

A (very brief) intro to Eclipse

<http://eclipse.org>

Boyana Norris
June 4, 2009

The Goals

What we all want is a level of integration that magically blends separately developed tools into a well designed suite. And it should be simple enough that existing tools can be moved to the platform without using a shoehorn or a crowbar.

The platform should be open, so that users can select tools from the best source and know that their supplier has a voice in the development of the underlying platform.

It should be simple to understand, yet robust enough to support integration without a lot of extra glue.

It should provide tools that help automate mundane tasks. It should be stable enough so that industrial strength tools can build on top of it. And it should be useful enough that the platform developers can use it to build itself.

These are all goals of Eclipse. [...]

[Eclipse Plug-in Developer Guide]

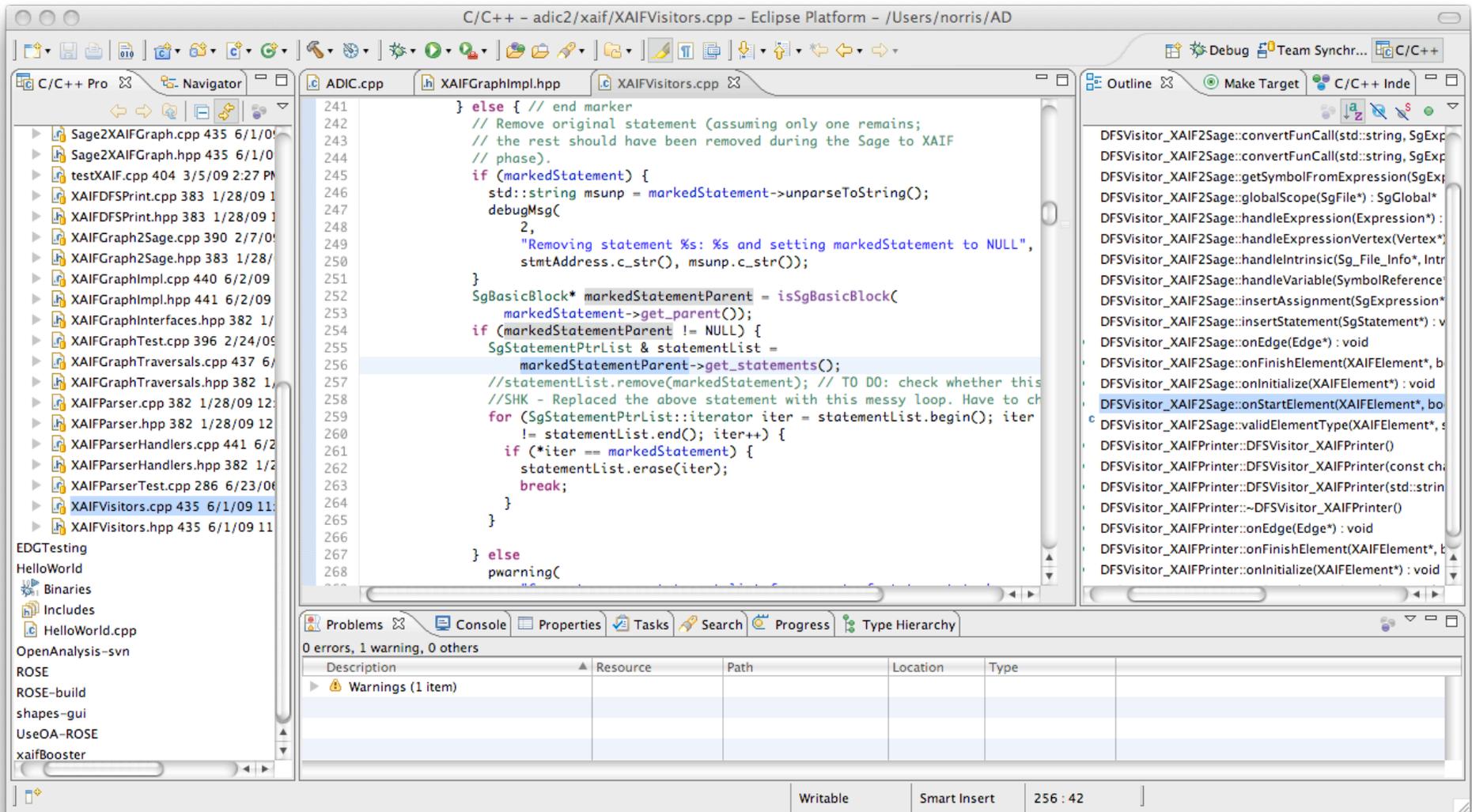
Requirements

- Java 2
- A reasonably recent machine (more memory helps)
- A large display (seriously)
- Eclipse SDK
 - <http://www.eclipse.org/downloads/>
- Optionally: C/C++ Development Tools (CDT/Europa), Eclipse Modeling Framework (EMF), many others

Terminology

- Integrated Development Environment (IDE)
 - Workbench
 - Perspectives: JDT, CDT, Debug, Team (cvs or svn), ...
 - Views: editor, navigator, type hierarchy, error log, content outline, ...
 - Action sets and actions: run, build, debug, open, ...
- Plugins and extension points
- *Everything is customizable*

Eclipse Workbench (C++)



<http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/opensource/library/os-eclipse-stlcltd/>

Eclipse Workbench (Python with Pydev)

The screenshot displays the Eclipse IDE interface with the Pydev plugin. The main editor shows the `component.py` file with the following Python code:

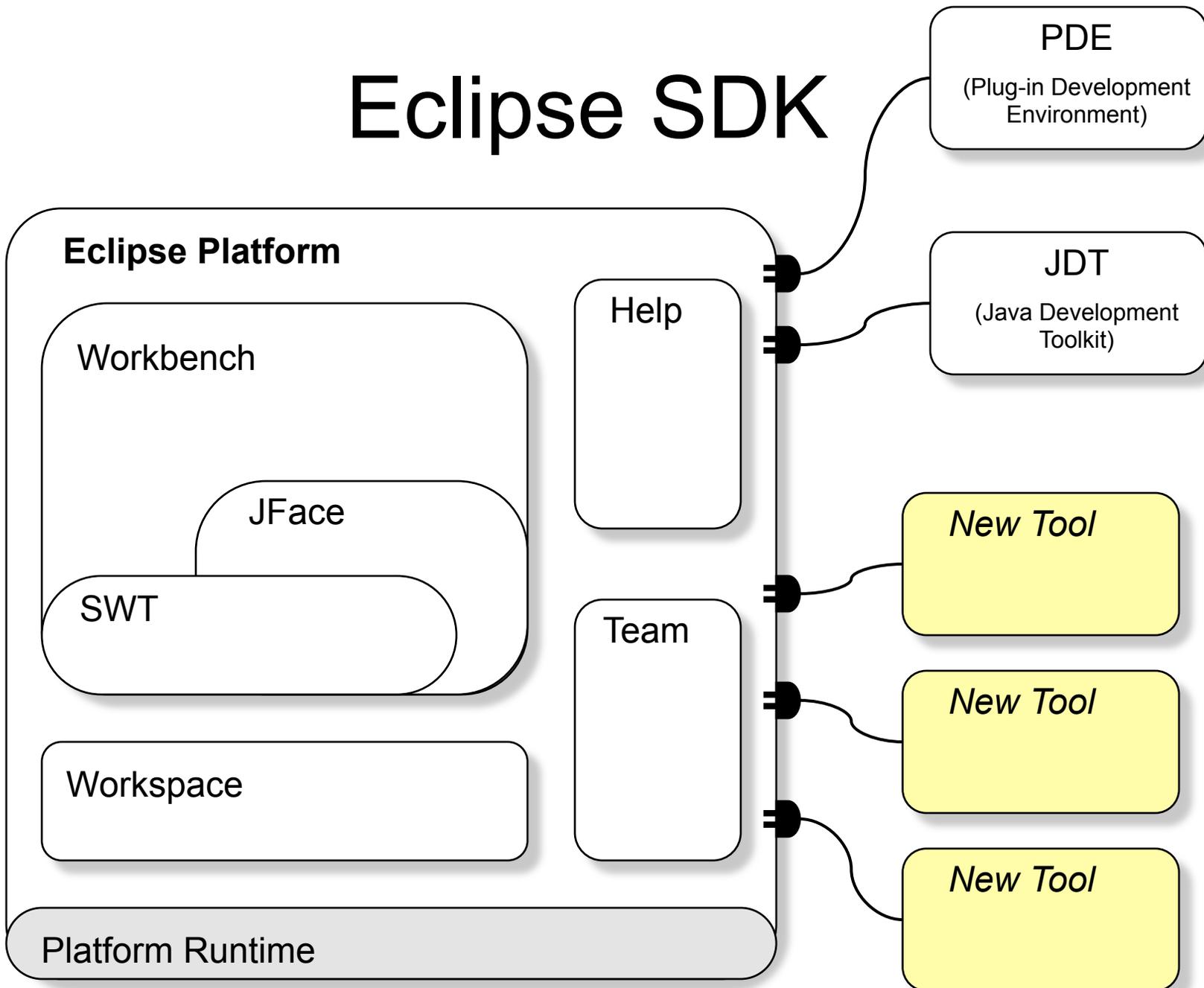
```
70 #
71 def defineArgs(self, action):
72     '''Defines command line options and defaults for this command. This is
73     invoked in the constructor of the parent class Subcommand.
74     '''
75     if (action == 'create'):
76         self.defineArgsCreate()
77     elif action == 'copy':
78         Sidlclass.defineArgsCopy(self)
79     elif action == 'rename':
80         pass
81     elif action == 'display':
82         Sidlclass.defineArgs(self, action)
83     elif action == 'change':
84         self.defineArgsChange()
85     elif action == 'edit' or action == 'whereis':
86         Sidlclass.defineArgs(self, action)
87     elif action == 'remove':
88         Sidlclass.defineArgsRemove(self)
89     else:
90         err('Component verb "' + action + '" NOT implemented yet.', 3)
91     return
92
93
94 #
95 def defineCommonArgsCreateAndChange1(self):
96     '''Defines options common to the create and change operations'''
```

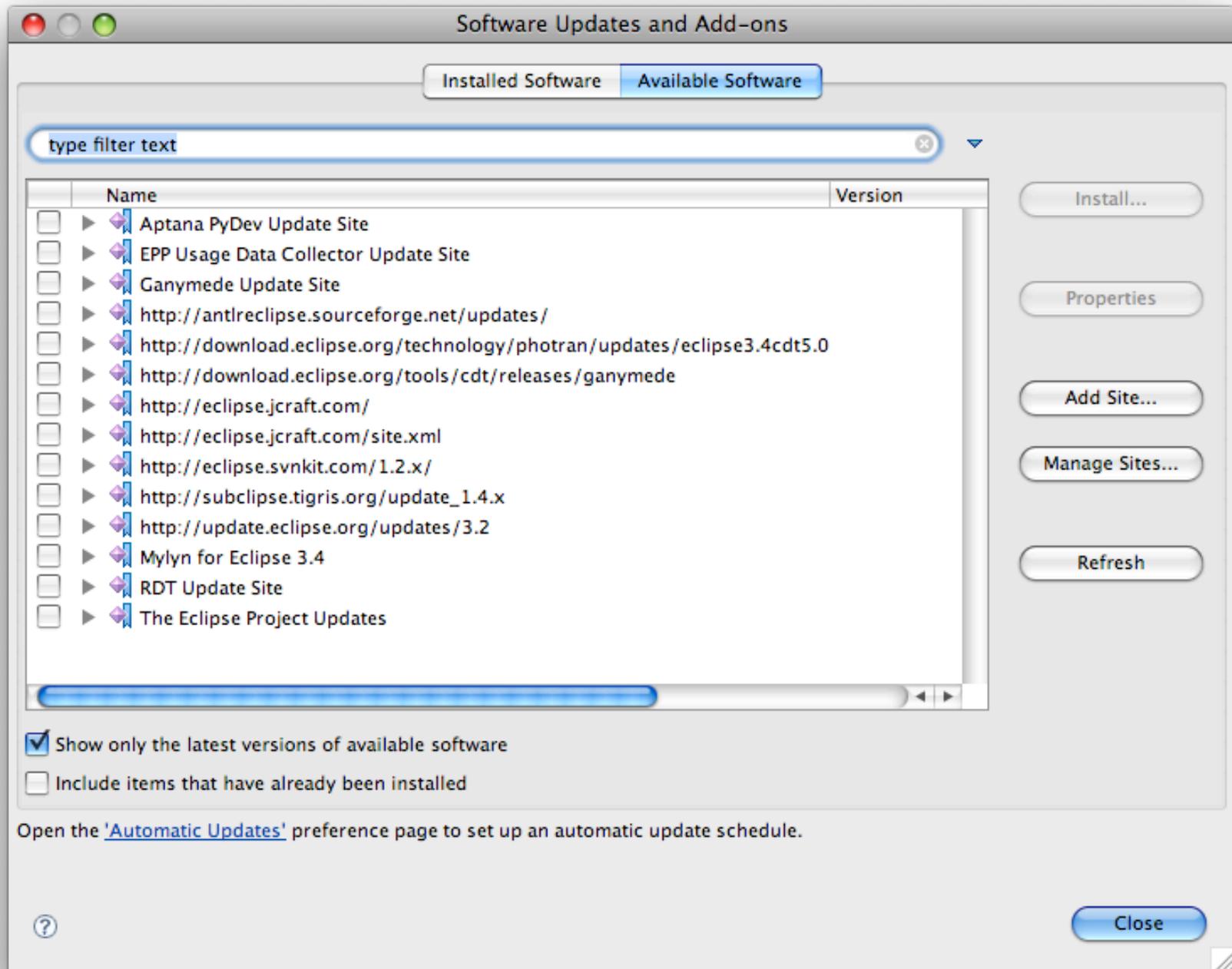
The Console window at the bottom shows the results of a search for the string `'rename'` across the workspace. It indicates 1,211 matches in total, with 16 matches found in `component.py`. The search results are as follows:

- 25: <verb> is one of create, change, remove, rename, display. For documentation on
- 79: elif action == 'rename':
- 191: elif (action == 'rename'):
- 192: self.processRenameArgs()
- 246: def processRenameArgs(self):
- 247: """ Process command line arguments passed to the "component rename" command
- 249: Sidlclass.processRenameArgs(self)
- 320: def rename(self):

The Package Explorer on the left shows a project structure with folders `boccalib` and `cct`, and various Python files. The Outline view on the right shows a class hierarchy for `Component`, including methods like `defineArgs`, `defineCommonArgsCreateAndChange1`, and `processRenameArgs`.

Eclipse SDK





What languages are available?

- Java; comes with the standard Eclipse distribution, no extra plugins needed
- C/C++ (CDT), must be installed separately, update site available
- Fortran: see the Photran project
 - <http://www.eclipse.org/photran/> (must download, no update site)
- Python: see the PyDEV project (free + nonfree extensions)
 - <http://pydev.sourceforge.net/>
- Future work related to interpreted languages in general, see the Dynamic Language Toolkit (DLTK):
 - <http://www.eclipse.org/proposals/dltk/>
- Anything else: searching eclipse.org or google usually gives good results (e.g., google for “<my favorite thing> Eclipse plugin”)

Debugging

- Nice overview at:

<http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/library/os-ecbug/>

Some Version Control Plugins

- CVS (supported with standard Eclipse distribution)
- Subversion
 - <http://subclipse.tigris.org/>
- Visual SourceSafe
 - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/vssplugin/>

Eclipse Tutorials

- Eclipse website
- IBM documentation
- <http://www.horstmann.com/bigj/help/eclipse/> (general intro)
- <https://eclipse-tutorial.dev.java.net/> (for Java application development)
- <http://www.cs.umanitoba.ca/~eclipse/> (getting started and working with the SWT)