

OPTIMIZING EA'S USER INTERFACE FOR LABNAF

LABNAF 3.0

Labnaf automatically sets a few EA preferences to simplify the architect's end user experience (whatever architecture modeling language you are using).

For example, architects typically don't want to see

- Stereotypes in the project browser since they already see the icons.
- Complex menus in this complex ribbon that they never use.
- ...

The present document describes how Sparx System's EA is automatically configured to optimize Labnaf users' experience and how it can be further configured if needed.

The first part of the document describes **what these optimizations are**. It tells you how each optimization can be done by hand and how Labnaf configures it automatically. These details are useful if you want to replace the built-in Labnaf optimizations by your own implementation and extensions for example as part of your internal software packaging and distribution.

The second part describes **when these optimizations automatically occur** and how you can disable this automation, in case you want to replace it by your own implementation.

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WHAT ARE THESE OPTIMIZATIONS?

WORKSPACE OPTIMIZATIONS

USER RIBBON

MANUAL CREATION OF THE CONFIGURATION ITEMS

UPDATE PERSONAL PREFERENCES

- Start / Workspace / My Workspaces / Ribbon
 - Uncheck menu options
-

AUTOMATED DEPLOYMENT OF THE CONFIGURATION ITEMS

UPDATE USERS CONFIGURATION

On the Labnaf administrator / software deployment machine

- “Update the “personal preferences” as described above
As a result, the following files were created or updated in %APPDATA%\Sparx Systems\EA
 - RibbonSets.xml
 - UserRibbon.xml
 - Make a copy of these files to make them part of your software distribution package
 - The software distribution package should copy “Labnaf RibbonSets.xml” and “UserRibbon.xml” to “%APPDATA%\Sparx Systems\EA” on users’ PCs.
-

SAMPLE CONFIGURATION FILES

Sample configuration files are provided in the Labnaf package that was delivered to you. Go to “{My_Labnaf_Package}\Labnaf_Addin\Installer\EASettings for Advanced SW Distribution (Optional)\ConfigurationFiles.”

PERSPECTIVES

MANUAL CREATION OF THE CONFIGURATION ITEMS

UPDATE PERSONAL PREFERENCES

- Start / View / Perspectives / Customize List of Available Perspectives... / My Perspectives
 - New
 - Set Name: {My language}
 - OK

 - Select PERSPECTIVES (on the upper-right corner of the screen)
 - My Perspectives / {My language}
-

AUTOMATED DEPLOYMENT OF THE CONFIGURATION ITEMS

UPDATE USERS CONFIGURATION

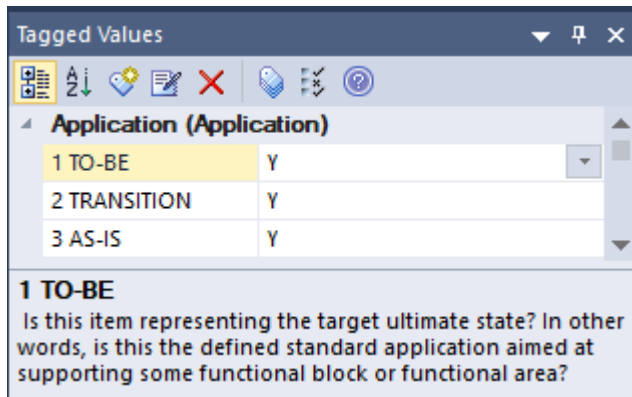
On the Labnaf administrator / software deployment machine

- “Update the “personal preferences” as described above
As a result, the following files where created or updated in %APPDATA%\Sparx Systems\EA
 - TechnologySets.xml
 - UserTechnologySet.xml
- Make a copy of these files to make them part of your software distribution package
- The software distribution package should copy “TechnologySets.xml” and “UserTechnologySet.xml” to “%APPDATA%\Sparx Systems\EA” on users’ PCs.

MODELING ITEMS APPEARANCE

SHOW THE PROPERTIES INFO SECTION

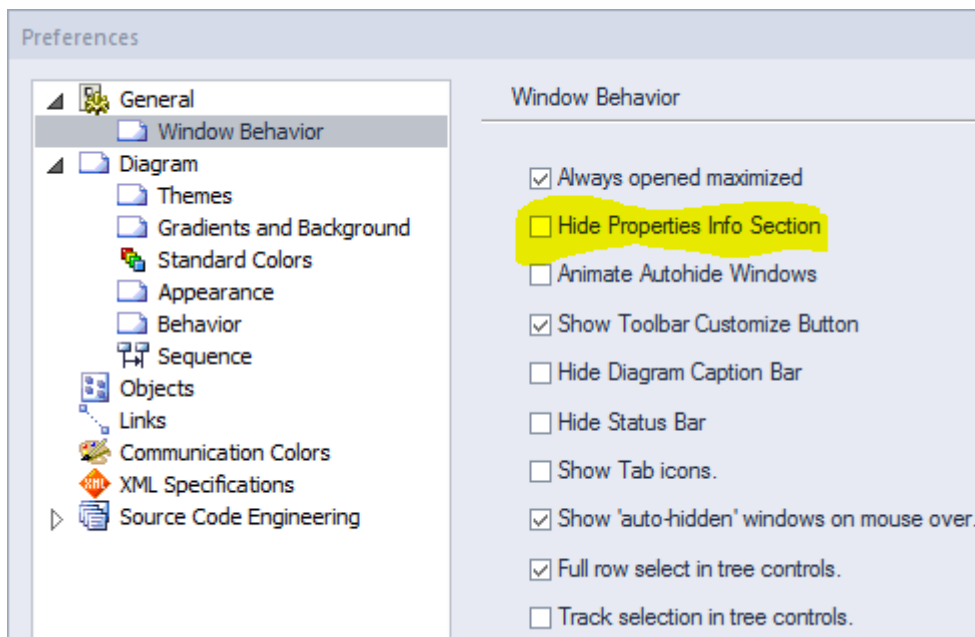
A property info section is a properties information bar at the bottom of various displays such as the element Properties window, Properties dialogs and Tagged Values window. For example:



MANUAL STEPS

Uncheck the checkbox **“Start / Preferences / General / Diagram / Hide Properties Info Section”**

NB: You must restart EA for this change to take effect. But you can of course complete all the remaining settings before restarting EA.



AUTOMATED SET UP BY UPDATING REGISTRY KEY(S)

Key Name = "HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Sparx Systems/EA400/EA/OPTIONS/HIDEPROPINFO"

Key Value = 0

The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor. On the left, the tree view is expanded to 'Sparx Systems > EA400 > EA > OPTIONS > HIDEPROPINFO'. On the right, the registry value is displayed as 'REG_DWORD' with a value of '0x00000000 (0)'. The row for 'HIDEPROPINFO' is highlighted in yellow.

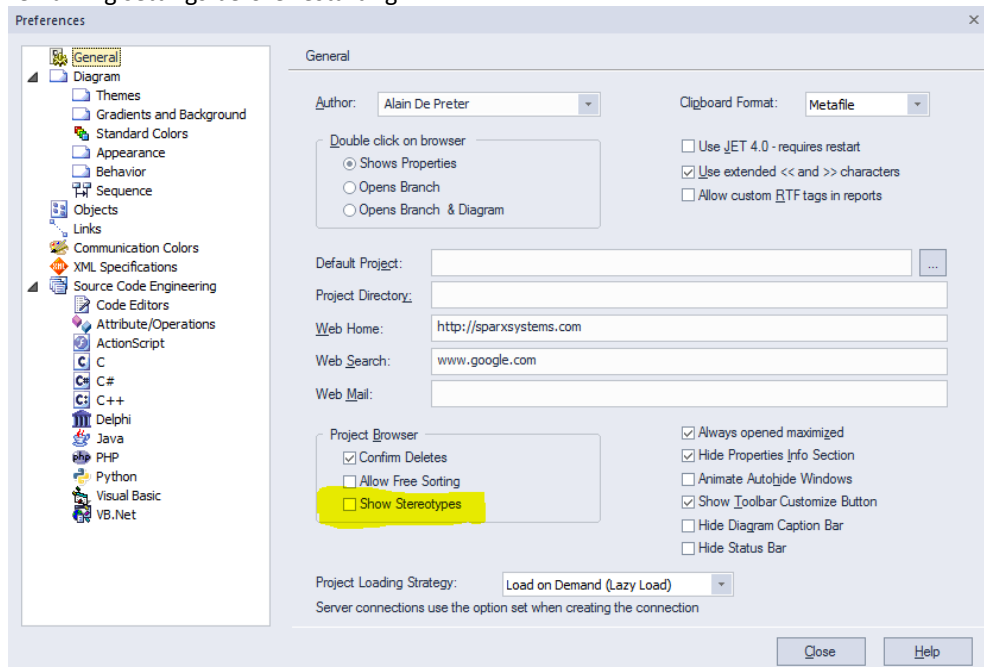
Registry Name	Value Type	Value
HD_SCRIBBLE_EFFECT_NORMAL	REG_DWORD	0x00000096 (150)
HD_SEG_LEN_LOW	REG_DWORD	0x000001f4 (500)
HD_SEG_LEN_MESSY	REG_DWORD	0x00000064 (100)
HD_SEG_LEN_NORMAL	REG_DWORD	0x0000009b (155)
HD_TWO_SEG_LEN_LOW	REG_DWORD	0x00000064 (100)
HD_TWO_SEG_LEN_MESSY	REG_DWORD	0x00000064 (100)
HD_TWO_SEG_LEN_NORMAL	REG_DWORD	0x00000064 (100)
HD_WAVE_EFFECT_LOW	REG_DWORD	0x00000011 (17)
HD_WAVE_EFFECT_MESSY	REG_DWORD	0x000000c8 (200)
HD_WAVE_EFFECT_NORMAL	REG_DWORD	0x00000068 (104)
HIDE_APPLOOK_DLG	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HIDEBORDERS	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
HIDEPROPINFO	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
HIERARCHY_SHOW_CLASSIFIERS	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HIERARCHY_SHOW_FQ_NAMES	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HIERARCHY_SHOW_MORE_EMBED...	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HTML_HIDE_STEREO	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HTML_HYPEREX_TARGET	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
HTML_NOTEXT	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
HTML_PRESERVEVS	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HTMLEXTENSION	REG_SZ	.html
IMAGE_SORT_TYPE	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)

HIDE STEREOTYPES IN THE PROJECT BROWSER

MANUAL STEPS

Uncheck the checkbox **“Start / Preferences / Project Browser / Show Stereotypes”**

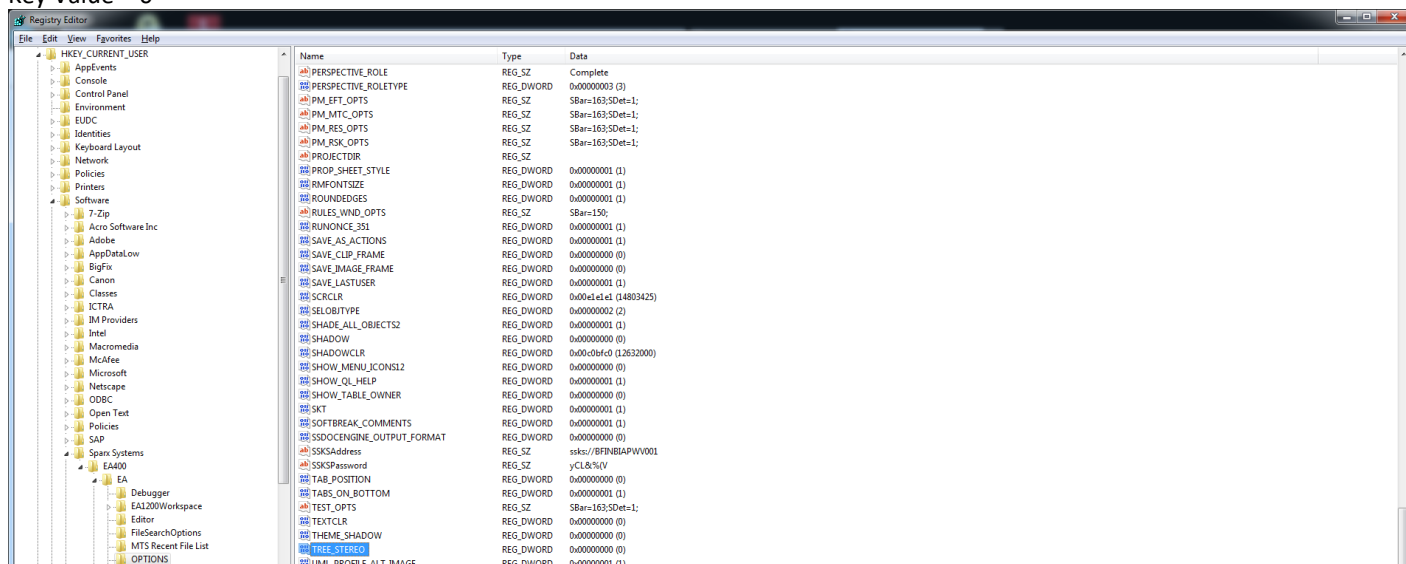
NB: A pop-up window tells you that **“you must restart EA for this change to take effect”**. But you can of course complete all the remaining settings before restarting EA.



AUTOMATED SET UP BY UPDATING REGISTRY KEY(S)

Key Name = **“HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Sparx Systems/EA400/EA/OPTIONS/TREE_STEREO”**

Key Value = 0



DISABLE FULLY SCOPED OBJECT NAMES

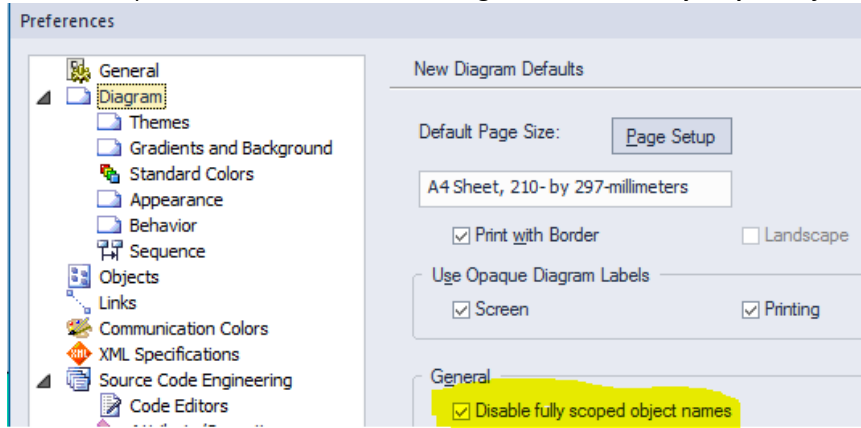
Avoid diagrams to show object names prefixed with the package names when the object is not in the same package as the diagram.

Data Objects:: DataObject1
- Attribute 1
- Attribute 2

DataObject1
- Attribute 1
- Attribute 2

MANUAL STEPS

Check the option “Start / Preferences / Diagram / Disable fully scoped object names”



AUTOMATED SET UP BY UPDATING REGISTRY KEY(S)

Key Name =

The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor. The left pane displays the tree structure, and the right pane shows the registry values for the selected key.

Name	Type	Data
HD_WAVE_EFFECT_NORMAL	REG_DWORD	0x00000068 (104)
HIDE_APPLOOK_DLG	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
INSTANCE_DEF2	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
LAST_DIAGRAM_TYPE2	REG_SZ	NMBS::Information Ar
LAST_DOC_COVERPAGE	REG_SZ	aCover Page
LAST_DOC_FILENAME	REG_SZ	C:\A\LT\SpaxDev\ba1
LAST_DOC_FORMAT	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
LAST_DOC_STYLESHEET	REG_SZ	aStyle Sheet
LAST_DOC_TEMPLATE	REG_SZ	Model Report
LAST_DOC_TOC_PAGE	REG_SZ	aTOC
LAST_GEN_THEME	REG_SZ	<current user theme>
LAST_PERSPECTIVE_SET	REG_SZ	{739d11ea-6fdb-49f8-8
Last_Source_Type	REG_DWORD	0xffffffff (4294967295)
Last_Target_Type	REG_DWORD	0x00000003 (3)
LAST_THEME	REG_SZ	Enterprise Architect 12
Last_Transfer_Source	REG_SZ	C:\A\LT\SpaxBU\Repr
Last_Transfer_Target	REG_SZ	DBType=3;Connect=P
Last_Transfer_Type	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)
LASTELEM	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)
LASTELEMPAGE	REG_SZ	UML::Component
LastSearchTerm	REG_SZ	Test
LASTUSER	REG_SZ	Admin
LINECLR	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
LINETHICKNESSES	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
LOAD_STARTUP_WORKSPACE	REG_SZ	Custom::NMBS Works
MAINTChange_OPTS	REG_SZ	SBar=150;SDet=1;
MAINTDecision_OPTS	REG_SZ	SBar=150;SDet=1;
MAINTDefect_OPTS	REG_SZ	SBar=150;SDet=1;
MAINTEvent_OPTS	REG_SZ	SBar=150;SDet=1;
MAINTIssue_OPTS	REG_SZ	SBar=150;SDet=1;
MAINTToDo_OPTS	REG_SZ	SBar=150;SDet=1;
MDG_TECHNOLOGY_STATUS	REG_SZ	NIEM=0;WebProfile=0
MDGTechnology PathList	REG_SZ	N:\
MY_TECHNOLOGY	REG_SZ	<global>
NEWPACKAGE_ADDVC	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
NEWPACKAGE_INITCONTENT	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)
NO_FULL_NAMES	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)

“HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Sparx Systems/EA400/EA/OPTIONS/NO_FULL_NAMES”

Key Value = 1

BEHAVIOR OPTIMIZATIONS

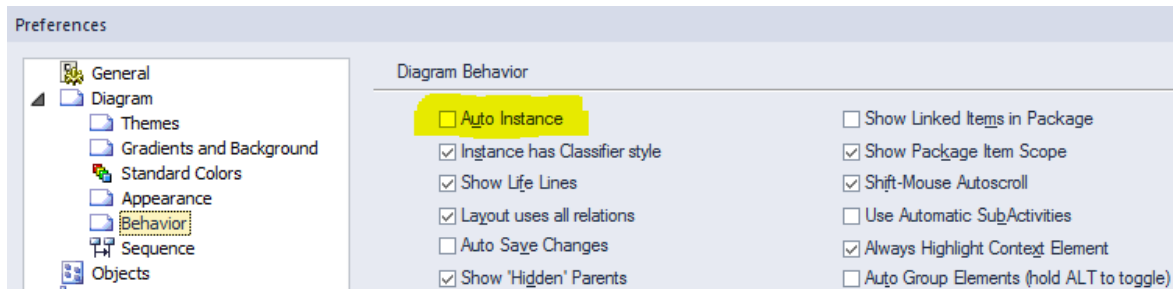
DISABLE AUTO INSTANCE

When you [drag and drop some elements from the project browser](#) (“paste from the tree”), like applications and data entities, from the project browser onto a diagram, avoid automatic creation of a new instance (instead of a simple link to the element) and avoid prompting to select whether to create a link or an instance.

When [dragging and dropping some elements from the project browser](#) to a diagram **for the first time**, uncheck the “Hold Ctrl to Show this dialog”.

MANUAL STEPS

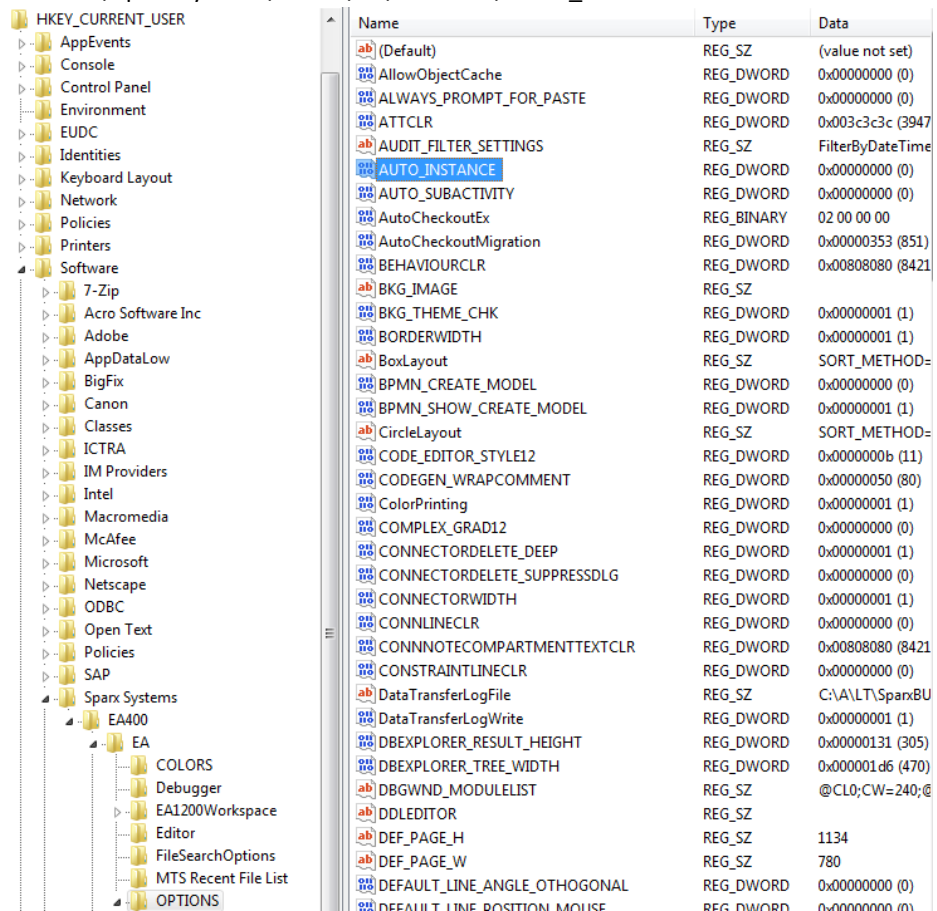
Uncheck the option “**Start / Preferences / Diagram / Behavior / Auto Instance**”



AUTOMATED SET UP BY UPDATING REGISTRY KEY(S)

Key Name = “HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Sparx Systems/EA400/EA/OPTIONS/AUTO_INSTANCE”

Key Value = 0



Key Name = "HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Sparx Systems/EA400/EA/OPTIONS/ ALWAYS_PROMPT_FOR_PASTE"
 Key Value = 0

The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor. The left pane displays the tree structure, with the path HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Sparx Systems\EA400\EA\OPTIONS expanded. The right pane shows a list of registry values with columns for Name, Type, and Data. The value ALWAYS_PROMPT_FOR_PASTE is highlighted in blue.

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
AllowObjectCache	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ALWAYS_PROMPT_FOR_PASTE	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
AUTO_INSTANCE	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
AUTO_SUBACTIVITY	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
AutoCheckoutEx	REG_BINARY	02 00 00 00
AutoCheckoutMigration	REG_DWORD	0x00000353 (851)
CODE_EDITOR_STYLE12	REG_DWORD	0x0000000b (11)
CODEGEN_WRAPCOMMENT	REG_DWORD	0x00000050 (80)
ColorPrinting	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
CONNECTORDELETE_DEEP	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
CONNECTORDELETE_SUPPRESSDLG	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DBGWND_MODULELIST	REG_SZ	@CL0;CW=240;@E
DDLEEDITOR	REG_SZ	
DEF_PAGE_H	REG_SZ	1130
DEF_PAGE_W	REG_SZ	780
DEFAULT_LINE_ANGLE_OTHOGONAL	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DEFAULT_LINE_POSITION_MOUSE	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DEFAULT_MYSQL_STORAGE_ENGINE	REG_SZ	
DEFAULT_PROJECT	REG_SZ	
DefaultModel	REG_SZ	C:\PROGRA~2\SPA
DEFNOTE_SIZE	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DGM_AUTOGROUP	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DIAGRAM_RENDERER	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
DYNWEBSEARCH	REG_SZ	www.google.com
EMF_FORMAT	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ENABLE_QL	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ExtendedTechEnabled	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
GRADLUM	REG_DWORD	0x00000032 (50)
GRADSTART	REG_DWORD	0x00000050 (80)
GRPBOX:ParametersList	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
GRPBOX:Relations	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
HD_KINK_EFFECT_LOW	REG_DWORD	0x0000001c (28)
HD_KINK_EFFECT_MESSY	REG_DWORD	0x00000158 (344)
HD_KINK_EFFECT_NORMAL	REG_DWORD	0x00000088 (136)
HD_LENGTH_EFFECT_LOW	REG_DWORD	0x000000c8 (200)
HD_LENGTH_EFFECT_MESSY	REG_DWORD	0x00000115 (277)
HD LENGTH EFFECT NORMAL	REG_DWORD	0x0000008f (143)

DISABLE AUTOMATIC SUB-ACTIVITIES

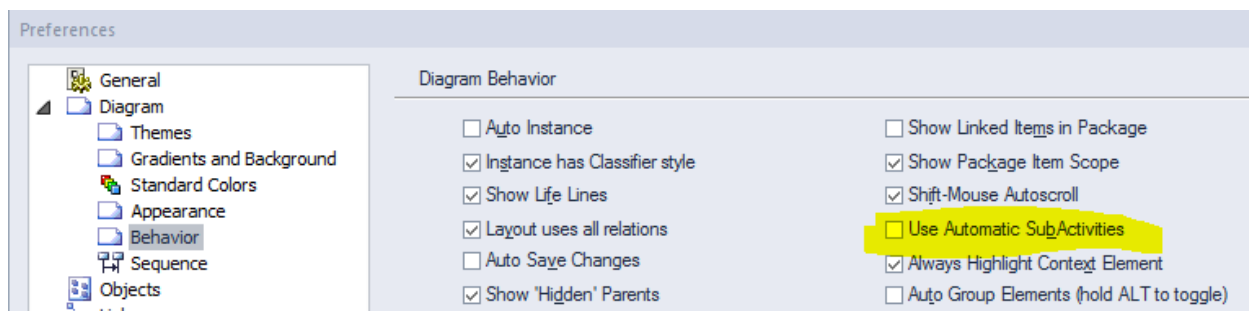
This configuration might be necessary in the case where your custom language/MDG contains

- Element stereotypes that derived from Activity
- Diagram stereotypes derived from Activity Diagram

In such case you might want to avoid automatic creation of a new Structured Activity element when you drag one Activity diagram from the Project Browser onto another Activity diagram and select the 'Hyperlink' option.

MANUAL STEPS

Uncheck the option **“Start / Preferences / Diagram / Behavior / Use Automatic SubActivities”**



AUTOMATED SET UP BY UPDATING REGISTRY KEY(S)

Key Name = "HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Sparx Systems/EA400/EA/OPTIONS/AUTO_SUBACTIVITY"

Key Value = 0

The screenshot displays the Windows Registry Editor. The left pane shows the tree structure expanded to HKEY_CURRENT_USER > Software > Sparx Systems > EA400 > EA > OPTIONS. The right pane shows a list of registry values:

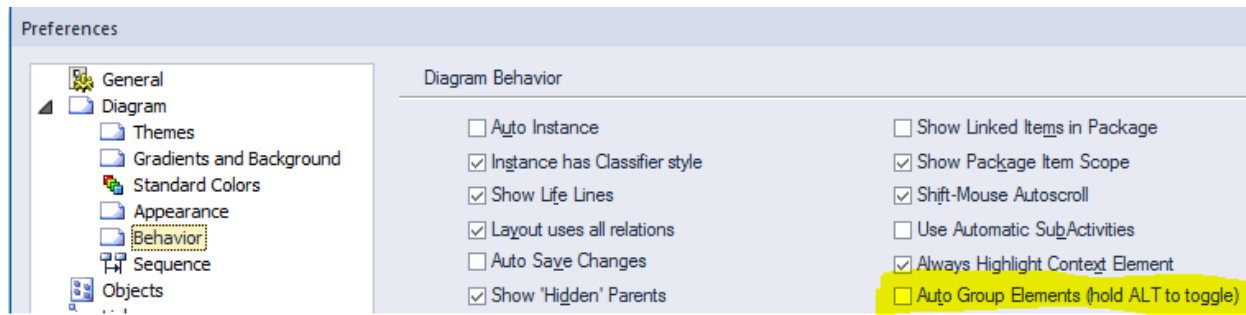
Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
AllowObjectCache	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ALWAYS_PROMPT_FOR_PASTE	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ATTCLR	REG_DWORD	0x003c3c3c (3947580)
AUDIT_FILTER_SETTINGS	REG_SZ	FilterByDateTime=0;Pe
AUTO_INSTANCE	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
AUTO_SUBACTIVITY	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
AutoCheckoutEx	REG_BINARY	02 00 00 00
AutoCheckoutMigration	REG_DWORD	0x00000353 (851)
BEHAVIOURCLR	REG_DWORD	0x00808080 (8421504)
BKG_IMAGE	REG_SZ	
BKG_THEME_CHK	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
BORDERWIDTH	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
BoxLayout	REG_SZ	SORT_METHOD=None
BPMN_CREATE_MODEL	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
BPMN_SHOW_CREATE_MODEL	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
CircleLayout	REG_SZ	SORT_METHOD=None
CODE_EDITOR_STYLE12	REG_DWORD	0x0000000b (11)
CODEGEN_WRAPCOMMENT	REG_DWORD	0x00000050 (80)
ColorPrinting	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
COMPLEX_GRAD12	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
CONNECTORDELETE_DEEP	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
CONNECTORDELETE_SUPPRESSDLG	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
CONNECTORWIDTH	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
CONNLINECLR	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
CONNNOTECOMPARTMENTTEXTCLR	REG_DWORD	0x00808080 (8421504)
CONSTRAINTLINECLR	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DataTransferLogFile	REG_SZ	C:\ALT\SparxBU\Repc
DataTransferLogWrite	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
DBEXPLORER_RESULT_HEIGHT	REG_DWORD	0x00000131 (305)
DBEXPLORER_TREE_WIDTH	REG_DWORD	0x000001d6 (470)
DBGWND_MODULELIST	REG_SZ	@CL0;CW=240;@ECL0
DDLEDITOR	REG_SZ	
DEF_PAGE_H	REG_SZ	1134
DEF_PAGE_W	REG_SZ	780
DEFAULT_LINE_ANGLE_OTHOGONAL	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DEFAULT_LINE_BOTTOM_MOUSE	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)

AUTO GROUP ELEMENTS OFF

Avoid model elements to be relocated in the project browser structure when dragging and dropping items from one parent to another in a diagram.

MANUAL STEPS

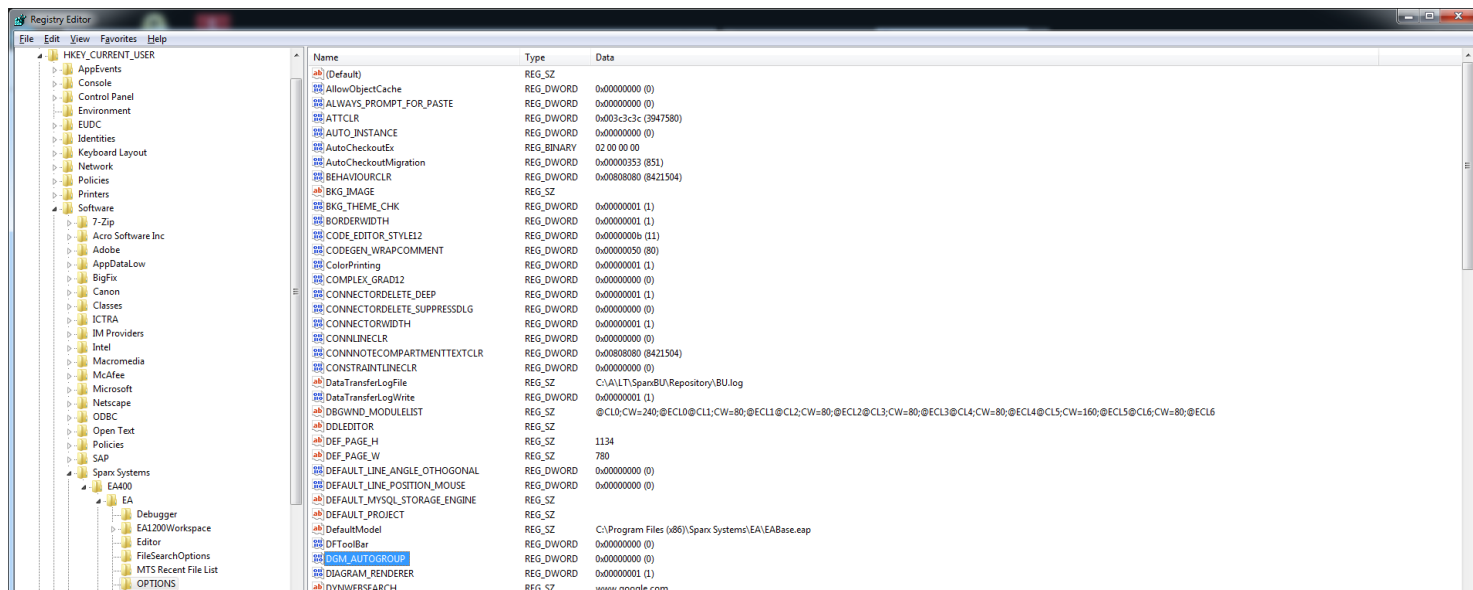
Uncheck the option “Start / Preferences / Diagram / Behavior / Auto Group Elements”



AUTOMATED SET UP BY UPDATING REGISTRY KEY(S)

Key Name = “HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Sparx Systems/EA400/EA/OPTIONS/DGM_AUTOGROUP”

Key Value = 0

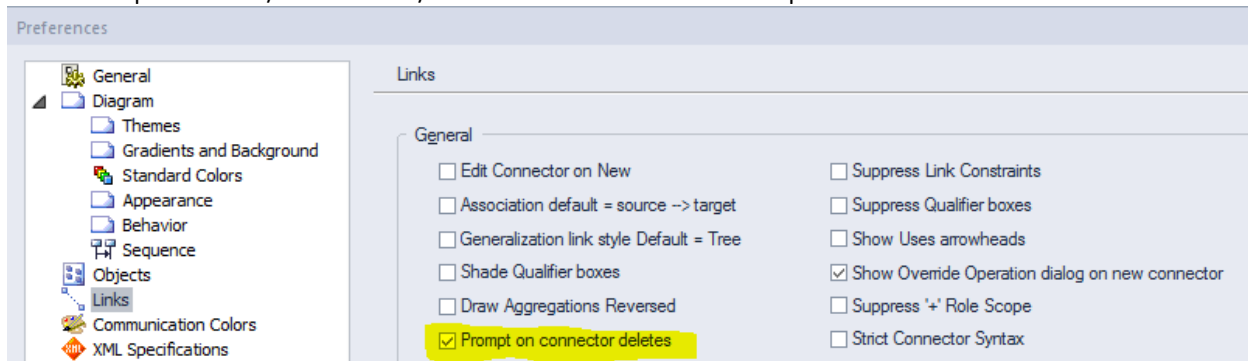


PROMPT FOR CONNECTOR DELETE

When the user opts to “delete” a connector from a diagram, make sure he is prompted to either delete the connector from the model repository or to just hide it in the current view.

MANUAL STEPS

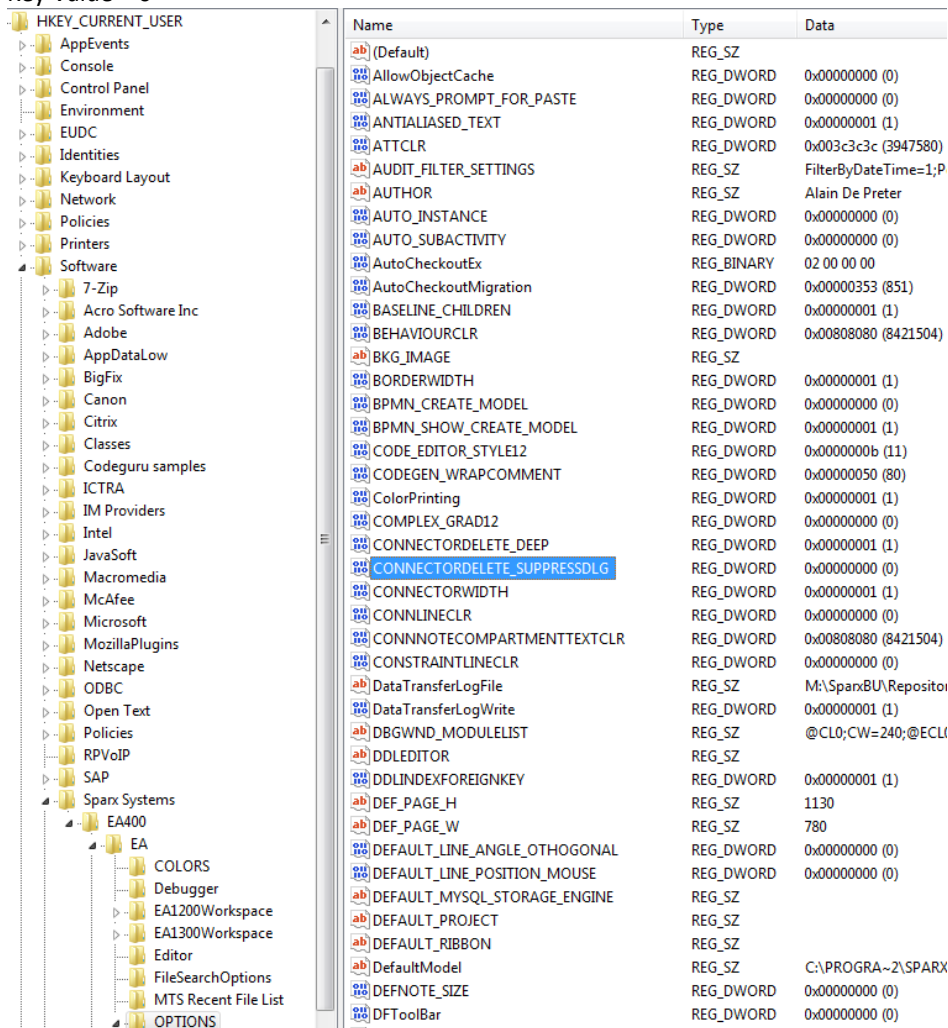
Select the option “Start / Preferences / Links” and check the item “Prompt on connector deletes”:



AUTOMATED SET UP BY UPDATING REGISTRY KEY(S)

Key Name = “HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Sparx Systems\EA400\EA\OPTIONS\CONNECTORDELETE_SUPPRESSDLG”

Key Value = 0

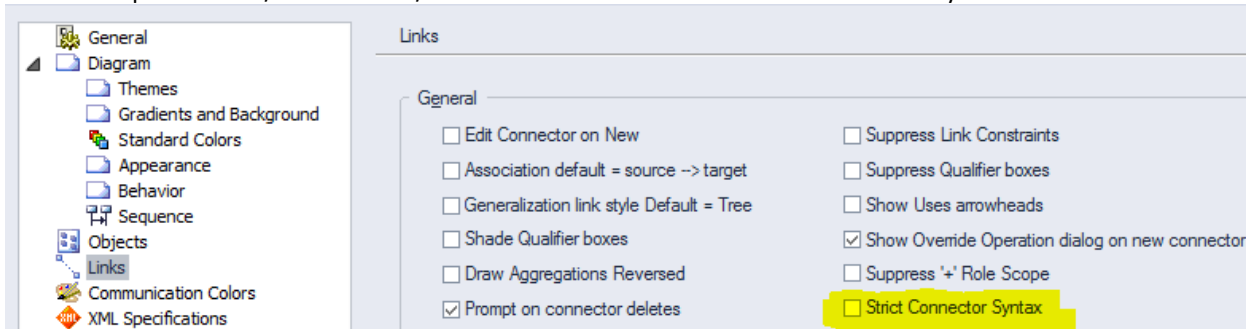


NO STRICT CONNECTOR SYNTAX

Do not enforce consistency of stereotyped connectors with underlying UML connector syntax. **This is very important if you don't want your element and connector stereotypes to inherit UML constraints!!!**

MANUAL STEPS

Select the option “Start / Preferences / Links“ and uncheck the item “Strict connector syntax“:



AUTOMATED SET UP BY UPDATING REGISTRY KEY(S)

Key Name = “HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Sparx Systems\EA400\EA\OPTIONS\UML_STRICT”

Key Value = 0

WHEN DO THESE OPTIMIZATIONS OCCUR?

DURING INSTALLATION OF THE LABNAF ADDIN

The Labnaf Addin installer updates all the above optimizations.

WHEN THE ADDIN STARTS

Every time the Labnaf Addin starts, it performs all the above optimizations except the user ribbons and the perspectives.

To perform this, it resets some EA registry keys exactly as the installer does.

WHEN YOU EXPLICITLY RUN THE OPTIMIZING PROGRAM

If you changed something by mistake, **you can always reset to all the above recommended settings.**

Press the **“Start”** button and select **“Labnaf / Optimize EA user interface for Labnaf”**.

⇒ **This updates all the above optimizations.**

DURING SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION

You can override what the Labnaf addin installer does.

You can also add your customer user ribbons as described in this document.

Sample configuration files are provided in the Labnaf package that was delivered to you. Go to

“{My_Labnaf_Package}\Labnaf_Addin\Installer\EASettings for Advanced SW Distribution (Optional)\ConfigurationFiles.”