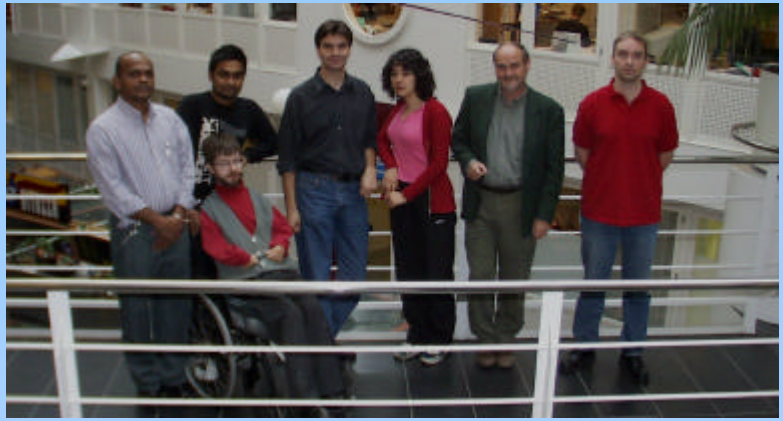


THE PROCESS BROKER PROJECT

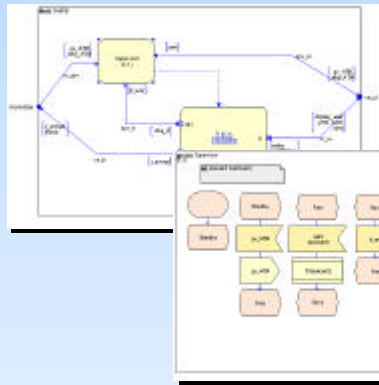
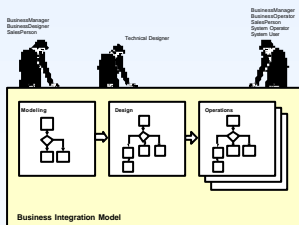


Some project members (from left): S.J. Paheerathan, Paul Johannesson, Prasad Jayaweera, Erik Perjons, Nasrin Shakeri, Benkt Wangler and Birger Andersson.

The purpose of the Process Broker project is to investigate Process Management Systems, in particular description techniques and methods for application and process integration as well as implementation architectures for process oriented systems. The participants in the project are Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan (The Royal Institute of Technology) and Viewlocity.

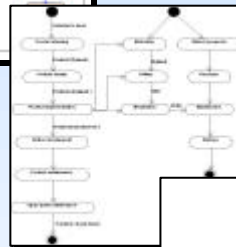
METHODOLOGY.

Methodological support is needed for application and process integration. Some research questions are: How should the responsibilities be divided between the Process Broker and the existing application systems? To what extent is the traditional transaction concept useful in process integration? How should the communication with non-automated actors be managed? A main goal is to design support that allows different categories of users to take part in all systems phases, including modeling, design, and operations.



ARCHITECTURE.

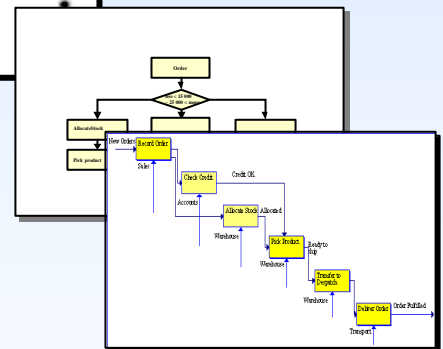
A focus on business processes and their integration will enable new architectures for implementation. It will become possible to handle data related to a process as it is created and refined. Process related data would then be viewed and handled both from the business perspective and the technical implementation perspective as one single data instance supporting the whole flow, as compared to traditional solutions where data are broken down into type oriented and normalized relational database tables.



LANGUAGE.

A language for process integration should enable users to define a process through graphical means and easily change processes when needed. Visualization of application and process integration is essential. Some research questions are: How should a graphical language be designed so that it becomes easily understandable? How expressive should such a language be?

What are the relationships between such a language and more technical modeling languages, e.g. UML?



PROCESS BROKER



KTH. The research group SYSLAB within DSV at KTH, Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan (The Royal Institute of Technology), is since long well established in research in enterprise modeling and database technology as well as in software engineering.



VIEWLOCITY. Viewlocity, former Frontec AMT, is a leading supplier of solutions for integrating and exchanging information, offering proven approaches to an increasingly heterogeneous IT environment.

NUTEK. The project is supported by NUTEK (Swedish National Board for Industrial and Technical Development).