

Archimate Architecting and Modelling tools – Built on Eclipse

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If you've ever wanted to design the flow of an application before launching into the code base or front end CSS then Archimate is for you.

It is an open source platform that allows you to use an "independent Enterprise Architecture modelling language that supports the description, analysis and visualization of architecture within and across business domains." Roughly translated it allows you to draw different shaped boxes with connectors to show the layout and flow of your applications.

Despite some of the ridiculous language used on the Archimate site (<http://archi.cetis.ac.uk/>) (Why do Architects love confusion through inappropriately convoluted descriptions) the tool itself is very good. It allows you to quickly and easily plan the flow and logic of applications using a common language and toolset.

So if you don't fancy using high cost, high learning curve design applications then give Archimate a try. I've found it very helpful.

My next test is to see if I can combine it with an SVN plugin as then I'll be able to create revisions within the designs.

Being a fan of Eclipse I was happy to hear that Archimate is Eclipse based, but I don't seem to be able to locate a plugin for it, only a full installation. It would be much easier if I could simply integrate it into my existing Eclipse code base.

