Visible Advantage Key Benefits

- Automates forward, reverse and reengineering through SQL, ODBC and XML.
- Extensible repository supports custom object types.
- User defined fields allow you to tailor the repository to your specific needs.
- Links plans, models, designs, and systems.
- Methodology and rule-based central repository ensures cross-model integrity.
- Client/Server database repository enables real-time multi-user access.
- Cross references current and new systems in an integrated environment.

Main Menu - The Visible Advantage main menu provides a good overview of the product features, including: Encyclopedia Management, Business and Systems Planning, Activity Modeling with Activity Based Costing, Logical Data Modeling, Process Modeling, Database and Application Design, and System Building.

Visible Advantage: Tomorrow’s Technology Today

Visible Advantage is a powerful software engineering modeling tool. The methodology-based central repository evaluates plans, logical models, and physical designs for consistency and completeness while they are being built. Automatic quality assurance ensures model integrity throughout. Linked plans, models, designs, and systems form networked objects of reusable logic. This approach will allow new systems to be assembled-to-order versus made-to-order.

Visible Advantage establishes a new standard for the state-of-the-art in software engineering technology and offers the functionality and flexibility that can help organizations develop better new systems, regardless of type. This allows customers to leverage legacy systems into the future and accommodate any target technology for implementation. Encyclopedia and model management, business planning, data modeling, process modeling, systems design, implementation, and quality assurance are fully automated across the entire project life cycle.

Visible Advantage automatically draws data and process model diagrams from repository information and automatically keeps them up-to-date. It can derive and automatically generate object-oriented process model logic directly from data models. Multiple physical designs can be captured in one encyclopedia allowing organizations to cross-reference a single logical attribute to the various systems and locations the attribute is implemented in. Model information can be generated in XML.
Visible Advantage™ The Enterprise Architecture Toolset with XML

Existing Systems Redevelopment

Business rules and logic present in existing systems can be modeled using Visible Advantage. The automated bidirectional migration between database designs and data models provides a unique reverse and reengineering capability that facilitates the improvement, integration or migration of existing systems to architectures such as client/server. Models of existing systems can also be compared with models of new requirements or systems to determine what percentage of an organization's future requirements will be satisfied by existing systems.

Model Management

Visible Advantage has been developed with integrated model management features inside the tool to coordinate work and integrate results. Visible Advantage is used as a project team tool to build comprehensive, integrated systems and manage operations. The creation of model views, project security, “yellow sticky” model notes, session documentation, and data dependency cluster analysis enable teams to facilitate cooperative team development and to model independently implemented subsystems. This enables multiple project teams to develop large systems concurrently.

Visible Advantage is also the only modeling tool that allows multiple physical (de-normalized) database designs to be created from and/or linked to subsets of a single logical (fully-normalized) enterprise data model in which every element is linked to strategic, business, and system requirements. This facilitates both enterprise information architecture development and strategically-driven, customer-focused, information-centric, model-based, software component engineering.

Activity Modeling/Activity Based Costing

This allows you to capture the activities your enterprise performs and to define relationships among the activities, breaking them down in increasing detail for both the as-is and to-be Activity Models. The industry standard IDEF0 modeling syntax is used. This capability also supports Activity Based Costing, allocating activity costs to different cost centers and computing total cost for the activity.

Business Process Reengineering

Visible Advantage can be used effectively as a strategic planning tool to produce superior, multilevel, strategic plans. In addition, Visible Advantage can be used to document an enterprise's performance measures and link them to appropriate strategic plan elements. This linkage allows quick reaction to changes in environment, policy, or customer requirements. More importantly, using Visible Advantage, the information requirements that support an enterprise's performance measures can be modeled and translated into database, data warehouse/datamart designs, and designs for corporate portals using XML constructs. These designs can be implemented, ensuring that an enterprise's information systems meet its information needs and ensures implementation of the business vision, goals and objectives.

Visible Advantage's business planning features allow organizations to see how business models and the developed system supports the goals, strategies, and objectives of the enterprise. Sequential and parallel business processes can be modeled, analyzed and reengineered. Process improvements in work and information systems can then be implemented.

Data and Process Administration

Visible Advantage supports advanced data and process normalization. Data administrators can use Visible Advantage for dynamic management of the organization's data and metadata, reducing redundancy and increasing standardization across all of the organization's information system's.

Modeling, Schema Generation and XML Constructs

A key feature of Visible Advantage is its ability to capture a logical data model and multiple physical designs (different in both structure and DBMS) cross referenced in the same encyclopedia. In addition, Visible Advantage can generate process models from the information captured in the data models. Process models also uniquely support depicting parallel activities.

Visible Advantage utilizes a scripting language to specify how schemas and XML constructs will be generated, allowing the software to export in virtually any text-based format. The schema generation can be customized for any SQL, or XML dialect.

Deliverable and Report Generator

The report generation capability allows an organization to create project deliverables and presentation-quality reports. Visible Advantage maintains a full text record of all model characteristics, allowing completely customized reports. Visible Advantage can also display and print data maps in Information Engineering symbology or IDEF1X format. These features allow the US Department of Defense, contractors, and companies to use the rigorous modeling techniques of IE to produce IDEF format output for DoD reporting purposes.

Requirements Traceability and Model Linking

Link your Business Plans and Systems requirements to your data model and database designs. Identify which system components support your reengineered business activities and which support your as-is process. Design and build new data warehouses and map them to source systems, then map those source systems to identity what components of your business plan are currently supported and which still need support.

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