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Is BPMN the Better UML for Domain Experts? Discussion, Evaluation, and Comparison – An Empirical Study

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Abstract:

The increased demand for a more comprehensive approach to Business Process Management, amongst others, led to the development of the Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN) as a proposed industry standard. Today, BPMN has not only become popular, it has also been adopted by the Object Management Group (OMG) as core standard to create a new business modeling framework. The OMG intentionally decided not to build upon the Unified Modeling Language (UML) and its process modeling notation – the Activity Diagram (AD) –, because BPMN was presumed to be more applicable by domain experts. Consolidated findings in this direction, however, are missing. In this paper, we present results from an empirical study, in which the application of BPMN and AD by domain experts was examined. Based on a comparative discussion of BPMN and AD, we describe the study design and highlight central outcomes which are then being evaluated in detail. This evaluation leads to an extensive comparison of the applicability of BPMN and AD based on empirical indications.