

BPMN® Poster Series #3

BPMN Methods: An Introduction to Top-Down Modeling

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While BPMN specification ensures a wide variety of elements that can be used to create a desired model, it does not provide any methodology. However, the need to standardize the process of creating BPMN models created many methodologies by many different analysts. In this poster we summarized and extended the most basic steps, which are concurrent throughout most of the methodologies. Additionally, some basic examples are provided.

1 DEFINE THE SCOPE OF THE PROCESS This is a strictly analytical step, where we identify the scope of the process with its corresponding start and end points. We need to go into details, e.g. are there several starting points or several endings to a process?

2 DEFINE ACTIVITIES AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL In this step, we want to define the most basic Activities at the highest level. Such Activities are usually Sub-Process, which will be further divided into details in the following steps.



3 CREATE TOP-LEVEL BPMN DIAGRAM At this level, we can model a complete process with all the available BPMN elements. Activities should match the ones identified in the previous step.



4 EXPAND SUB-PROCESSES Each Sub-Process Activity from the top-level BPMN diagram gets its corresponding BPMN model, with all the necessary details. We can include additional Sub-Processes in our expanded diagram. If necessary, we can include lanes in the diagrams as well.



5 ADD ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS In this step, we add additional participants in form of either black-box or white-box Pools, depending on the level of details we want to capture. We can represent the collaboration between the processes by using Message Flows. Number of messages in the Top-level BPMN diagram should match the number of messages in the Sub-Process expansion.

