

## Usability Meeting Summary: October 15, 2010

Ron presented a framework for assessing usability. The discussion opened with a series of questions dealing ranging from what is our definition of usability to how would we go about organizing usability issues to evaluating recommendations. These questions came to mind after David and Dick gave their own views on usability issues around SysML. The questions deal not with SysML specifically, but more along the lines of how to approach the problem of dealing with the issues we do come up with. How do we decide what to really work on? We have our own experiences, but what about the rest of the community. For those improvements we do identify, how do we intend to validate their efficacy?

Two industry references on usability design and evaluation methods and were identified, one actually being the U.S. governments web site on usability design methods and evaluation tools of web interfaces. The government web site was visited briefly to highlight where certain information was located and address questions that had come up during the briefing.

Using the usability criteria from the government web site, an example table was presented that compared 5 usability criteria to a sample range of SysML diagrams, SysML concepts and modeling tasks. This table was offered as a possible way to capture issues in an affinitized fashion in order to apply other focusing techniques such as Pareto analysis etc.

Lastly, a straw man concept of operations, in the form of a concept map, was shown to elicit discussion on how the activity of this group relates to the community, tool vendors, and OMG.

### Next Steps:

- 1) There was a small group in attendance, so further vetting of the ideas presented needs to continue in order to allow all the members of this group to weigh in on what was presented. But there was some agreement that we need something similar to what was presented in order to establish some go forward actions as appropriate.
- 2) Bjorn took an action to explore using the criteria presented to further develop some issues.
- 3) Bjorn will be presenting at the next meeting.