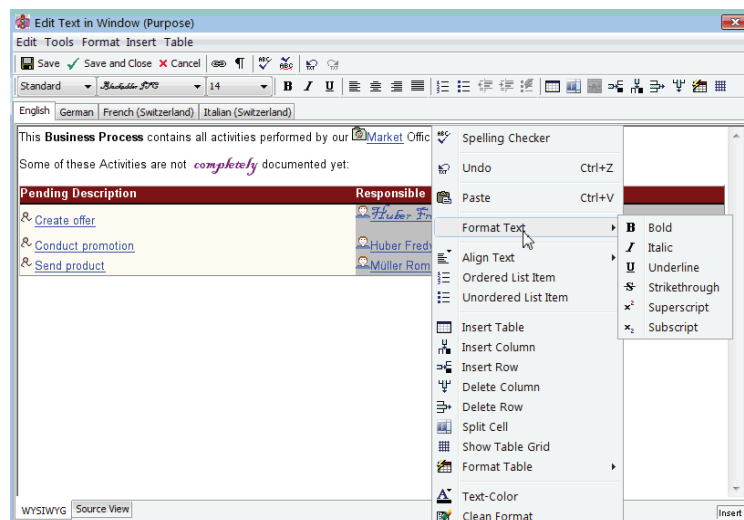
Despite the components' flexibility, the integration of edit-on in TopEase presented a challenge, since the solution had not been conceived originally for a deployment like this. By dint of the helping hand provided by the Support section of RealObjects, though, a different solution was able to be discovered. By re-using edit-on instances from a resource pool and reducing the text editors that can be concurrently displayed down to 5 instances, the consumption of resources of TopEase could even be decreased on the whole.



Embedded edit-on component

Result

By deploying edit-on as a text editor in TopEase, we are able to offer our customers a vital added value. The ease in editing of texts is comparable to common word-processing systems. In the process, though, it is constantly ensured that the texts can be processed automatically and thus be output without difficulty in the TopEase WebExplorer or in a report. Furthermore, by using the StyleSheets, it can be ensured that our users get active support in complying with corporate guidelines when designing Intranet pages.



View to dedicated text editing in a separate window

Quotes

The deployment of edit-on has enabled us to invest our development expenditures in the actual advancement of TopEase and to take TopEase another step forward in terms of quality. We were able to bring the integration to a conclusion in the anticipated space of time, not least thanks to the fine support on the part of the supplier.

<< Markus Schlegel, Senior Software Engineer, pulinco >>

With the integration of edit-on in the TopEase platform, we have been able to afford our customers with the possibility of documenting their corporate data in an easy and intuitive manner. Without training expenditures, users can format, layout and do many other things with texts as simple as pie. This has increased both acceptance and efficiency at work and enormously reduced training periods.

<< Sacha Casot, Member of the Executive Board, pulinco >>

Added value

The formatting options of the new HTML editor are nearly as comprehensive as those that everybody is accustomed to in the well-established word-processing programs. Beside defaults like text formatting, bulleted listing and text alignment, it is now possible to format and align tables in any way one wishes. Thus, the text editor makes possible professional designing of HTML pages and Word documents generated from TopEase, according to your tailor-made corporate identity.

With the new HTML editor, texts created in Microsoft Word can be accepted by TopEase without difficulty. A format adjustment deletes all superfluous Word formattings, so that only the expedient formattings are left.

The integrated spelling check alleviates the writing of high-quality texts. The style sheet editor (CSS) enables the definition of a uniform appearance throughout the model.

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