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Abstract. This paper presents the integration between the requirements modeling approach named Notification Oriented Requirements (NOR) and the Software Development method known as Notification Oriented Development (NOD). This integration is demonstrated by means of the case study of a simulated access control security system implemented in the Notification Oriented Paradigm (NOP). Results show that the integration between NOR model and NOD method is possible and facilitates the development of NOP software, since NOR clarifies the necessary elements to perform the software structural modeling (class model) and the behavioral modeling (high level states model and component model).

1. Introduction

Requirements Engineering (RE) refers to the activity of formulating, documenting, and maintaining systems requirements in order to produce, from users' needs, a set of specification related to what the final system should be [YOUNG, 2004]. A requirement is a statement from the stakeholders' needs to define a product, a system or a process, and must be unambiguous, clear, unique, consistent, stand-alone, and verifiable [INCOSE, 2006]. Graphical approaches to enhance requirements specification (among others system's characteristics) have gained prevalence, such as the SysML language, which is used in Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) [FRIEDENTHAL et al., 2014].

In this context, Notification Oriented Requirements (NOR) emerges as a requirement modeling approach originated from concepts of the Notification Oriented Paradigm (NOP) and MBSE [SIMÃO et al., 2016]. In brief, NOP is an alternative paradigm using rules and notifications for composing software and hardware systems. Within this paradigm, NOR is a requirements specification approach applicable to both, software and system development processes. The practical integration between NOR and software development processes is an important experimentation for its validation. Currently, the Notification Oriented Development (NOD) method [MENDONÇA et al., 2015] is suited to develop NOP software. Thus, the following questions arise:

- Is it possible to integrate the NOR modeling approach into the NOD method?
- Are there advantages in integrating NOR and NOD into a NOP application project? Which are they?

To answer these questions, this study starts from a previous NOR model [SIMÃO et al., 2016], uses the NOD method to design and implement the corresponding NOP application, and concludes discussing the findings from the case study.

Therefore, the objectives of this study are to integrate NOR modeling approach into the NOD method and to identify the advantages of such integration during NOP application software development.

2. Notification Oriented Paradigm (NOP)

NOP has been improved in recent years by a group of researchers from the Federal University of Technology - Paraná (UTFPR). It is an alternative approach to develop software and hardware systems. NOP has several implementation versions in the form of frameworks and languages [FERREIRA, 2015]. It proposes to solve existing problems in usual programming paradigms [SIMÃO and STADZISZ, 2008] such as the Declarative Paradigm (PD) and the Imperative Paradigm (PI) [GABBRIELLI and MARTINI, 2010]. These problems are related to structural and temporal redundancies, and the strong coupling between computational entities [FERREIRA, 2015].

The fundamental proposal of NOP consists in the introduction of a notificationbased inference mechanism, presenting a new way of structuring software in small and decoupled computational entities. These entities includes *Fact Base Elements (FBE)* and Rules [SIMÃO and STADZISZ, 2008]. An example of a NOP *Rule* is shown in figure 1 (a) and the NOP model is shown in figure 1 (b).

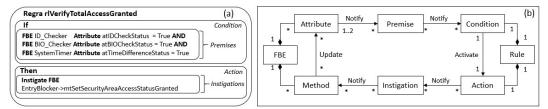


Figure 1. (a) NOP Rule. (b) NOP Model. Based on [SIMÃO et al., 2016].

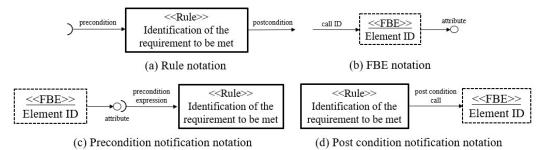
The Fact Base Element (FBE) stores system facts in Attributes. The FBE may have Methods that modify these Attributes. Each Attribute when it changes its status notifies only the related Premises. Similarly, each Premise when it changes its status notifies only the pertinent Conditions. Each Condition has one or more associated Premises, that becoming true, approve a Rule. The Rule has an Action, which notifies one or more Instigations to execute Methods, which in turn modify other Attributes [MENDONÇA et al., 2015]. This sequence characterizes the NOP inference mechanism, based on notifications. This mechanism avoids the need for matching and selection processes in order to execute rules, as usual in Rules Based Systems (RBS).

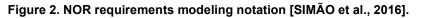
Many NOP applications have been developed [SANTOS, 2017]. However, NOP application development requires new specific software development methods. For this purpose, techniques such as NOD [WIECHETECK, 2011] and NOR modeling [SIMÃO et al., 2016] have been developed, which will be presented in the next sections.

3. Notification Oriented Requirements (NOR)

In NOR approach, the fundamental primitives of NOP models are used for graphical requirements modeling, such as *Rules*, *FBEs*, and *Notifications* (preconditions or

postconditions). These primitives allow to describe the complete set of functional e nonfunctional software/system requirements [SIMÃO et al., 2016]. The NOR modeling notation is summarized in figure 2.





The NOR technique to construct the requirements model is [SIMÃO et al., 2016]:

For each requirement in the System Requirements Specification (SRS):

- 1. To analyze the requirements sentence aiming at:
 - *i) Identifying the functional or non-functional request in the requirement.*
 - *ii)* Identifying the Conditions for the functional or non-functional request.
 - *iii)* Identifying the attributes involved in the Conditions.
 - *iv)* Identifying the Actions for the functional or non-functional request.
 - v) Identifying the functions related to the Methods instigated in the Actions.
 - vi) Identifying the FBEs related to the Attributes for the request.
 - vii) Identifying the FBEs related to the Methods indicated by the request.
- 2. To create a Rule for every request identified in step 1.
- 3. To create a FBE for every entity identified in step 1.
- 4. To create links (i.e. notifications between Rules and FBEs according to conditions and Actions related to rules) identified in step 1.
- 5. To merge FBEs and Rules with analogous FBEs and Rules previously created.

The use of NOR modeling was presented in a case study [SIMÃO et al., 2016] whose requirements were extracted from the INCOSE Systems Engineering Handbook [INCOSE, 2006]. Six requirements for the given security area access control system are presented below [SIMÃO et al., 2016]:

- SS11-a: Secure areas shall be protected by security check based upon employee ID.
- SS11-b: Secure areas shall be protected by a second independent security check based upon biometric data.
- SS11-c: The time between the two independent security checks shall not exceed a configurable period.
- SS11-d: The user shall be allowed three attempts at biometric identification.
- *SS11-e: The user shall be allowed three attempts at card identification.*
- SS11-f: Any denied access attempt shall be sent to the administrator.

Based on the NOR technique above, a model for the given security system was created (figure 3) [SIMÃO et al., 2016] containing 7 requirements in the form of *Rules* and 7 entities in the form of *FBEs*.

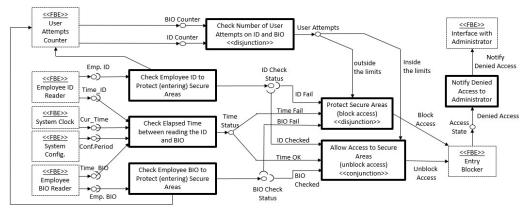


Figure 3. NOR requirements final modeling. Adjusted from [SIMÃO et al., 2016]

The model above facilitates requirements analysis and implicit knowledge identification, in addition to making explicit the dependencies between requirements [SIMÃO et al., 2016]. The next section presents the NOD method propped to conduct the development of NOP software applications.

4. Notification Oriented Development (NOD)

NOD is a software development method developed specifically for NOP applications [WIECHETECK, 2011], which consists of an extension of UML diagrams in the form of a UML profile, that properly represents NOP concepts (*NOP profile*). In addition, NOD establishes a sequence of steps to guide NOP software development.

The *NOP profile* enables to characterize NOP elements more precisely during design phase, allowing to particularize UML for a specific domain of applications. This is done by determining a new syntax and semantics for UML elements using stereotypes, tagged values, and constraints [WIECHETECK et al., 2011].

NOD method contains 8 steps (figure 4). The first two steps are: 1. *Capture Requirements* and 2. *Create Use Case Model*. The next six steps focus on software design through diagrams creation: 3. *Class Model*; 4. *High Level States Model*; 5. *Component Model*; 6. *Sequence Model* (optional, not created in this study¹); 7. *Communication Model* (optional, not created in this study¹); 8. *Petri Net Model* [WIECHETECK, 2011].

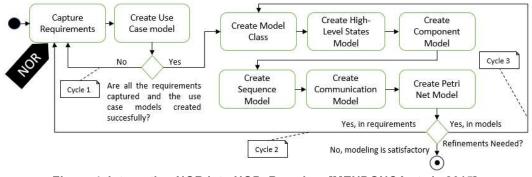


Figure 4. Integrating NOR into NOD. Based on [MENDONÇA et al., 2015].

¹ The creation of the *Sequence Model* and *Communication model* is an optional part of DON method and was not performed in the current study, without compromising the article results.

The method is divided in three cycles (figure 4). In **first cycle**, the requirements are documented and the *Use Case Model* is created. In **second cycle**, diagrams are created and requirements are refined as necessary. In **third cycle**, the models are refined to ensure compliance with the requirements [MENDONÇA et al., 2015] [WIECHETECK, 2011].

Software coding can either occur at the end of the method (cascade software process) or during cycles (incremental software process). The incremental software process was used in this case study.

5. Case Study: NOD Modeling of a Simulated Security System

The requirements and NOR modeling described previously were used as the basic scope for this case study. This is the main point of integration between the methods, in which the **NOD** 1^{st} Cycle => 1^{st} step *Capture Requirements* of the NOD method is now performed by the NOR technique, as pointed out in figure 4.

The models for this study were created using tools of the *Enterprise Architect*® v.13.5 (*Sparx Systems*) suite by applying the *NOP Profile* [WIECHETECK et al., 2011], except for the Petri Net model, created using *CPN Tools*® v.4.0.1 (*Eindhoven University of Technology*).

Given this, based on NOR modeling, the NOD 1^{st} Cycle => 2^{nd} step *Create Use Case Model* was performed and resulted in the model shown in figure 5.

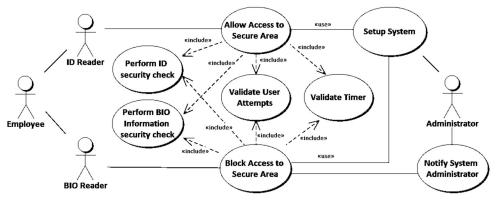


Figure 5. Use Case Model (NOD)

In NOD 2nd cycle modeling, the following diagrams were created, later refined in the NOD 3rd cycle (figure 4): 1. *Class Model (FBEs definition)*; 2. *High Level States Model (Rules modeling)*; 3. *Component Model*; 4. *Petri Net Model*.

The *Class Model* is presented in figure 6. In addition to the stereotyped class <*NOP_Application>>*, that is a default in NOP applications, stereotyped classes *<NOP_FBE>>* were created for each *FBE*. In this step, it is possible to notice the easiness achieved by the previous existence of the NOR model, **since it becomes possible to correlate the** *FBEs* **(this does not imply necessarily a 1 to 1 relationship) modeled in NOR to those included in the** *Class Model***:**

- *Employee ID Reader* (NOR) ⇔ *ID Checker* (NOD)
- *Employee BIO Reader* (NOR) ⇔ *BIO Checker* (NOD)
- System Clock (NOR) ⇔ SystemTimer (NOD)
- User Attempts Counter (NOR) ⇔ UserAttemptsCounter (NOD)

- *Entry Blocker* (NOR) ⇔ *EntryBlocker* (NOD)
- System Config. (NOR) ⇔ SystemConfigurator and EmployeeController (NOD)
- Interface with Administrator (NOR) ⇔ SysAdminNotificationController (NOD)

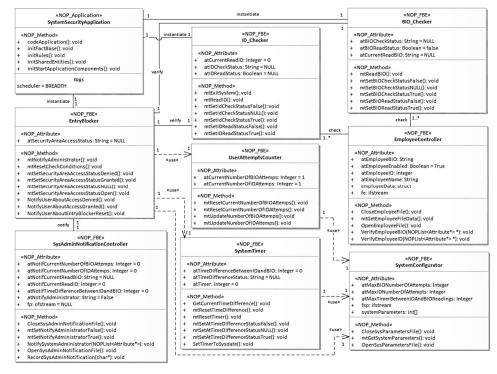


Figure 6. Class Model (NOD)

The *High-Level States Model* establishes the basic logic of system operation and bases the identification of NOP Application *Rules* (figure 7).

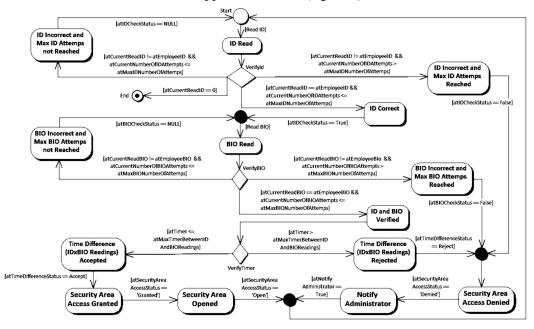


Figure 7. High-Level States Model (NOD)

While creating the *High-Level States Model*, the NOR model was used as an aid, allowing to visually identify states or facts (e.g.: *ID Checked, ID Fail, Time OK, Time Fail, BIO Checked, BIO Fail,* etc.) and activities (e.g.: *Check employee ID, Check Elapsed Time, Check Employee BIO, Block Access, Unblock Access,* etc.).

Based on *Class* and *High-Level States* models, a *Rules* Table containing the *Rules, Premises, and Instigations* was created (table 1). NOP elements were named using a standard that facilitates identification during both system design and programming. Prefixes were used as follows: *rl* for *Rules; pr* for *Premises; in* for *Instigations; at* for *Attributes* and *mt* for *Methods*, following definitions given by [RONSZCKA et al., 2017].

Ν	Use Cases	Rules	Premises	Instigations
	Perform ID Security			inReadID && inVerifyEmployeeID &&
1	Check	rlReadID	prAtIDReadStatusFalse	inSetAtIDReadStatusTrue
			prAtIDCheckStatusNULL && prAtIDReadStatusTrue &&	inIncrementAtCurrentNumberOfIDAtte
	Perform ID Security		prIDIncorrect &&	mpts && inSetAtIDCheckStatusNULL
2	Check	rlVerifyIDIncorrectRetry	prAtCurrentNumIDAttemptsSmallerThanMax	&& inResetTimer &&
	Perform ID Security		prAtIDCheckStatusNULL && prAtIDReadStatusTrue &&	inSetAtIDCheckStatusFalse &&
3	Check	rlVerifyIDIncorrectDenyAcc	prIDIncorrect &&	inResetTimer
0	Perform ID Security		prAtIDCheckStatusNULL && prAtIDReadStatusTrue &&	inSetAtIDCheckStatusTrue &&
4	Check	rlVerifyIDCorrectProceed	prIDCorrect &&	inSetAtTimerToSysdate
	Perform BIO	and another the		inReadBIO && inVerifyEmployeeBIO
5	Security Check	rlReadBIO	prAtIDCheckStatusTrue && prAtBIOReadStatusFalse	&& inSetAtBIOReadStatusTrue
10	22	55	prAtBIOCheckStatusNULL && prAtBIOReadStatusTrue &&	inIncrementAtCurrentNumberOfBIOAtt
	Perform BIO		prAtIDCheckStatusTrue && prBIOIncorrect &&	empts &&
6	Security Check	rlVerifyBlOIncorrectRetry	prAtCurrentNumBIOAttemptsSmallerThanMax	inSetAtBIOCheckStatusNULL &&
			prAtBIOCheckStatusNULL && prAtBIOReadStatusTrue &&	
	Perform BIO		prAtIDCheckStatusTrue && prBIOIncorrect &&	inSetAtBIOCheckStatusFalse &&
7	Security Check	rlVerifyBlOIncorrectDenyAd	prAtCurrentNumBIOAttemptsGreaterOrEqualThanMax	inResetTimer
	newsee monthly		prAtBIOCheckStatusNULL && prAtBIOReadStatusTrue &&	The second s
	Perform BIO		prAtIDCheckStatusTrue && prBIOCorrect &&	inSetAtBIOCheckStatusTrue &&
8	Security Check	rlVerifyBlOCorrectProceed	prAtCurrentNumBIOAttemptsSmallerOrEqualThanMax	inGetTimeDifference
	Perform Timer		prAtIDCheckStatusTrue && prAtBIOCheckStatusTrue &&	
9	Validation	rlVerifyTimerAccept	prAtTimeDifferenceSmallerOrEqualThanMax	inSetAtTimeDifferenceStatusTrue
	Perform Timer		prAtIDCheckStatusTrue && prAtBIOCheckStatusTrue &&	
10	Validation	rlVerifyTimerReject	prAtTimeDifferenceGreaterThanMax	inSetAtTimeDifferenceStatusFalse
	Perform Entry		prAtIDCheckStatusTrue && prAtBIOCheckStatusTrue &&	inSetAtSecurityAreaAccessStatusGran
11	Blocker Security	rlVerifyTotalAccessGranted	prAtTimeDifferenceStatusTrue	ted
	Perform Entry		prAtIDCheckStatusFalse prAtBIOCheckStatusFalse	inSetAtSecurityAreaAccessStatusDeni
12	Blocker Security	rlVerifyTotalAccessDenied	prAtTimeDifferenceStatusFalse	ed
	Allow Access to			inSetAtSecurityAreaAccessStatusOpe
13	Secure Area	rlOpenSecurityArea	prAtSecurityAreaAccessStatusGranted	n &&
	Allow Access to			inNotifyUserAboutEntryBlockerReset
14	Secure Area	rlSecurityAreaOpened	prAtSecurityAreaAccessStatusOpen	&& INSTIGATIONS TO RESET ALL
	Block Access to			inSetAtNotifyAdministratorTrue &&
15	Secure Area	rlBlockSecurityArea	prAtSecurityAreaAccessStatusDenied	inNotifyUserAboutAccessDenied
			ene Meriadologi este obskeros das adrosentados ovidar anter dela del	inSetAtNotifyAdministratorFalse &&
				inNotifySystemAdministrator &&
	Notify System			inNotifyUserAboutEntryBlockerReset
16	Administrator	rlAdministratorNotified	prAtNotifyAdministratorTrue	&& INSTIGATIONS TO RESET ALL
			prAtIDCheckStatusNULL && prAtIDReadStatusTrue &&	
17	Exit System	rlExitSystem	prExitSystem	inExitSystem

Table 1. NOP Rules identified for the System (NOD)

In parallel to the elaboration of the *Rules* Table, the *Component Model* was generated in a creative synthesis activity subdivided in three steps: 1. *Define Rules*; 2. *Define Premises and Instigations*; 3. *Associate Rules to FBEs* [WIECHETECK, 2011].

The existence of NOR modeling facilitated the *Rules* definition and their interdependencies. For example, the requirement modeled in NOR "*Protect Secure Areas*" (figure 3) which is a disjunction (<<*disjunction>>*) between "*ID Fail*", "*Time Fail*", and "*BIO Fail*", was modeled by the NOP *Rule rlVerifyTotalAccessDenied*, as a disjunction between the equivalent corresponding premises *prAtIDCheckStatusFalse*, *prAtBIOCheckStatusFalse*, and *prAtTimeDifferenceStatusFalse* (table 1).

Seventeen (17) Component Models were created (one for each Rule). The model for the Rule rlReadID is illustrated as an example in the figure 8. It is possible to notice the behavior of the Rule (rlReadID), its Premises (prAtIDReadStatusFalse), its Instigations (inVerifyEmployeeID, inReadID inSetAtIDReadStatusTrue), and the

methods (*mtVerifyEmployeeID*, *mtReadID*, *mtSetIDReadStatusTrue*) that may be triggered in the *FBEs* (*EmployeeController*, *ID_Checker*). Besides that, it is possible to observe the *Attributes* used by the *Rule* (*atIDReadStatus*, *atCurrentReadID*, *AtEmployeeID*).

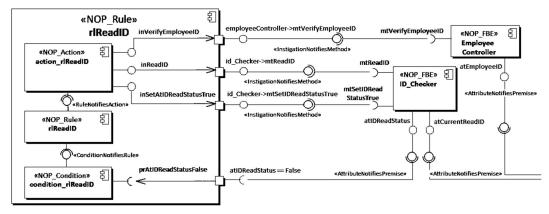


Figure 8. Rule rlReadID from Component Model (NOD)

The *Petri Net Model* used in NOD method demonstrates the dynamics between NOP elements. Petri Nets (PN) allows to model, simulate and even verify concurrency and synchronization of resources in systems [CARDOSO and VALETTE, 1997].

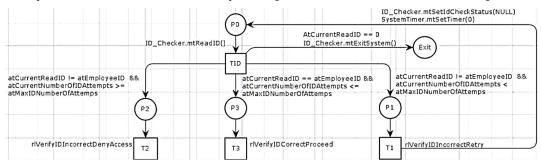


Figure 9. Part of the modeled Petri Net Model (NOD)

In figure 9, part of the Petri Net modeled for this study is shown, in which the NOP Rules transitions: were mapped as PN rlReadID (TID). *rlVerifyIDIncorrectDenyAccess rlVerifyIDCorrectProceed* (T3) (T2), and rlVerifyIDIncorrectRetry (T1). The PN places (P1, P2, P3, etc.) are representing the Premises of each Rule. In this model it is possible to notice the concurrency between the *Rules* (T1, T2, T3), which is a characteristic of several NOP applications. In the current study, the Petri Net Model was not executed for validation, which is a possibility for future works.

6. NOP Framework C++ 2.0 Implementation

The system implementation was performed in *Visual Studio 2017* (*Microsoft*) tool, according to established development standards for *NOP Framework* C++ 2.0 [RONSZCKA et al., 2017].

Figure 10 (a) shows the NOP C++ codes for the Rules rlVerifyTotalAccessGranted and rlVerifyTotalAccessDenied, in which is possible to

observe the *Premises* and *Instigations* of each Rule. The *Rule rlVerifyTotalAccessGranted* is the same as previously shown in figure 1 and table 1.

Figure 10 (b) shows an execution *prompt command* regarding the NOP application, in which is possible to notice some approved *Rules* (e.g.: *rlReadID*, *rlVerifyIDCorrectProceed*, *rlReadBIO*) that executed the corresponding *Methods* (e.g.: *mtSetIDReadStatusTrue*, *mtSetIDCheckStatusTrue*).

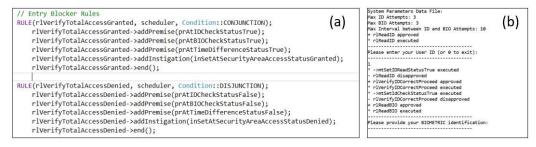


Figure 10. (a) Part of NOP Rules Code (b) NOP Application Execution

Similarly to what was reported in [MENDONÇA et al., 2015] and [WIECHETECK, 2011], it is noted that the creation of a well-structured NOD project allows a near-mechanical implementation in the NOP C ++ 2.0 Framework, as may be observed in the corresponding artifacts and codes. Likewise, the NOR project facilitated the project in NOD, due to the visual inputs provided by the requirements model.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

In this case study, the integration between the NOR model into the NOD method was performed during the development of a NOP application. By presenting system requirements graphically, NOR aids to the development of NOP software in three steps:

- 1. In the Class Model creation (system structure).
- 2. In the High-Level States Model creation (system behavior).
- 3. In the *Rules* Table and Component Model creation (specific tailored behavior of NOP application *Rules*)

Therefore, it can be concluded that the NOR modeling can be harmoniously integrated to the NOD method, facilitating the development of Software Engineering design for NOP applications. This would lead to future works on engineering-oriented requirements models such as SysML. It is also suggested the refinement of NOR modeling techniques through a specific study of interrelationships between requirements.

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