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THE RPG DSL: A CASE STUDY OF LANGUAGE ENGINEERING USING MDD FOR GENERATING RPG GAMES FOR MOBILE PHONES

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THE PROJECT

Development of a language to create RPG games

- Domain analysis
- Language Design
- Textual/Graphical language editor
- Generate framework code
- Game properties verification

• Target users: domain experts







DOMAIN ANALYSIS(1)

- Identify the RPG Domain characteristics
- Restrict the domain
 - 80% approach
- Textual description
- Feature model

DOMAIN ANALYSIS(2)

- World Map
 - Scenes
 - Tile map
- Agents
 - Hero
 - Inventory
 - Hostile
 - Interaction: Fight
 - Friendly
 - Interaction: Dialogue
- Resources
 - Gold, Wood and Metal
- Magics

DOMAIN ANALYSIS(3)

- Agent properties
 - Life points, magic points, strength, agility, intelligence, experience
- Objects
 - Artifacts, equipment, keys, doors, obstacles, traps and switches
- Objectives
 - Reach a specific scene
 - Pick an artifact
 - Interact with an agent
- o Time

DOMAIN ANALYSIS(4)



DOMAIN ANALYSIS(5)





TARGET PLATFORM(1)

• Platform analysis:

- Advantages and drawbacks
- Ease of learning/development

Framework	Characteristics
Slick	Java based language; Uses LWJGL
Sphere	Scripting language; Abstraction level that allows typical RPG features implementation
Corona	Scripting language; Cross-platform compilation for Android and iOS

TARGET PLATFORM(2)

o Corona Framework

Development of an abstraction layer

- Implements RPG features
- Data structure library
 - o Decision trees, graphs, menu lists
- Simplify inter-model transformation



METAMODELS CREATION

• RPG language metamodel:

• Based on domain analysis

• Framework metamodel:

• Based on API layer developed over the framework

o 1-1 relation between models (whenever possible)



GRAPHICAL LANGUAGE

- Drag and drop approach
 - Ease of use

Developed using Eugenia and Emfatic







METAMODEL TRANSFORMATIONS

• Generate target platform model instances

Generate Petri-Nets for verification

Using ATL

• Language and toolkit for model transformation



SOURCE CODE GENERATION

From RPG language to target platform language

• To generate verification rules

• Using Xpand – Template based language



VERIFICATION(1)

 Create a minimal model of RPG language specific for verification purposes.

• An abstraction to simplify Petri-net generation



VERIFICATION(2)

• Verified properties:

- User can finish game
 - Player completes the final objective
- User can finish game with maximum score
 - Player completes all the objectives

 Player can complete an objective if he can reach the scene where it is

QUESTIONS?

