



Unified Framework for Driving Transformations

Customization Workbench

User Guide

Labnaf Customization Tools =>	Labnaf AddIn: Instant Metamodel Manager	Labnaf AddIn: Instant Metadata Manager	Customization Workbench
Categories of Customization	<i>Customizable metamodel expressed in the Labnaf Language and stored in the product database.</i>		
Metamodel	<i>Customizable metamodel expressed in the Labnaf Language and stored in the product database.</i>		
Select active metamodel (standard, customized standard, or user-defined metamodel)	Y		
Add/Delete connectors to a metamodel	Y		
Upgrade standard metamodel to a new version of Labnaf, while keeping your own customizations	Y		
Generate documentation/diagram about your metamodel customization	Y		
Element Properties			
Create custom property types		Y	Y
Upgrade properties to a new version of Labnaf and keep/restore your own customizations		Y	
Rename/Delete property types		Y	Y
Synchronize property sets in existing elements		All props	MDG props
Add custom properties to the Tags Tab		Y	N
Add Labnaf Properties to the Element Tab		N	MDG-defined
Create named property groups		N	MDG-defined
Connector Properties			
Create custom connector properties		N	MDG-defined
Elements and Connectors			
Add/Delete element and connector types		N	MDG-defined
Toolboxes and Diagram Types/Viewpoints			
Add/Update/Delete Toolboxes		N	MDG-defined
Add/Update/Delete Diagram Types/Viewpoints		N	MDG-defined
Change Shapes		N	MDG-defined
Change Icons		N	MDG-defined

[More info on the Labnaf Guidance Web Site](#)

Labnaf provides two options for language customization

1. Instant Metamodel Manager and the Instant Metadata Manager

The **Instant Metamodel Manager** and the **Instant Metadata Manager** are provided by the Labnaf AddIn i.e. directly in the modeling environment.

Using these tools, you can

- use the standard built-in metamodel, customize it, or create your own user-defined metamodel from scratch,
- visualize, create, rename, delete and synchronize element properties,
- automatically merge new versions of Labnaf with your own metamodel and metadata (properties) customizations.

2. Customize the Labnaf MDG Using the Customization Workbench

This is used for advanced customizations.

The **Customization Workbench** is used for customizing the Labnaf MDG including, properties/tagged values, element types, connector types, toolboxes, diagram types, and metamodel (still using the Labnaf end user language itself).

To activate this customization mode, start the Customization Workbench, and select the "Load MDG from Files" option. This overrides the above features on (1).

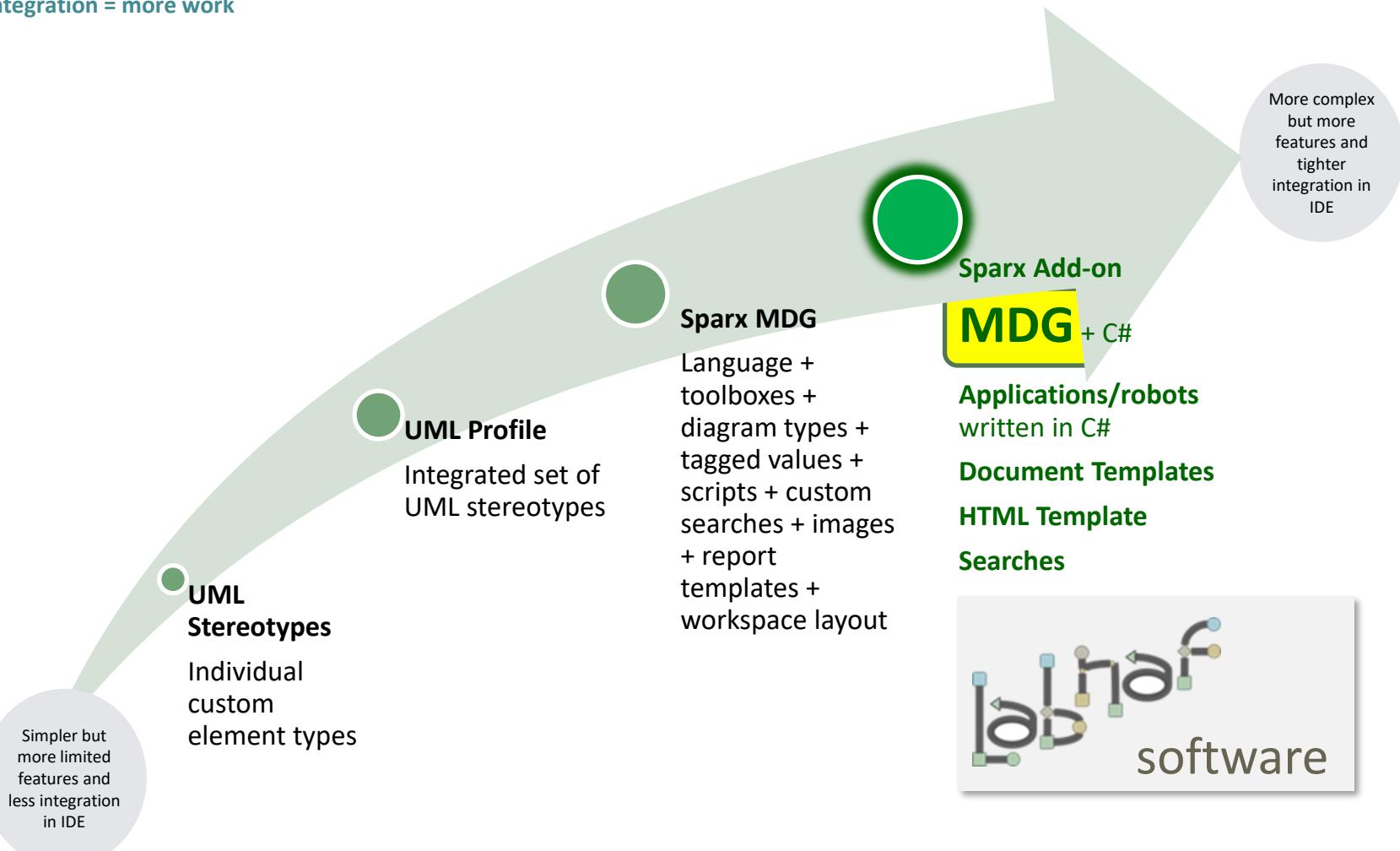
In this case Labnaf still automatically merges the new Labnaf metamodel version with your own customizations, since Labnaf metamodels are entirely controlled by Labnaf .

But for the other parts of the language specifications, which are defined in the MDG, you need to rely on Sparx tools.

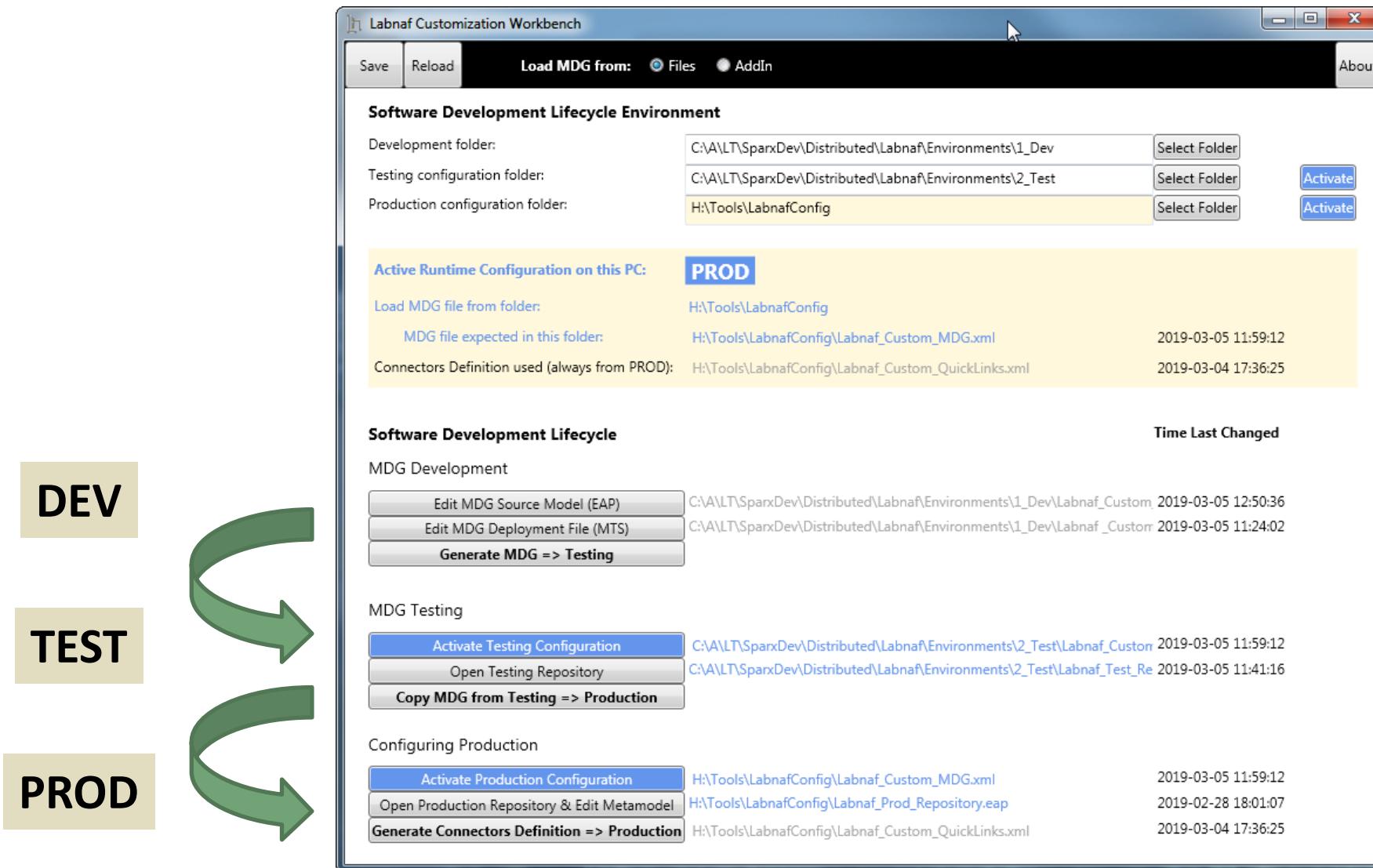
Labnaf was build using the Sparx EA Software Development Kit (SDK)

Enables multiple levels of modeling solution development and integration

Higher level of integration = more work

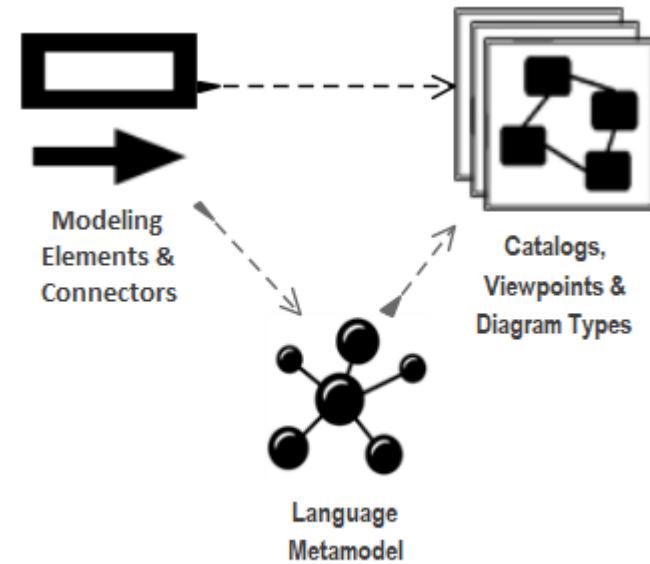


The Labnaf Customization Workbench provides you with a staging environment for customizing the **Labnaf MDG**

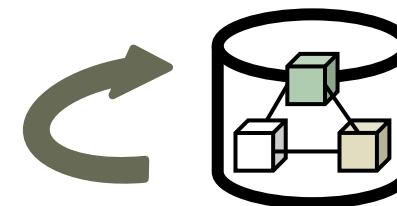


Labnaf Customization Steps

1. Customize the language following your organization requirements

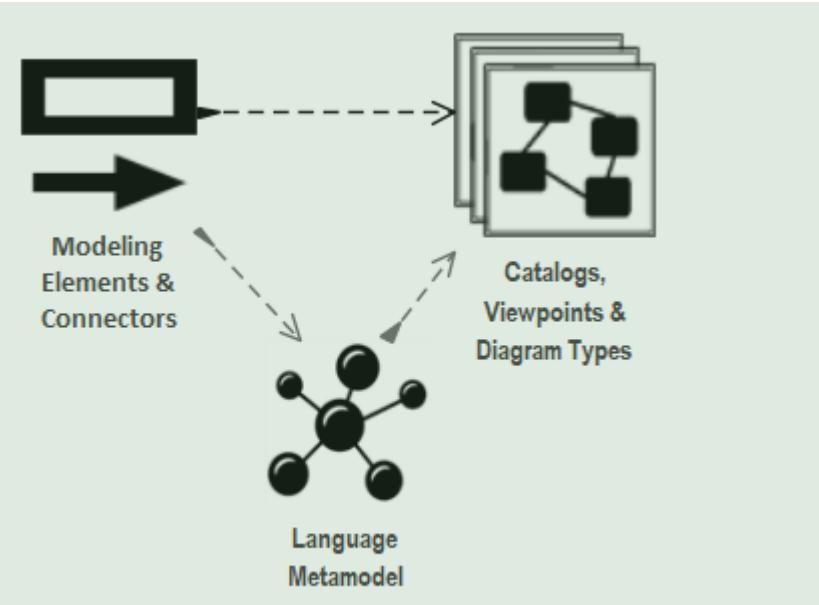


2. Adapt existing repository content

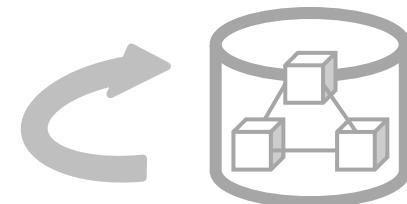


Labnaf Customization Workbench

1. Customize the language following your organization requirements



2. Adapt existing repository content



Sparx EA Modeling Languages

What's in the box

Many model repository options

- Local Microsoft Access database
- Shared database: **SQL Server**, MySQL, Oracle...
- Possible **version control**: Subversion, CVS, TFS...

Many languages & Toolboxes

- (Too) Many languages
- No integration of standards
- Scope / domain-specific
- Switch between many complex toolboxes

Sparx SDK

- Tailoring the tool for an organization
 - Language
 - IDE
 - document generation
 - web publication
 - ...

What we don't want

Built-in MDGs and related Toolboxes

Use Case	XML Schema	GoF Patterns
Class	Documentation	ICONIX
Object	Test Domain	LieberLieber AUTOSAR Engineer
Composite	Dashboard	MindMapping
Communication	XMLTransform	NIEM
Interaction		ODM
Timing	ArcGIS	Project Management
State	Archimate	TaskTaxonomy
Activity	Arch Mate2	SOMF 2.1
Component	BPMN 1.1	SPERM
Deployment	BPMN 2.0	User Interface - Simple
Profile	BPMN 1.0	SoaML
Metamodel	UML Standard Profile	Strategic Modeling
	Business Rule Model	UMM 2.0 Profile
Analysis	CodeEngineering	UPCC 2.0
Business Modeling	Data Flow Diagrams	UPCC 3.0
Custom	Data Modeling	UBL Model Management
Requirements	Entity Relationship Diagram	WebModeling
Maintenance	Eriksson-Penker Extensions	Whiteboard
User Interface	GML	User Interface - Win32
WSDL	GRA-UML	Wireframing



What we want



Merged Standards & Best Practices



One Strategy & Architecture Process



One Modeling Language

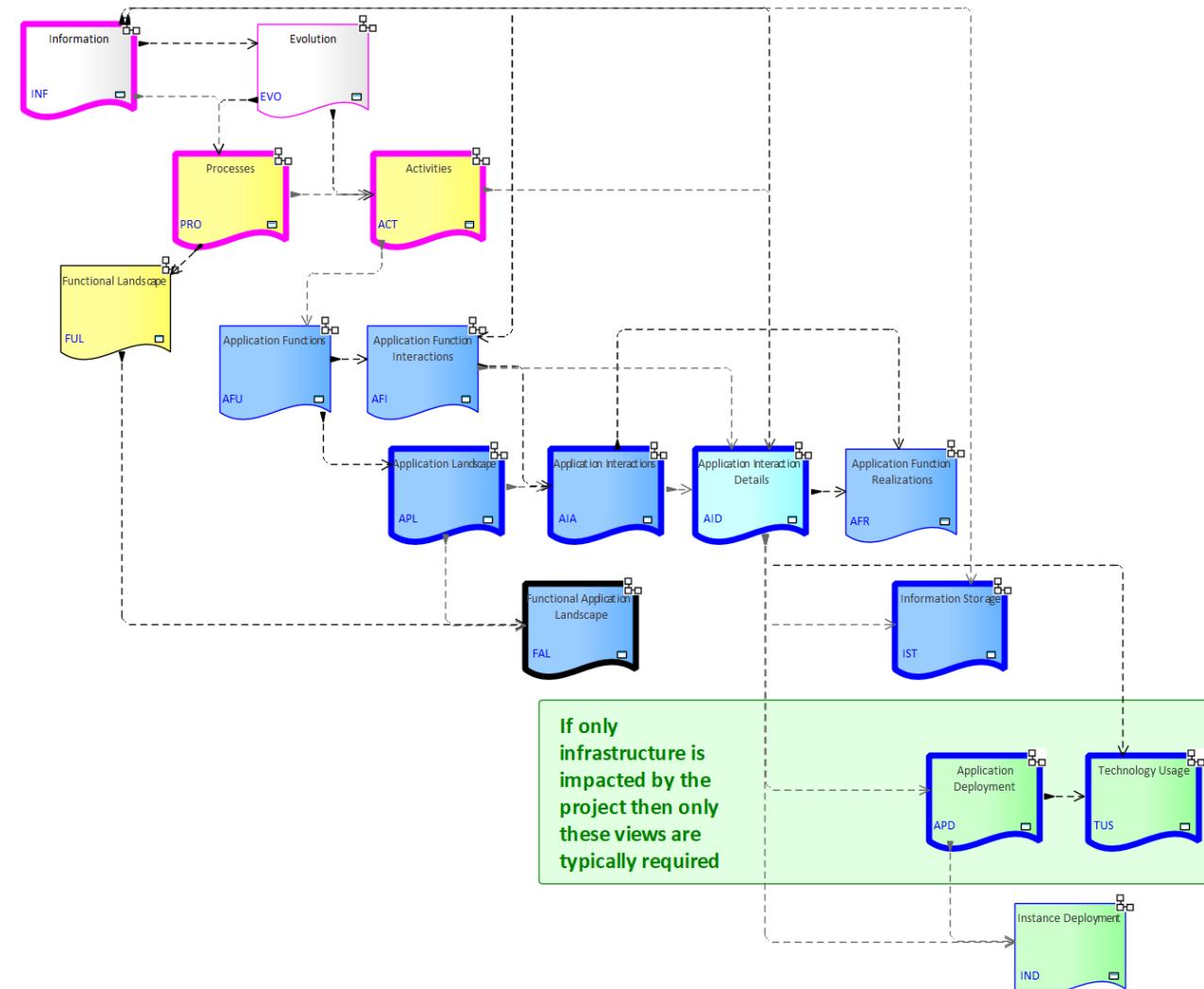


One Tool & One Repository



Extensive On-line Documentation

We need one modular language and tool but address specifically each type of view



Each type of architecture view needs to have its toolbox with element and connector types

Elements & Connectors

- Some come from standards
- Some were adapted
- Some are proprietary

What we want

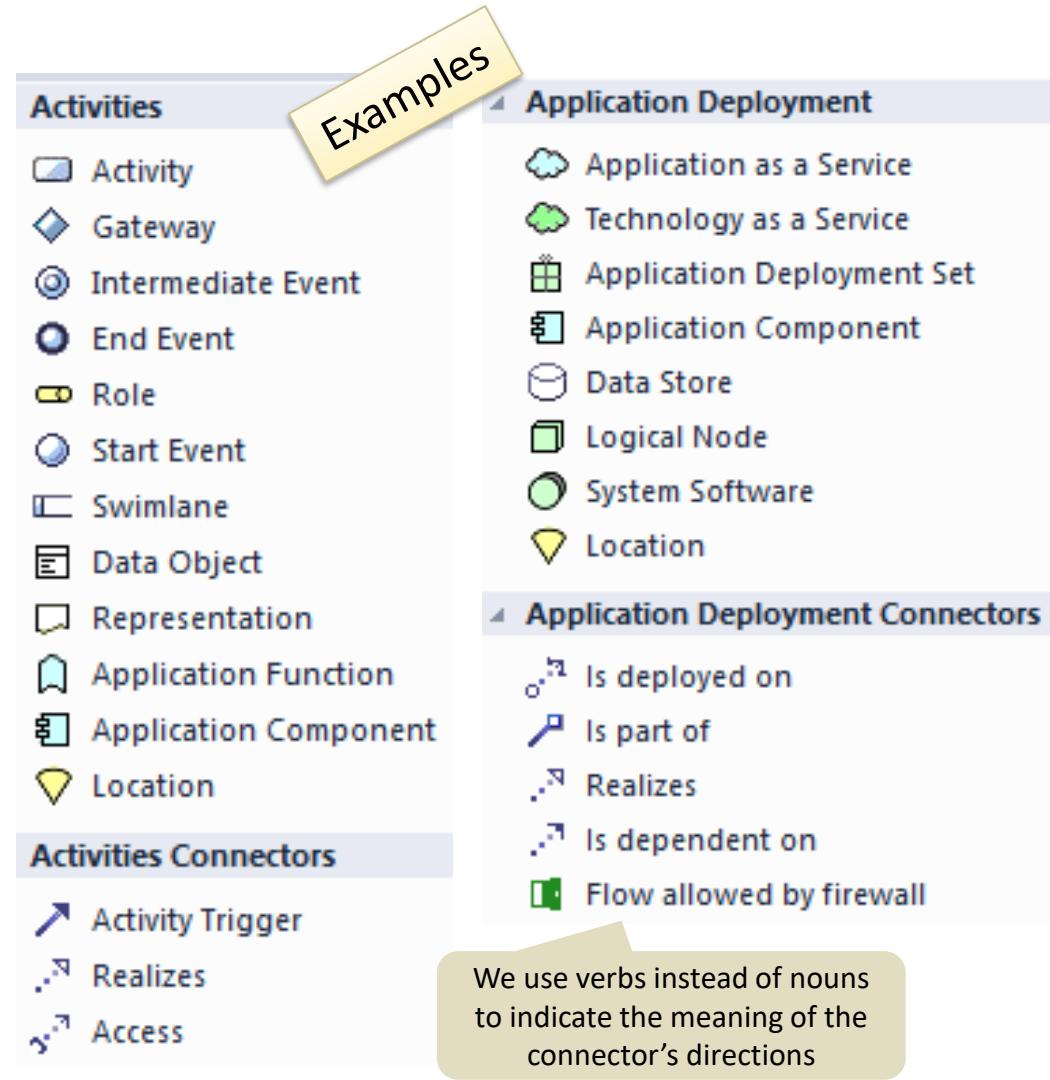
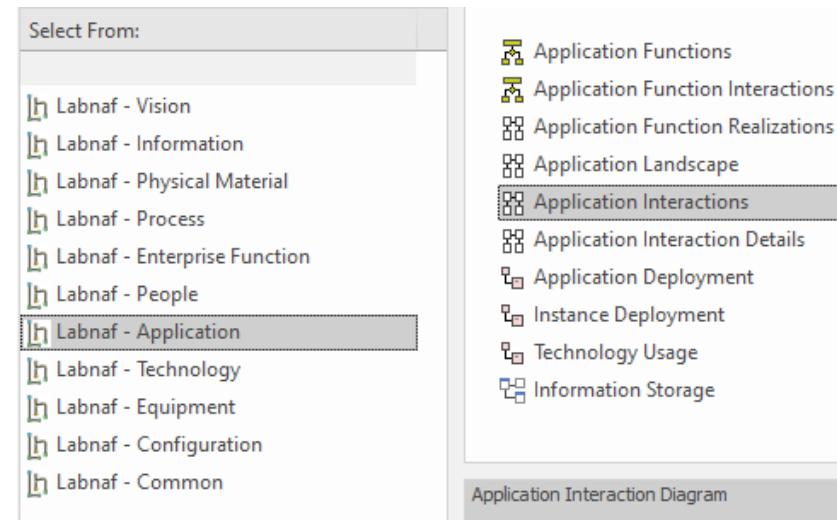


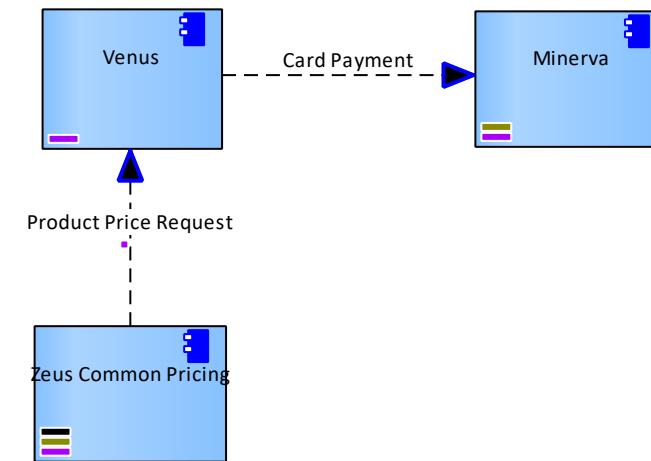
Diagram Types

What we want

When you select New diagram / ... the following list of Labnaf perspectives and diagram types appears



A Labnaf diagram type addresses a specific strategy or architecture viewpoint

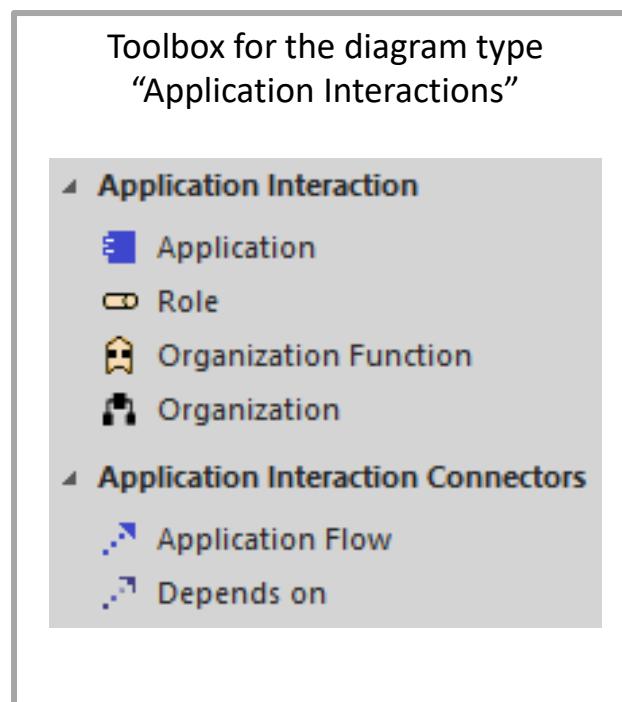


Toolboxes

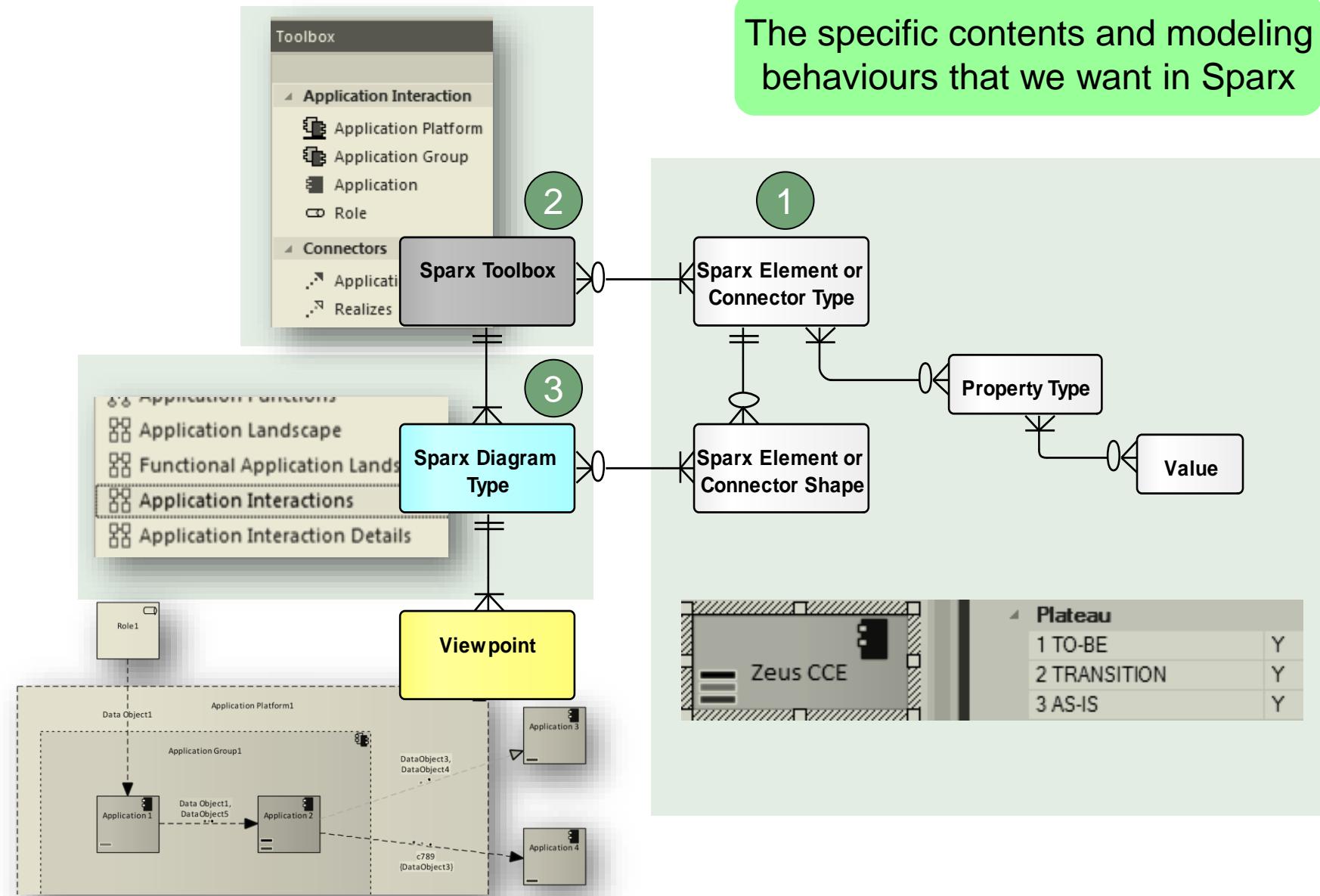
What we want

Each diagram type has its own toolbox.

Each diagram-specific toolbox only contains the elements and connectors that are relevant to this diagram type.

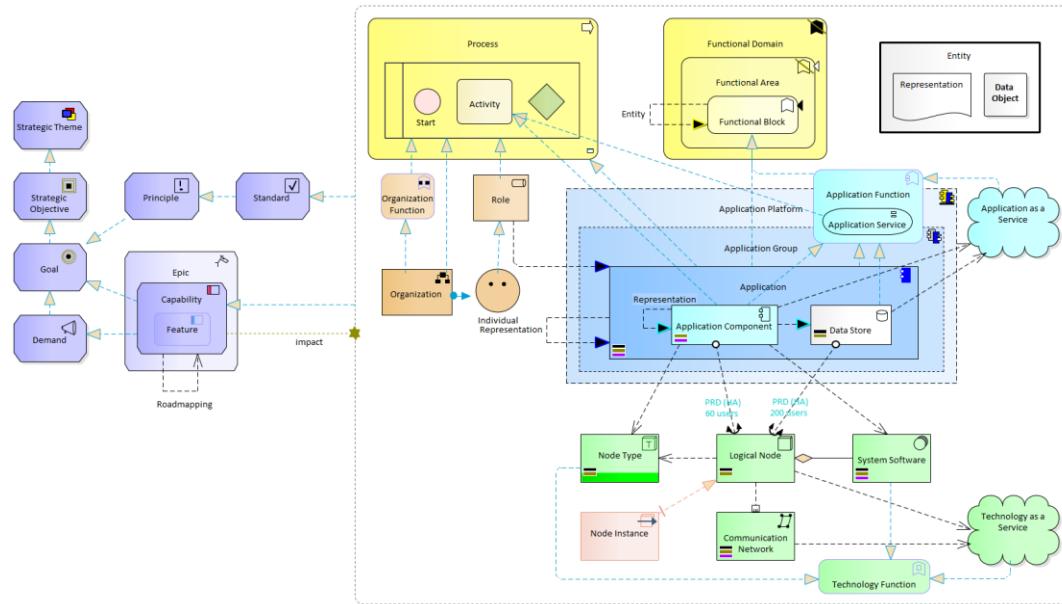


Key items to be designed and configured



We also want an agile Language Metamodel used both for documentation & automatic model validation

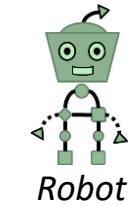
What we want



While Modeling

Existing Invalid Connectors

Prevent creation of invalid connectors

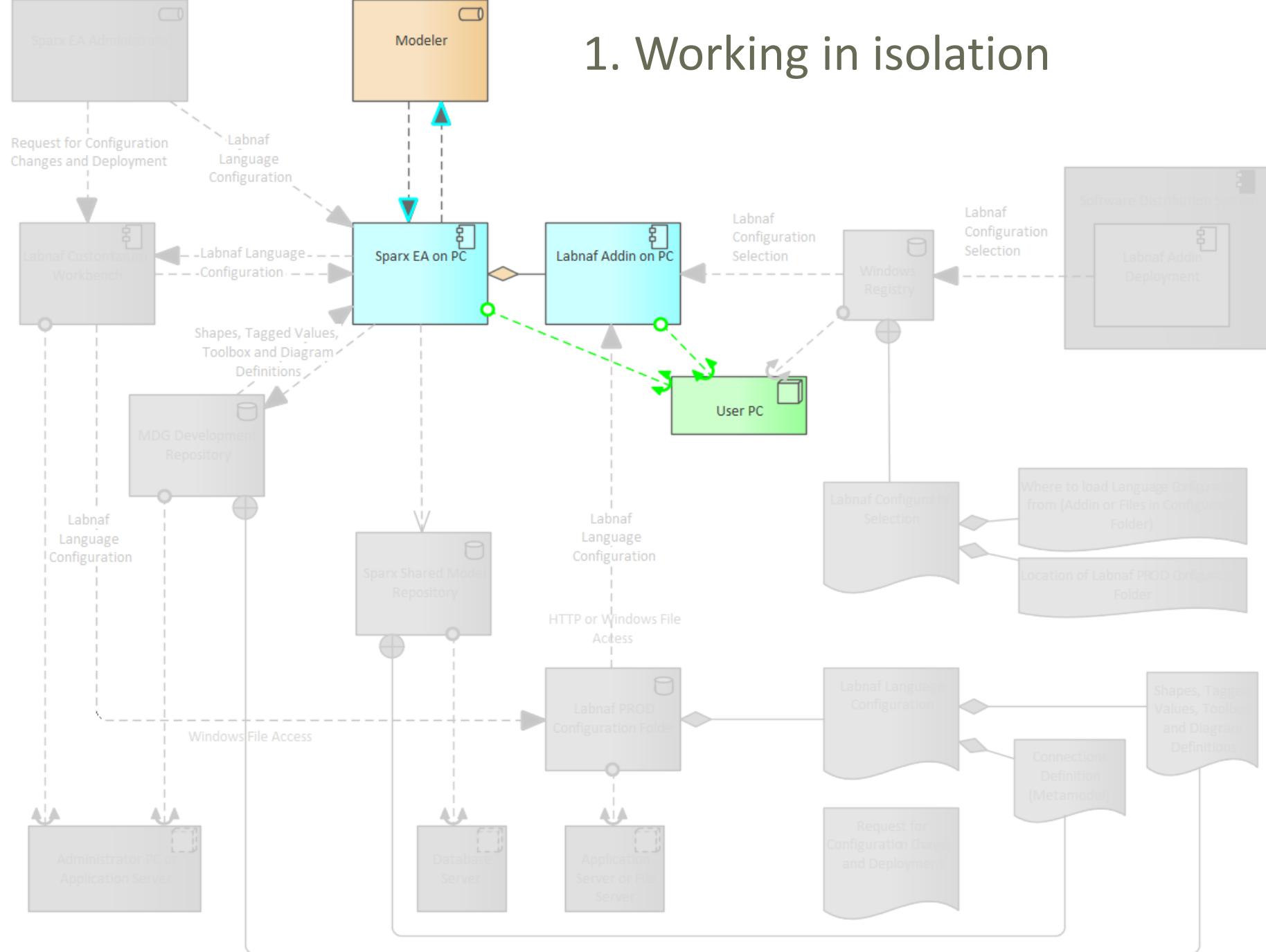


Robot

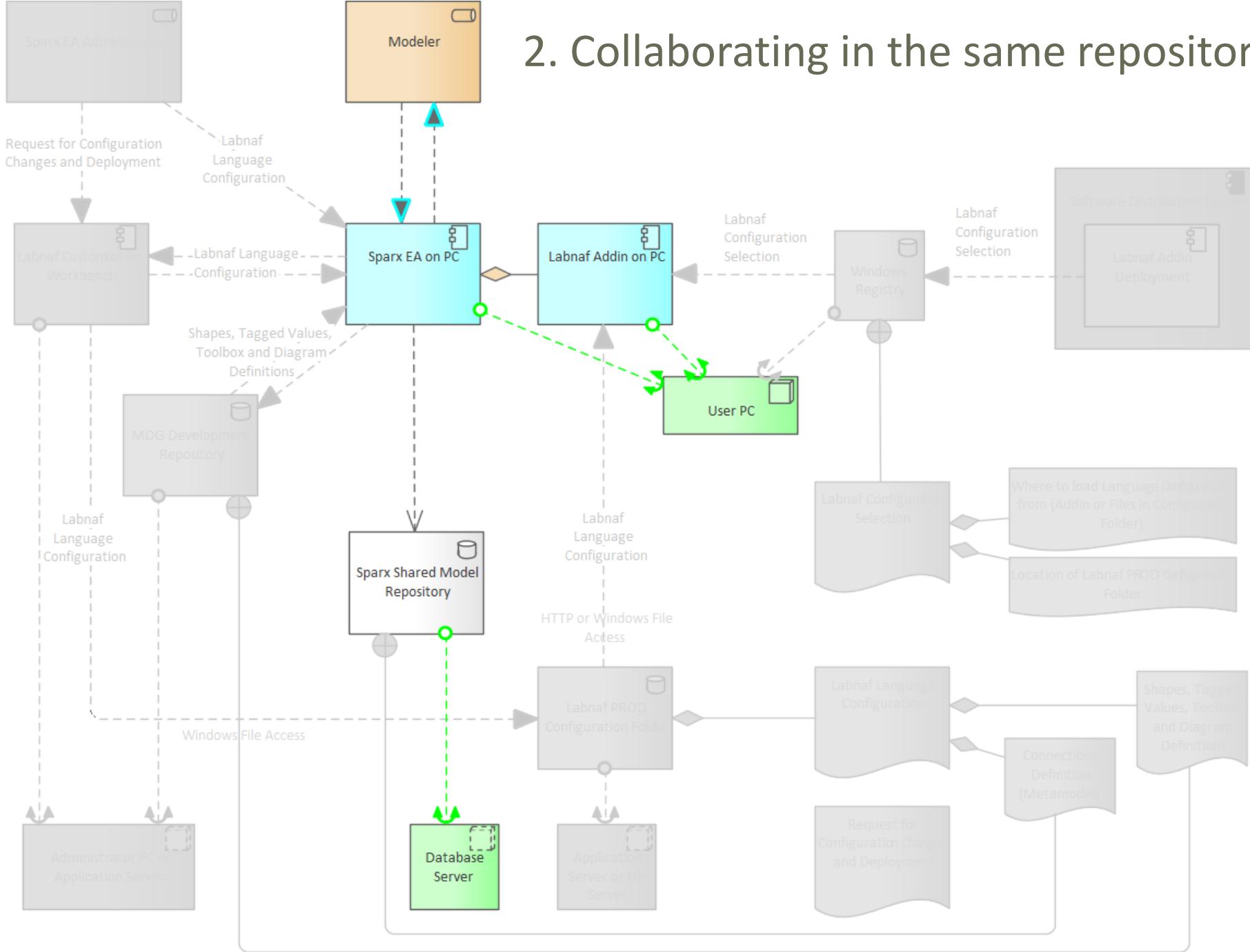
Send Error Emails to Relevant Recipients

The evolving environment

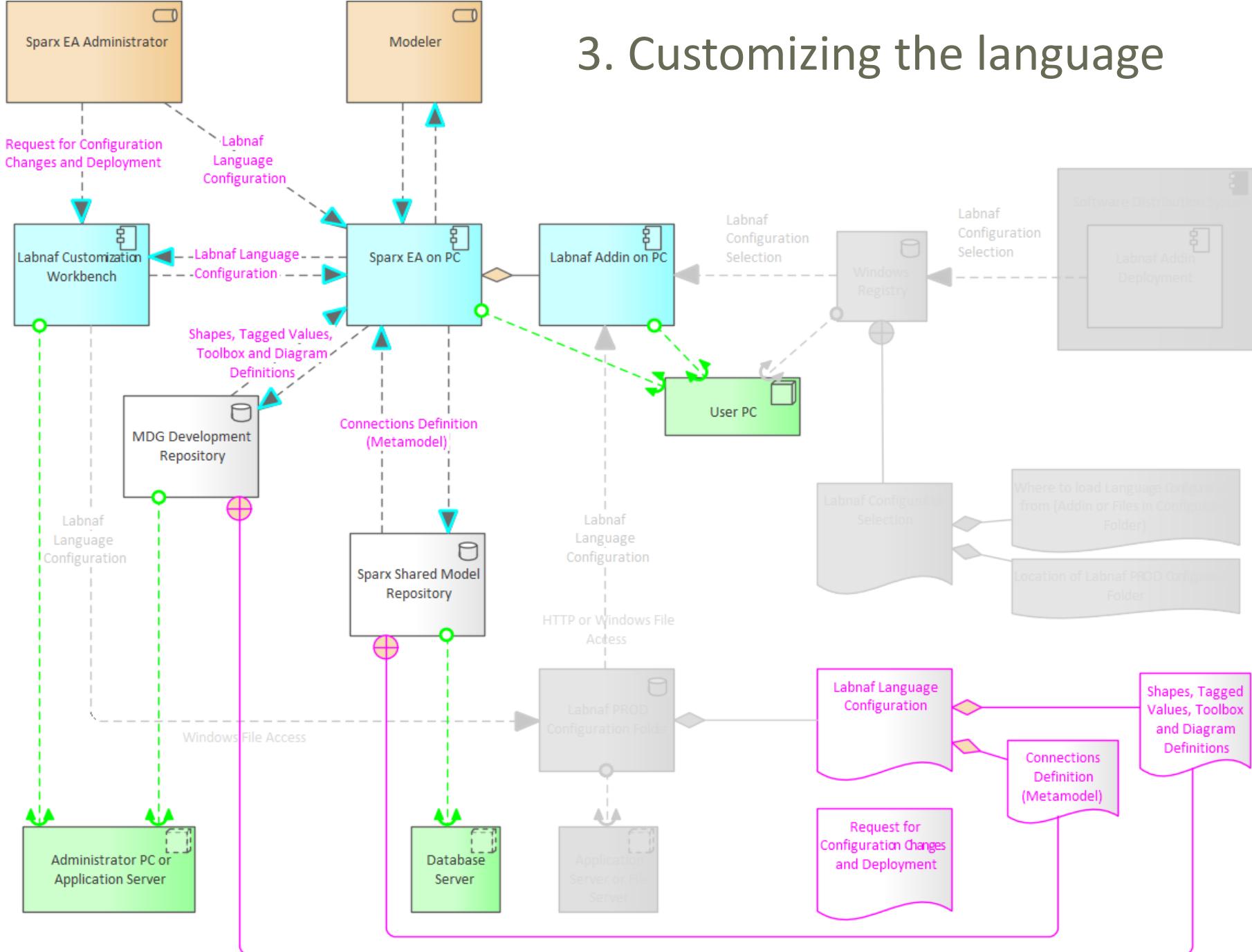
1. Working in isolation



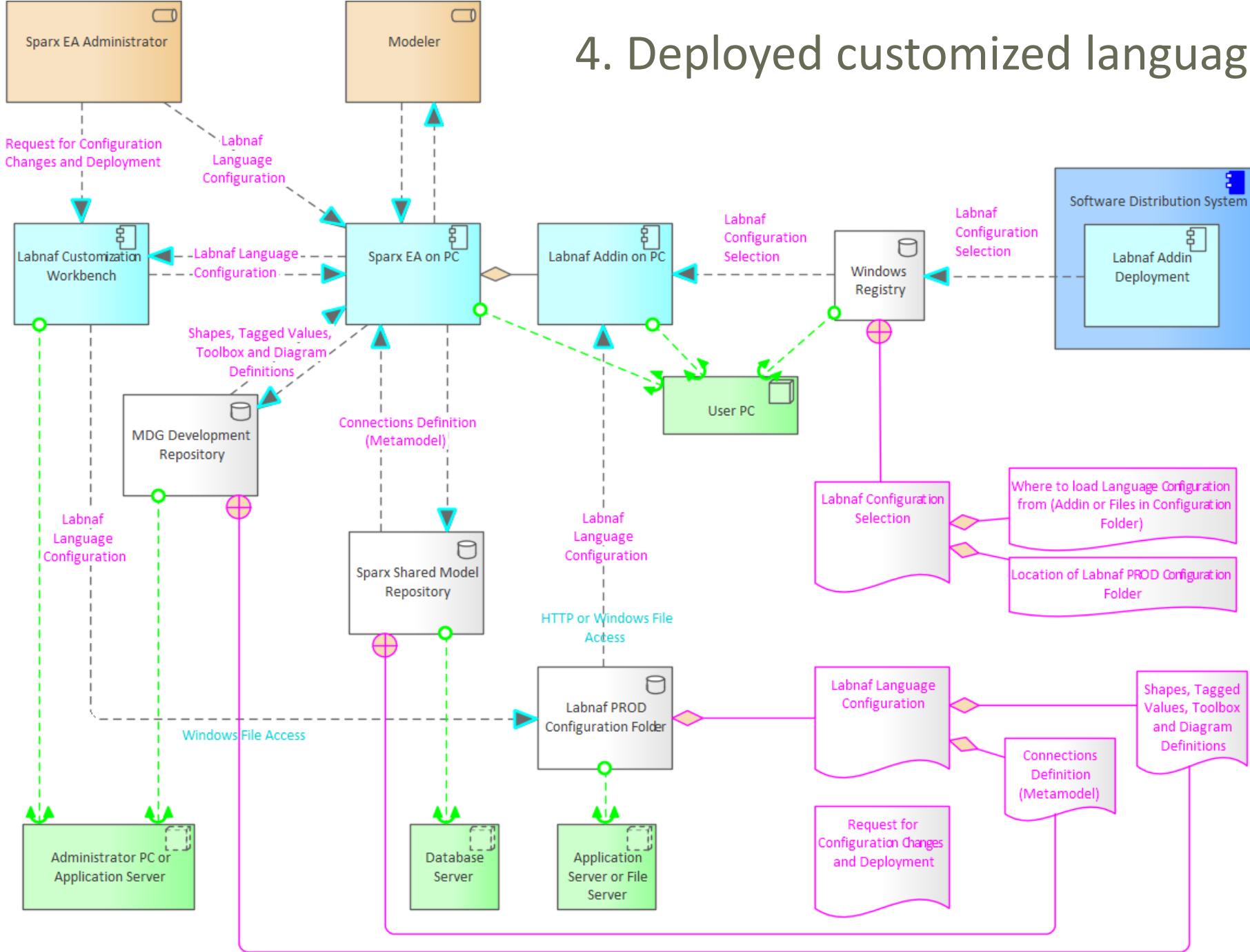
2. Collaborating in the same repository



3. Customizing the language



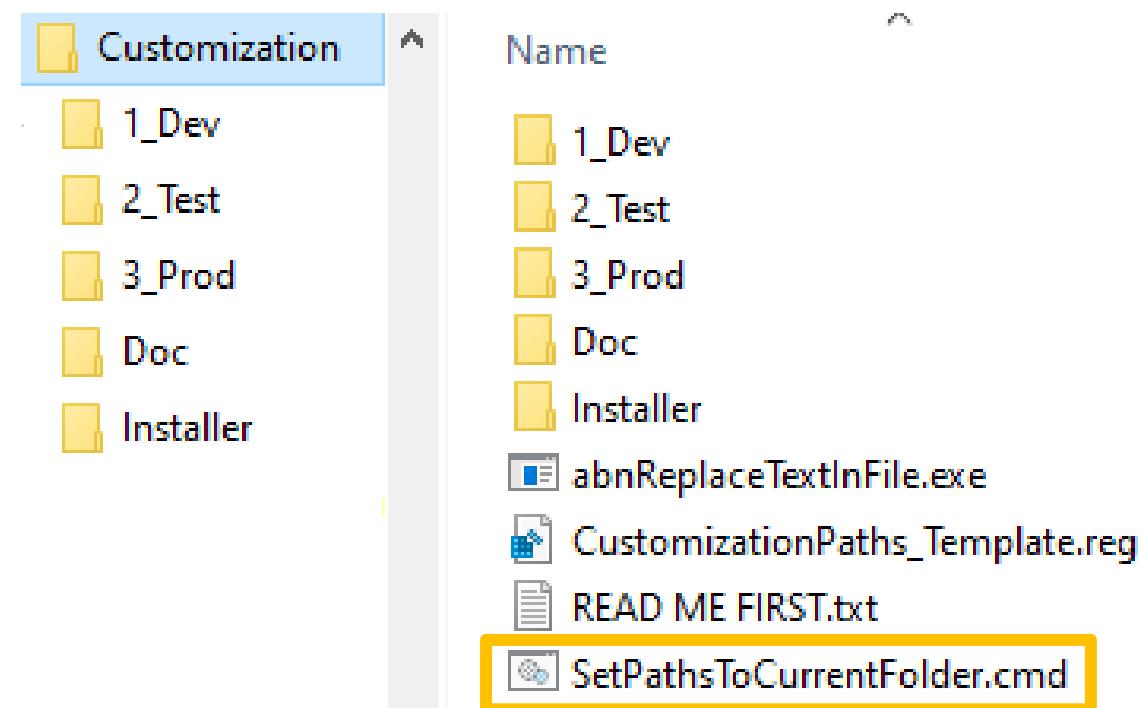
4. Deployed customized language



How to proceed in practice...

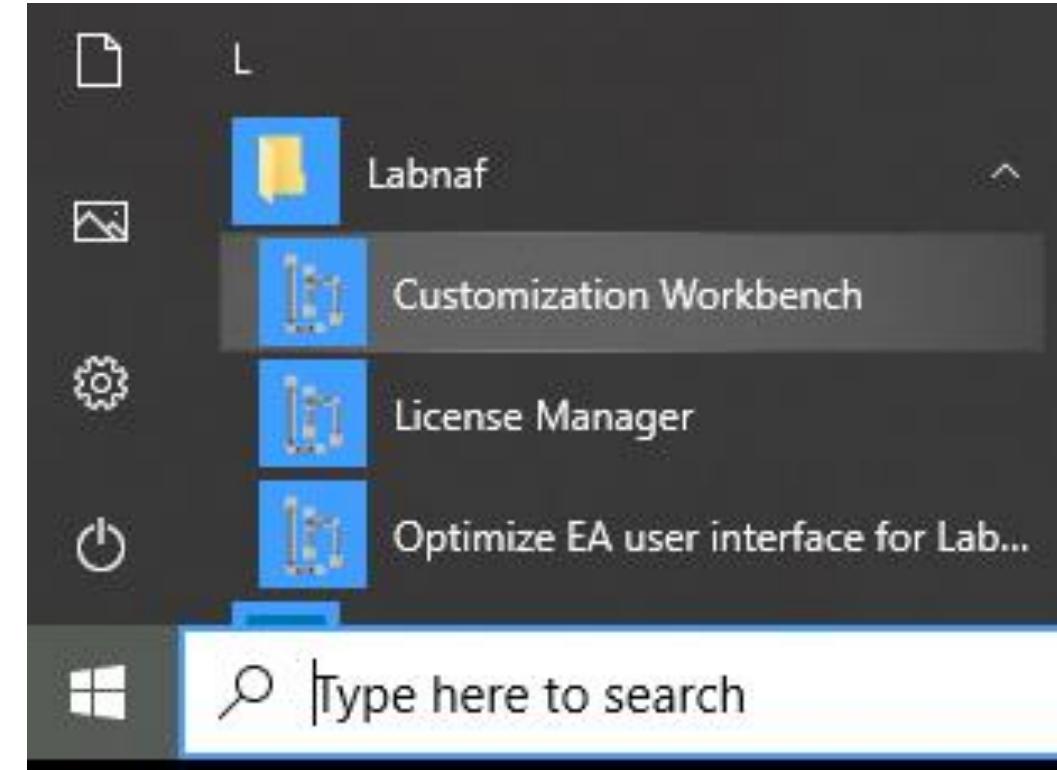
Automatic configuration to start customization

- Copy the Labnaf_Customization folder anywhere you want on your file system
- Double-click on “SetPathsToCurrentFolder.cmd”

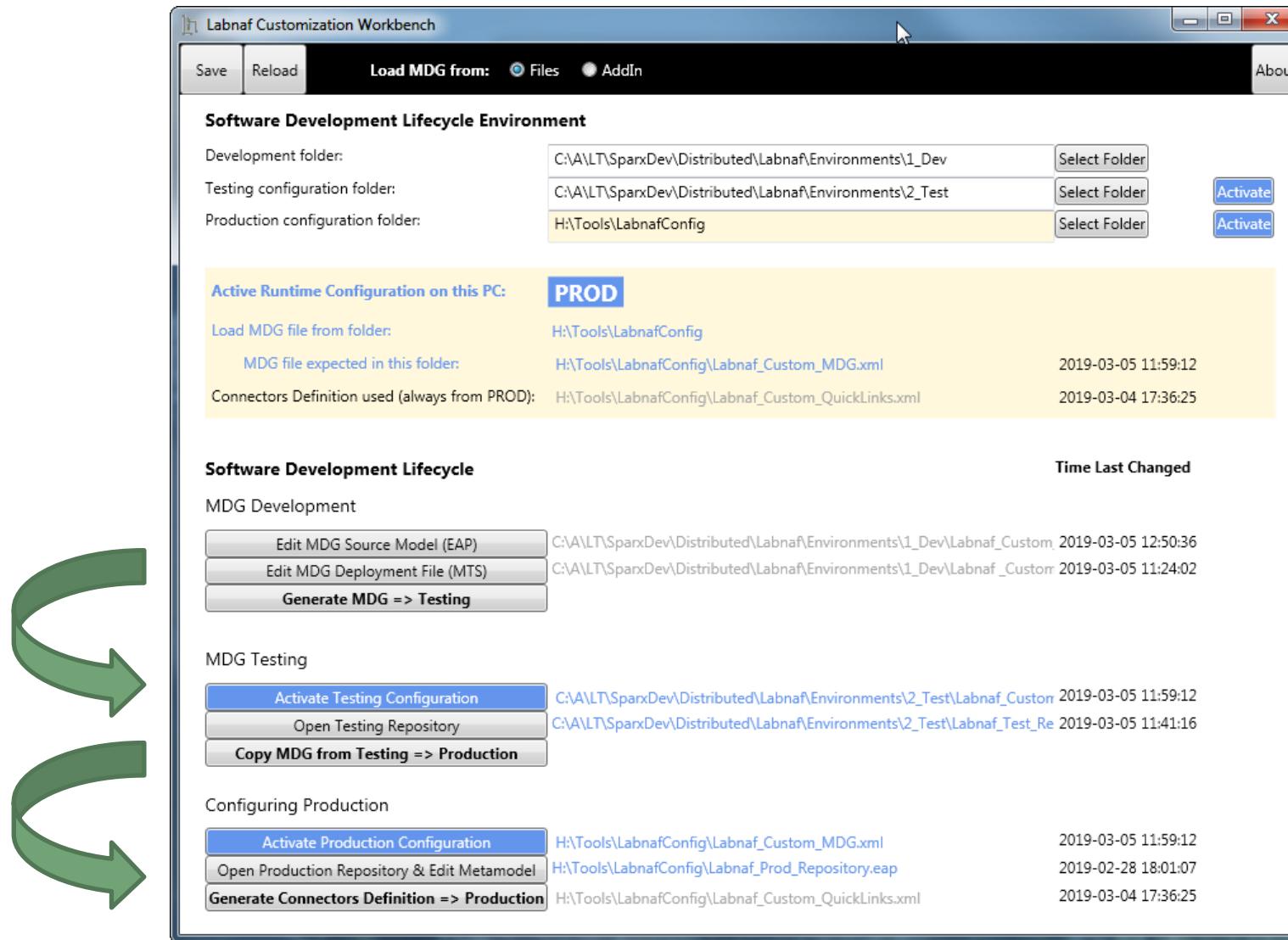


This updates the Labnaf configuration files and registry keys following the “Labnaf_Customization” folder location.

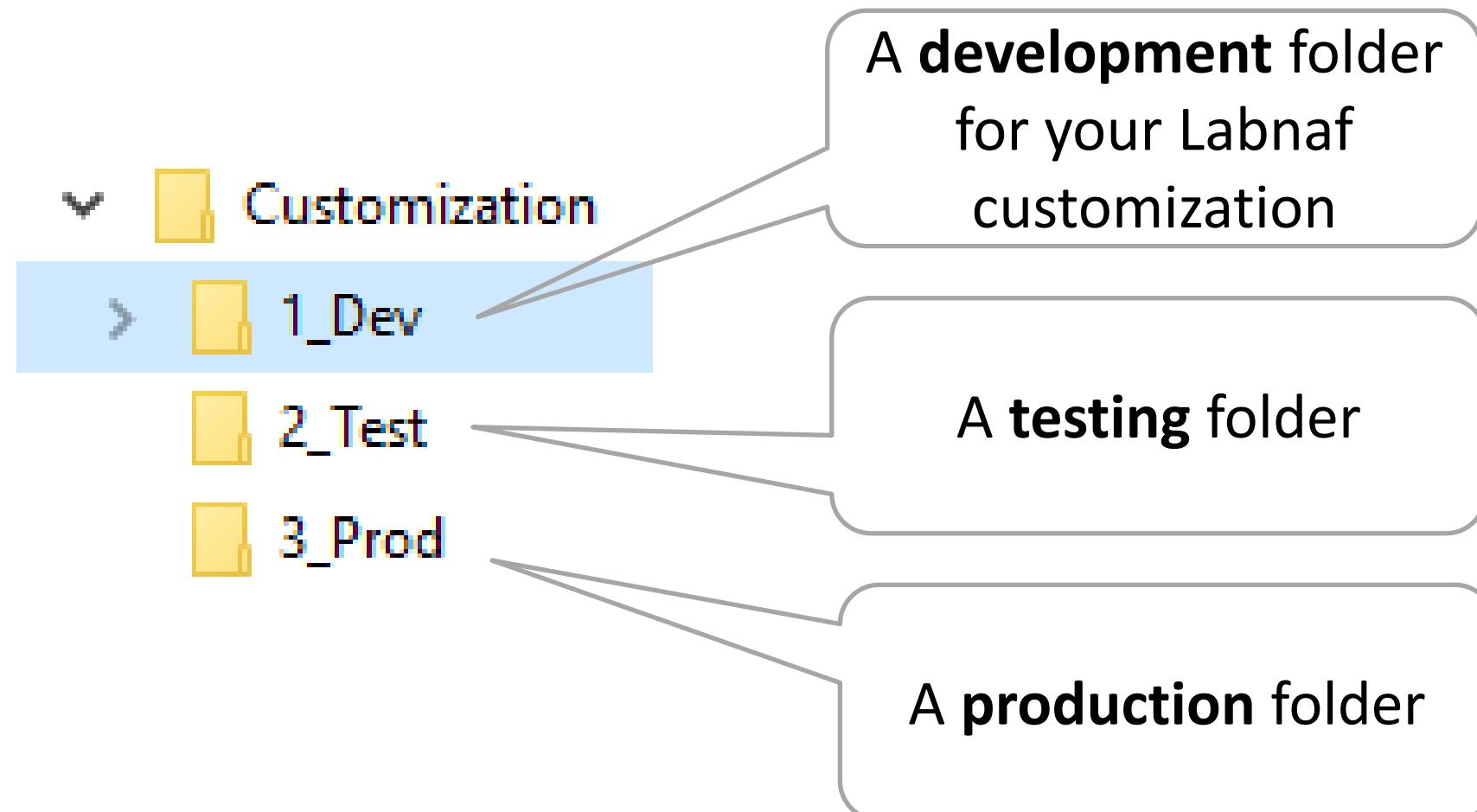
Start the Customization Workbench...



The Customization Workbench guides you throughout the **Language customization** lifecycle

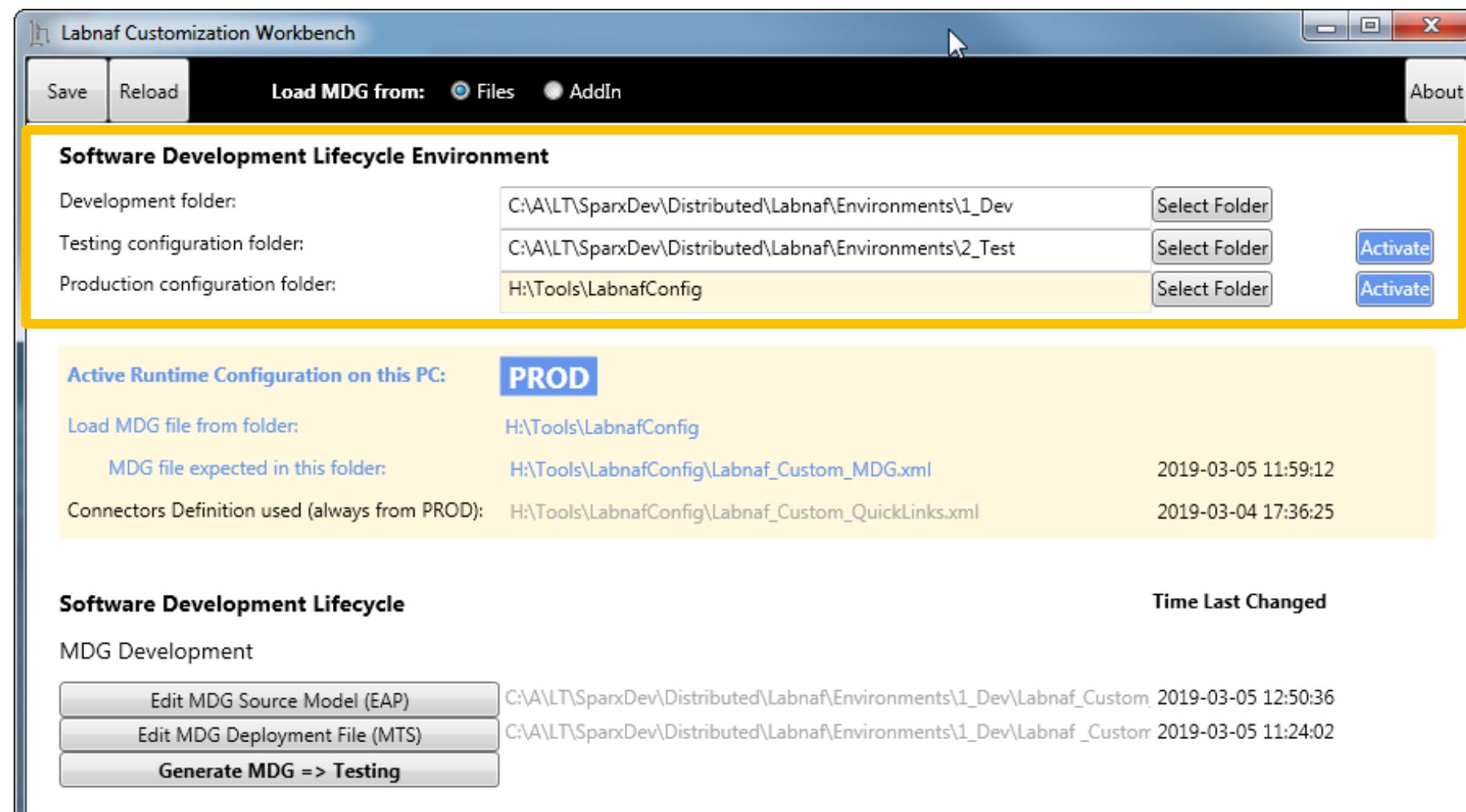


Like in any SDLC (Software Development Lifecycle) ,
there is one environment for each Labnaf
customization stage

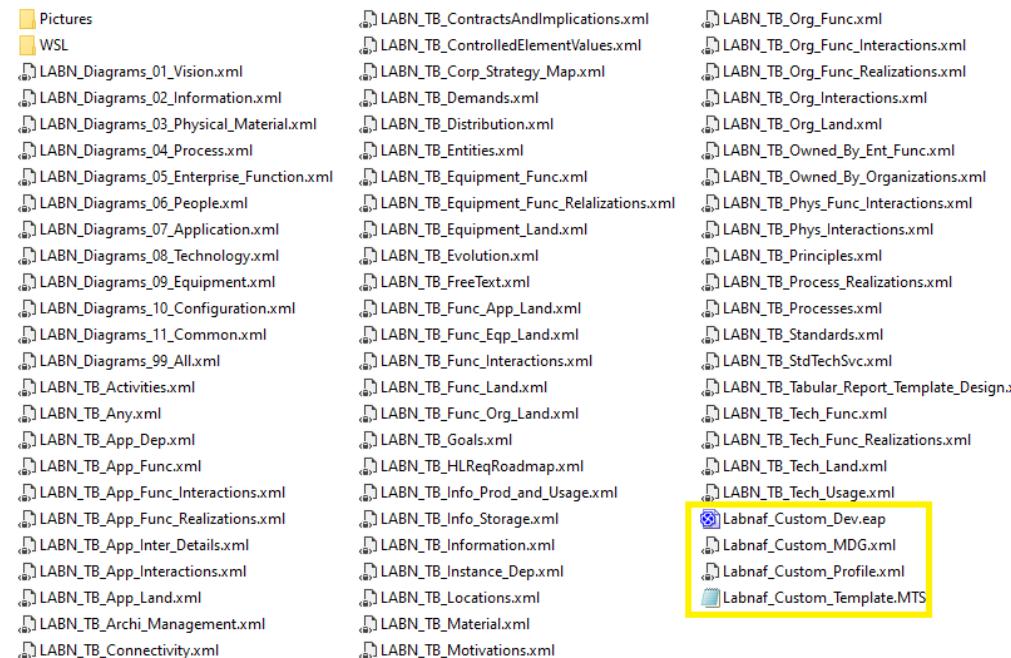


SDLC Environment Setting

Select the Development, Testing and Production configuration folders



Development Folder



The Development Stage

Step 1: Develop your customized Labnaf language

- **Labnaf_Custom_Dev.eap**: A Labnaf model repository for customizing your Labnaf modeling language
- **Pictures**: Folder for storing custom language images

Step 2: Generate language “profiles”

- **LABN_Diagrams_...xml**: Diagram types
- **LABN_Custom_Profile.xml**: Element & connector types
- **LABN_TB....xml**: Toolboxes

Step 3: Use the wizard to update

- **Labnaf_Custom.MTS**: The binding of all profile files needed
- **Labnaf_Custom_MDG.xml**: Your resulting customized Labnaf modeling language (generated in the Test folder)

For further details, see Sparx'Systems MDG Technologies User's Guide @
<https://sparxsystems.com/resources/user-guides/modeling/mdg-technologies.pdf>

Customization

- 1_Dev**
- 2_Test
- 3_Prod

Labnaf Customization Workbench

Save Reload Load MDG from: Files AddIn About

Software Development Lifecycle Environment

Development folder: C:\A\LT\SparxDev\ Distributed\Labnaf\Environments\1_Dev Select Folder

Testing configuration folder: C:\A\LT\SparxDev\ Distributed\Labnaf\Environments\2_Test Select Folder Activate

Production configuration folder: H:\Tools\LabnafConfig Select Folder Activate

Active Runtime Configuration on this PC: PROD

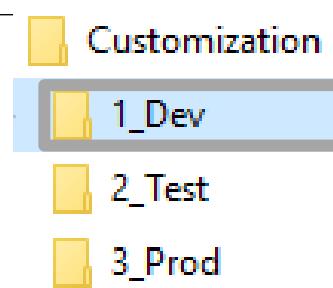
Load MDG file from folder: H:\Tools\LabnafConfig

MDG file expected in this folder: H:\Tools\LabnafConfig\Labnaf_Custom_MDG.xml 2019-03-05 11:59:12

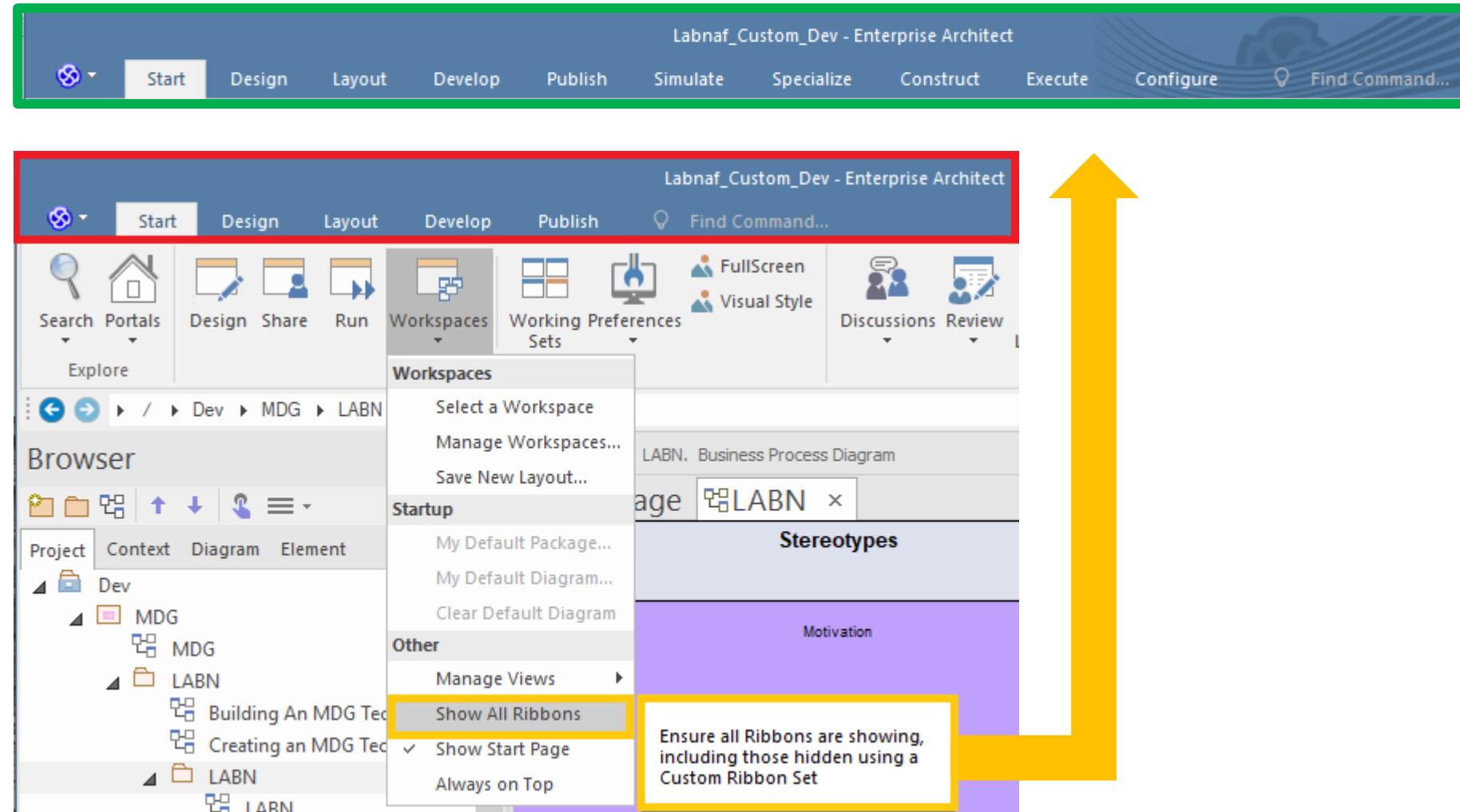
Connectors Definition used (always from PROD): H:\Tools\LabnafConfig\Labnaf_Custom_QuickLinks.xml 2019-03-04 17:36:25

Software Development Lifecycle Time Last Changed

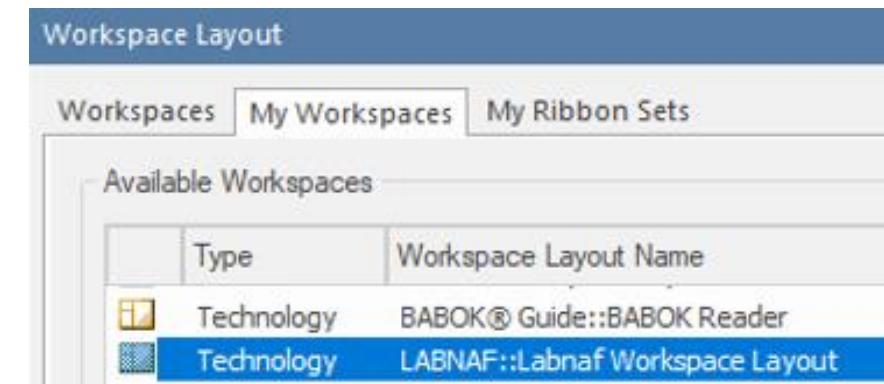
MDG Development	
Edit MDG Source Model (EAP)	C:\A\LT\SparxDev\ Distributed\Labnaf\Environments\1_Dev\Labnaf_Custom 2019-03-05 12:50:36
Edit MDG Deployment File (MTS)	C:\A\LT\SparxDev\ Distributed\Labnaf\Environments\1_Dev\Labnaf_Custom 2019-03-05 11:24:02
Generate MDG => Testing	



As soon as the **Labnaf_Custom_dev.eap** is open **ensure all ribbons are showing**



Set up your EA workspace layout for Labnaf

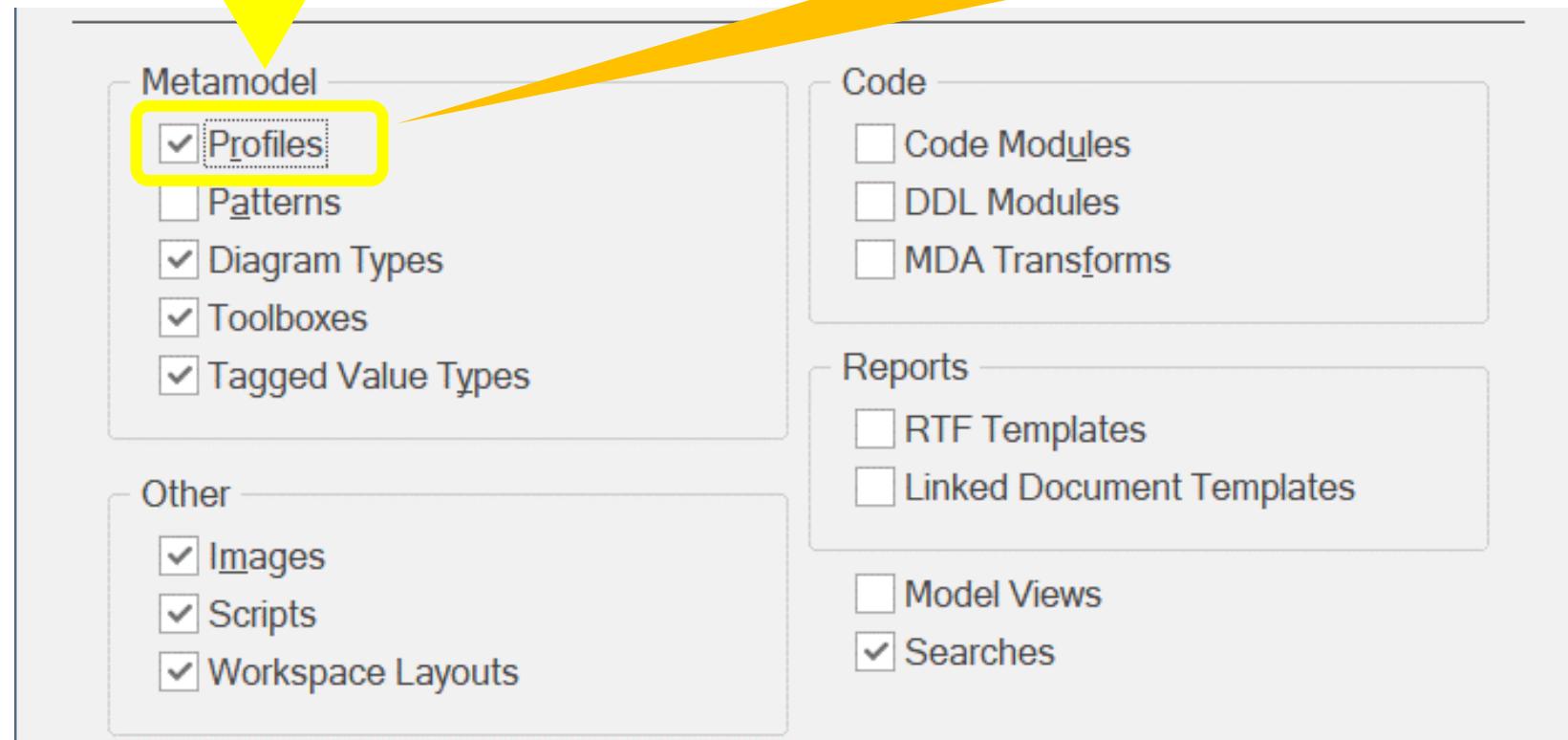


- This feature automatically opens and organizes all the EA windows that are useful with Labnaf including Labnaf customization
- Select the “Start” ribbon.
- Select the option “**Workspaces > Manage Workspaces > My Workspaces > Labnaf Workspace Layout**”.
- Press the “Apply” button.

Things you can change or add to the Labnaf_Custom_dev.eap

- Element & Connector types
- Tagged Values

Complex Sparx Metamodeling approach replaced by Labnaf => Simplified, readable, dynamically customizable and upgradable at runtime



Updating the Labnaf MDG Profiles

See Sparx System's EA documentation about updating

- [Stereotype Profiles](#)
- [Toolbox Profiles](#)
- [Diagram Profiles](#)

Refer to “**Labnaf Customization - Updating Profiles.xlsx**” to get the **Labnaf MDG profile** names and corresponding XML file names

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Profile Name	XML File Name							
2	LABN	Labnaf_Custom_Profile.xml							
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									

Save UML Profile

Profile Name: LABN

Filename: C:\Test\Labnaf_Customization\1_Dev\Labnaf_Custom_Profile.xml

Profile Type: EA UML(2.x) Version: 2.0

Notes:

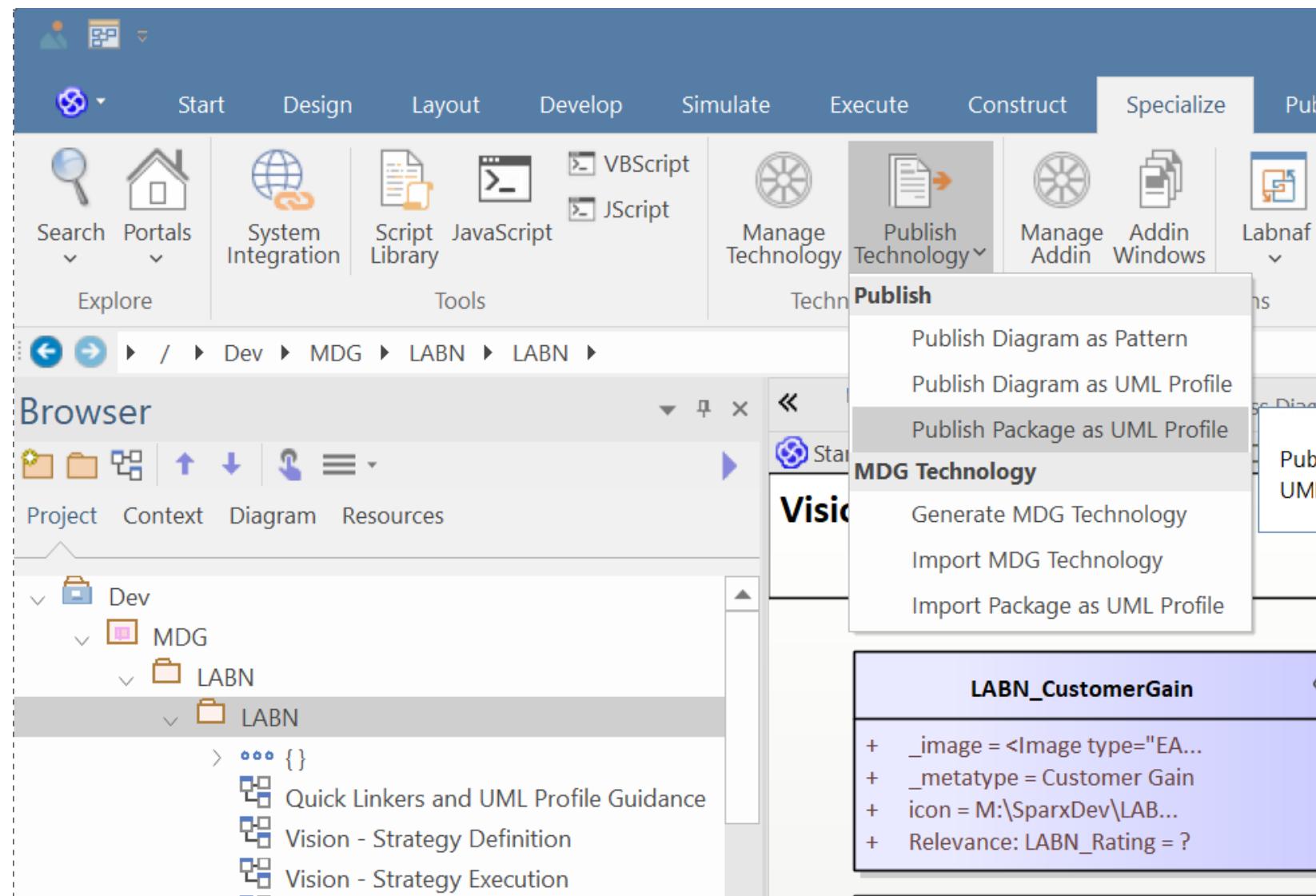
Include

Element Size Alternate Image

Color and Appearance Code Templates

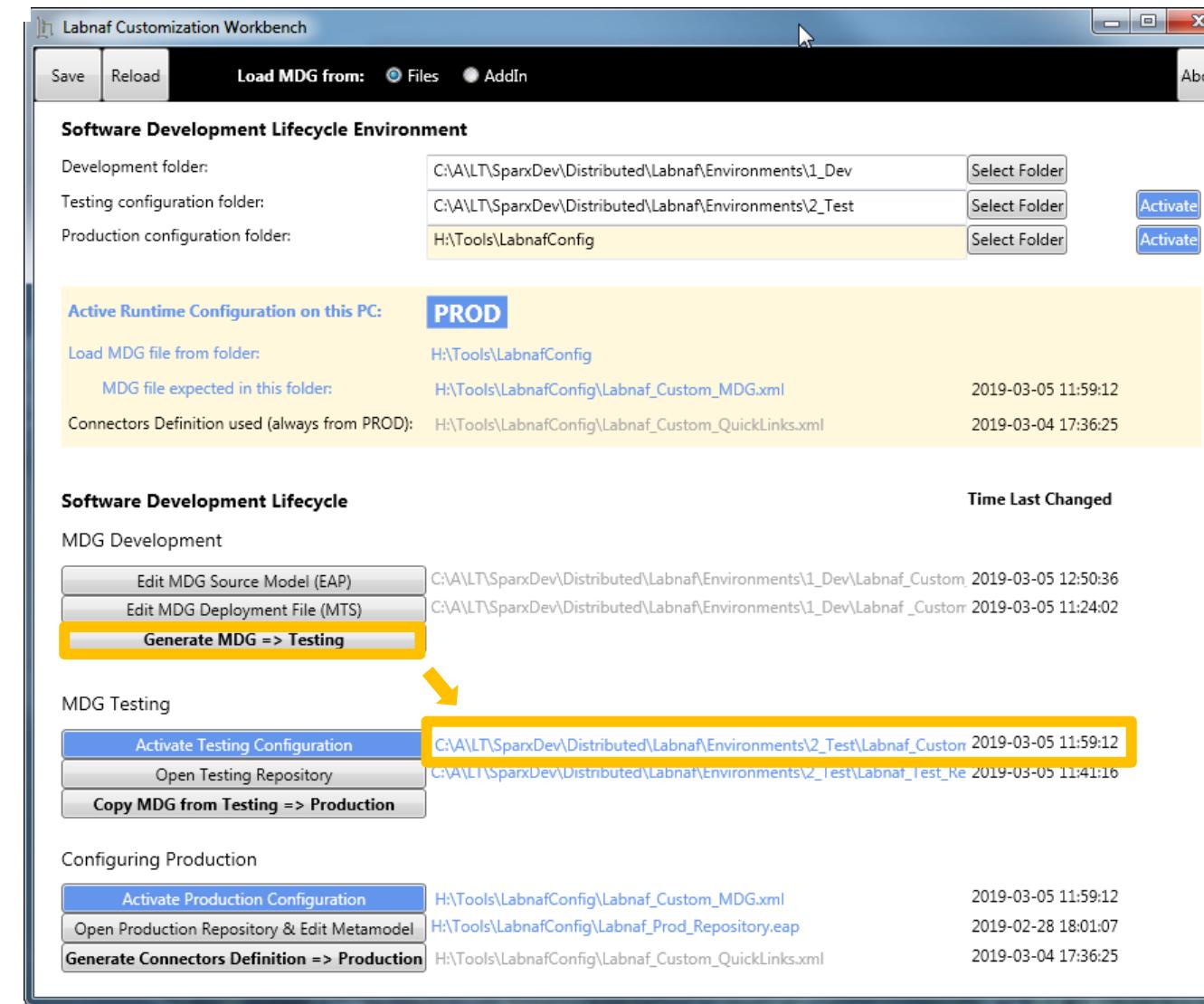
Save Cancel Help

Saving the Labnaf MDG Profiles



- █ Customization
 - █ 1_Dev
 - █ 2_Test
 - █ 3_Prod

Generate the Customized Labnaf MDG file (Language configuration)



The Testing Stage

Contents of the Testing Folder



Labnaf_Custom_MDG.xml



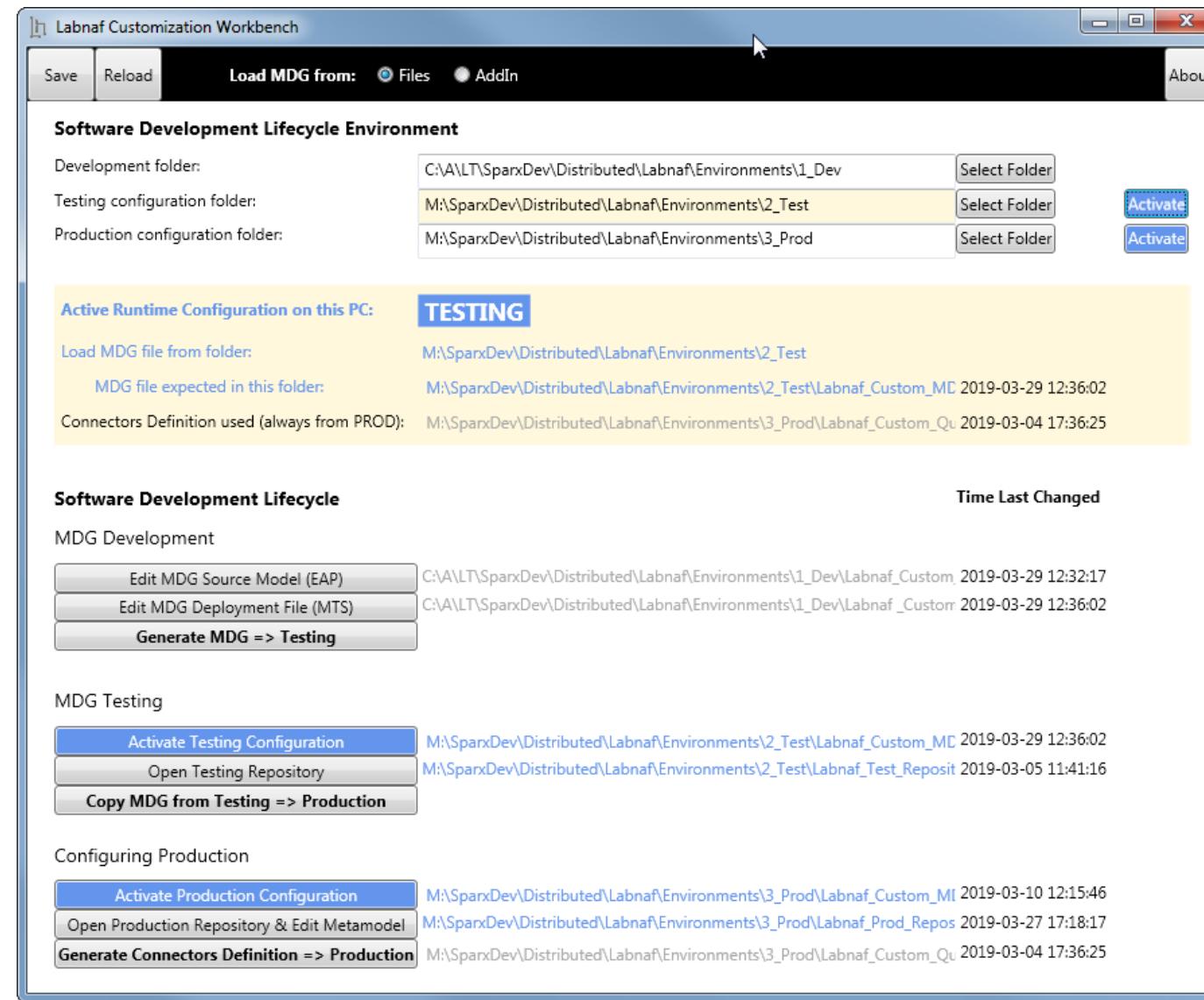
Labnaf_Test_Repository.eap

Labnaf_Custom_MDG.xml: Your customized Labnaf modeling language

Labnaf_Test_Repository.eap: Your model repository that you will use to test your customized Labnaf modeling language

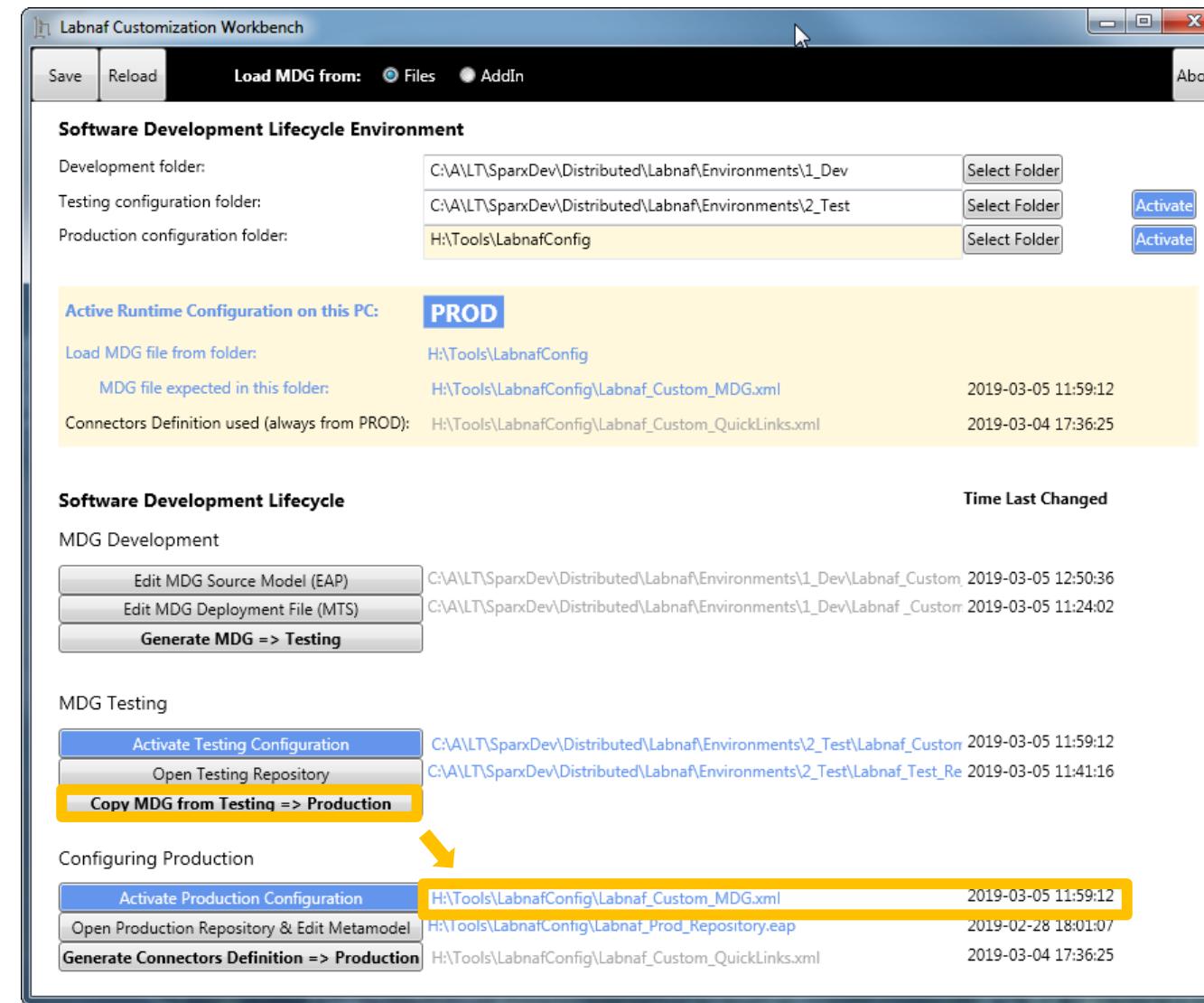
- █ Customization
- █ 1_Dev
- █ 2_Test
- █ 3_Prod

Activate the Testing Configuration and create some diagrams in the Testing Repository



- █ Customization
- █ 1_Dev
- █ 2_Test
- █ 3_Prod

Copy the Customized Labnaf MDG file to Production



The Production Stage

Contents of the Production Folder



Labnaf_Custom_MDG.xml



Labnaf_Custom_QuickLinks.xml



Labnaf_Prod_Repository.eap

The production folder can be located on a web server folder. In which case:

- The Customization Workbench accesses this folder directly on the file system.
- End users, using the Labnaf Addin, access the corresponding web folder url instead.

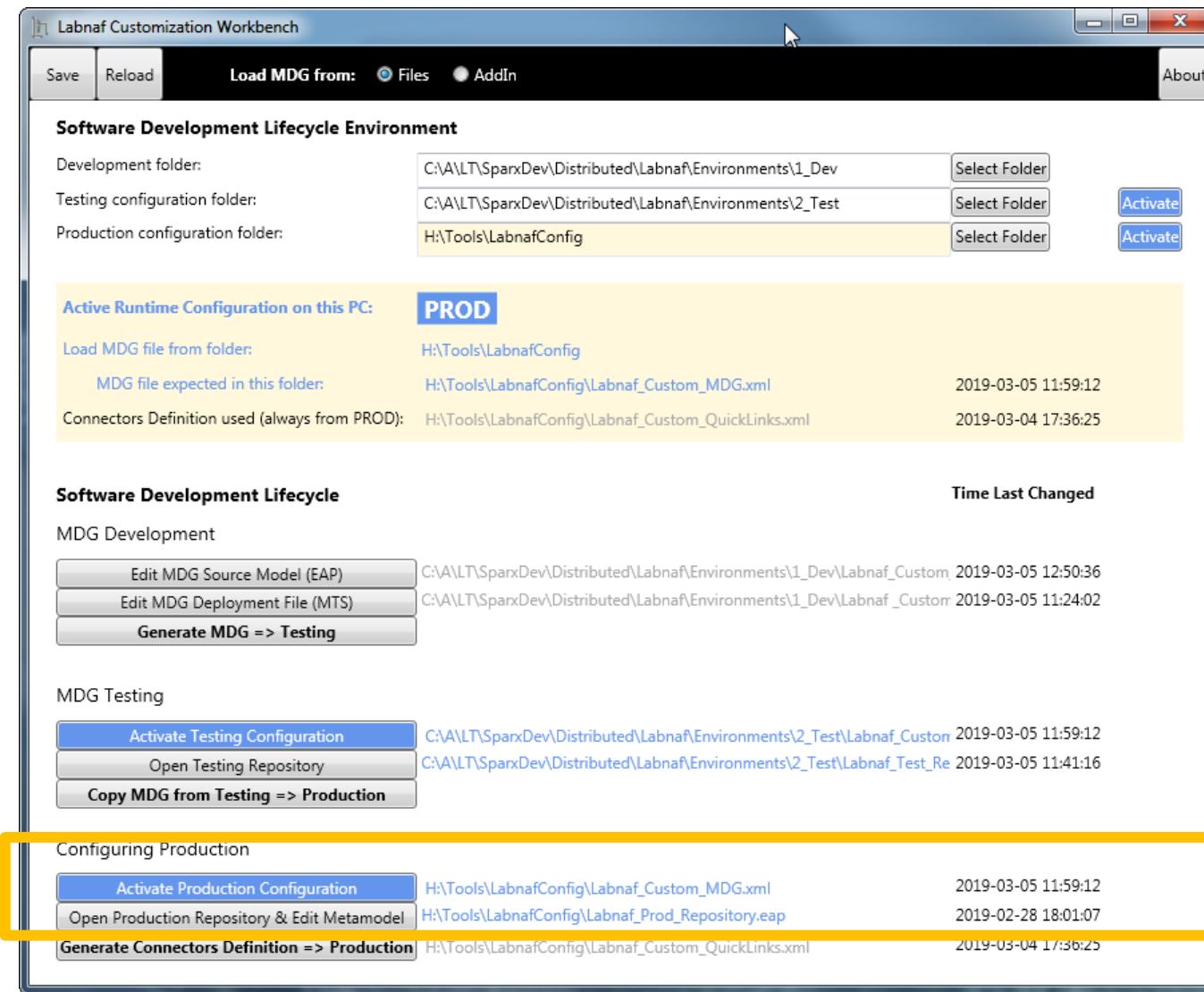
Labnaf_Custom_MDG.xml: Your customized Labnaf modeling language

Labnaf_Prod_Repository.eap: Your production model repository where you can dynamically customize the language metamodel

Labnaf_Custom_Quicklinks.xml: The connection rules generated from the language metamodel

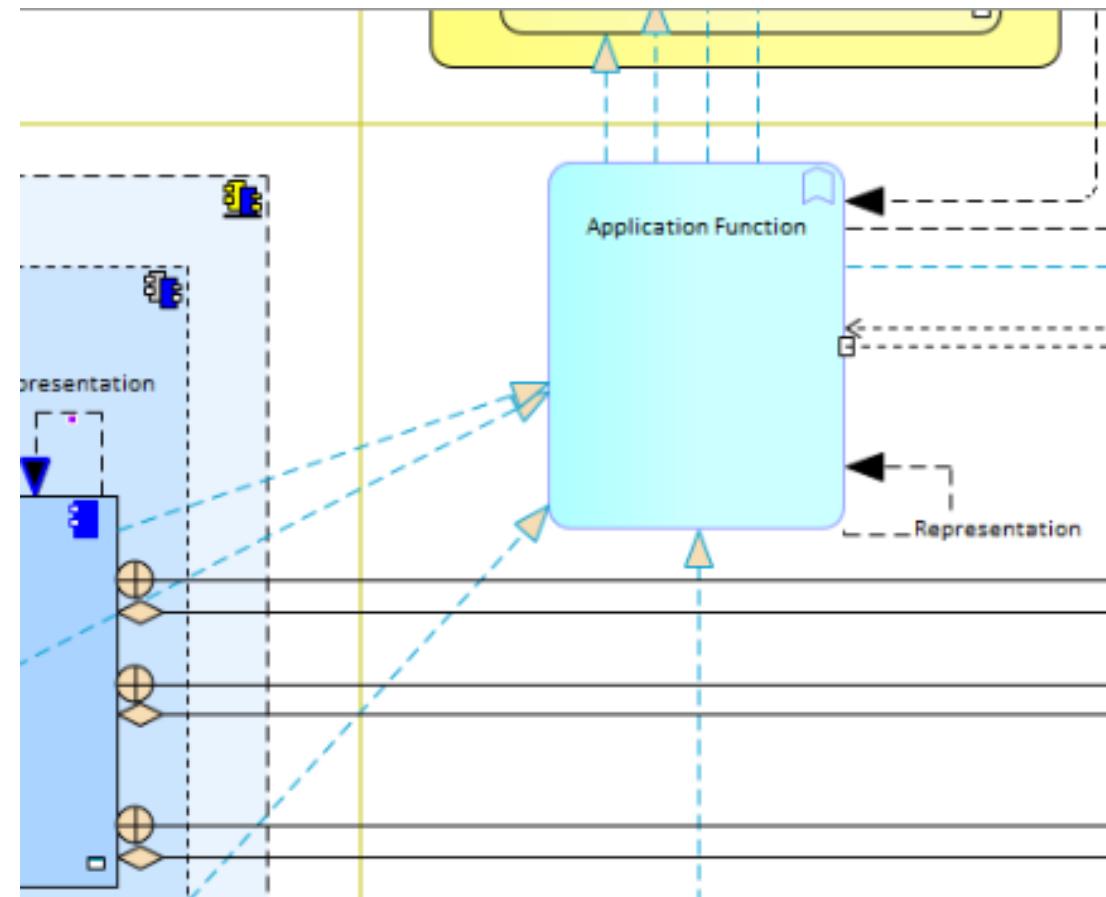
- █ Customization
- █ 1_Dev
- █ 2_Test
- █ 3_Prod

Activate the Production Configuration and open the Production Repository



Update the language metamodel

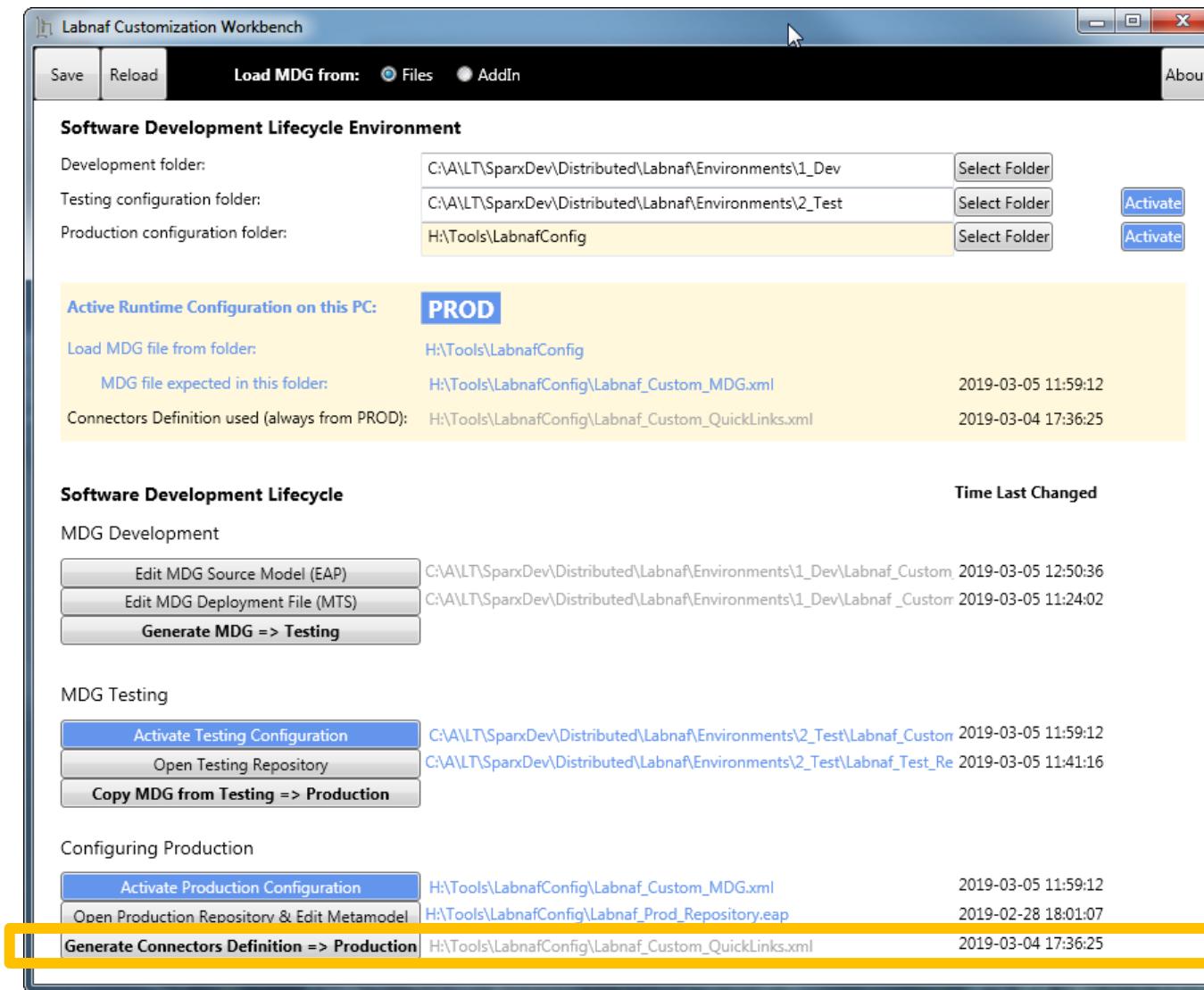
- Add or delete connectors in the language metamodel



[Further details](#) on the
Labnaf Guidance web site.

- █ Customization
- █ 1_Dev
- █ 2_Test
- █ 3_Prod

(Re)generate the connector definitions

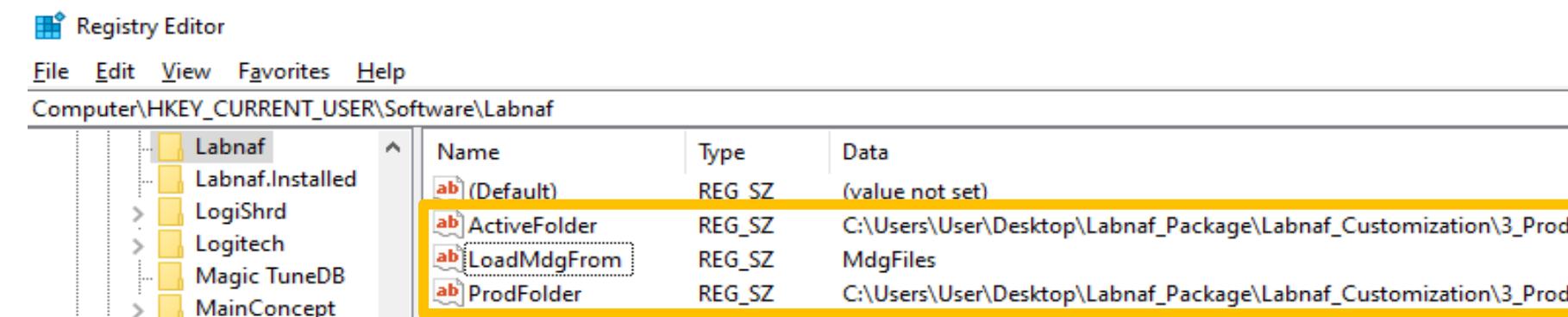
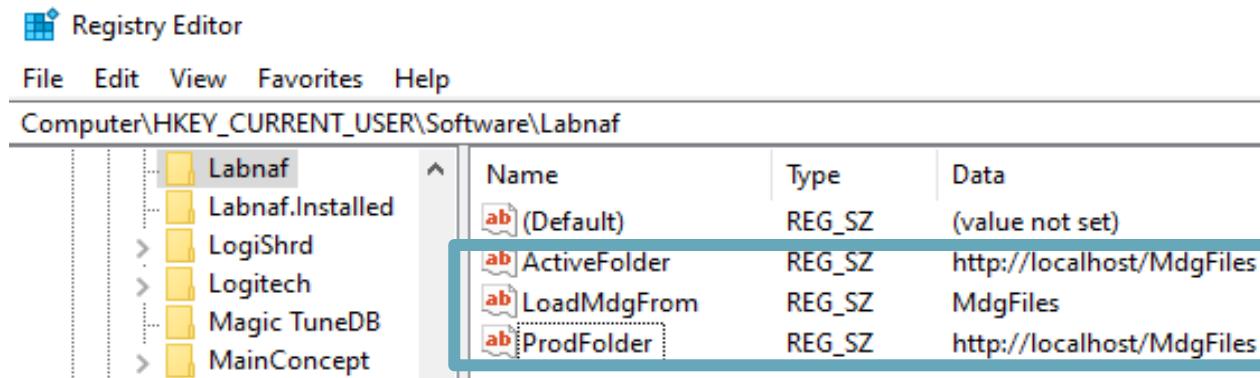


Deployment for end users of the Labnaf Addin

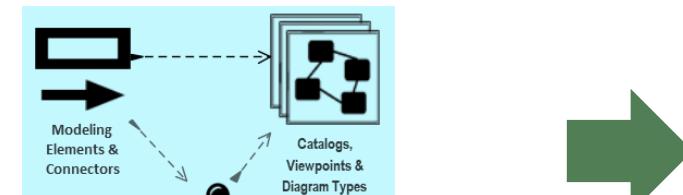
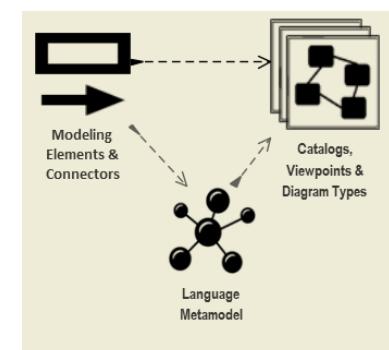
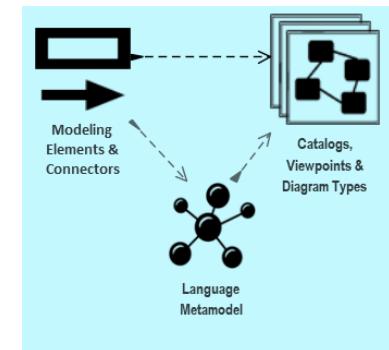
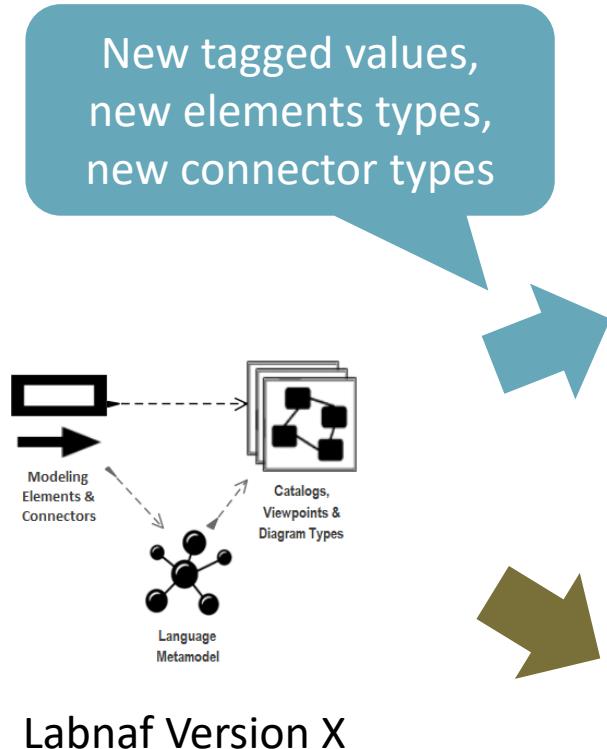
To deploy the customized version of the language on end users' desktops, the software distribution package must set some registry keys under

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Labnaf

- **LoadMdgFrom** = MdgFiles
- **ActiveFolder** and **ProdFolder** point to the production folder ([web url](#) or [file system](#))
For end users ActiveFolder and ProdFolder must have the same value.



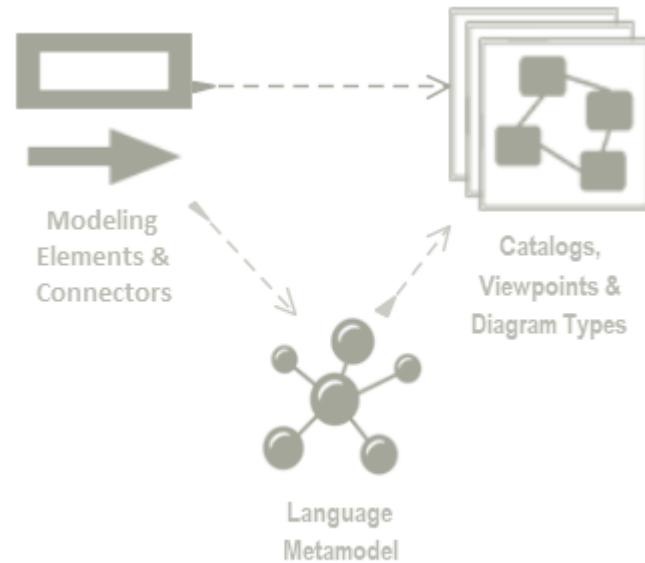
Merging your Labnaf customizations into a new version of Labnaf



How to proceed

See also: Labnaf Language Transformer

1. Customize the language



2. Adapt existing repository content

