



Michael Jastram

Detailed CV

About Me

Birthday February 18, 1971 in Reinbek near Hamburg, Germany

Marital Status Married, one son

- Education
- Dr. rer. nat., Computer Science (University of Düsseldorf)
 - M. Sc., Naval Architecture (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
 - Dipl.-Ing., Shipbuilding (University of Hamburg)

- Today
- Managing Director and Principal Systems Architect (Formal Mind GmbH)
 - Eclipse Project Lead and Committer (Eclipse RMF)
 - Founder and active member, rheinjug e.V.

- Competencies
- Expert in Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE)
 - Entrepreneur, both as partner and leader
 - Architect (Software and Systems)
 - Open Source Advocate

- Online
- Profile: jastram.de
 - Company: formalmind.com
 - Blog: se-trends.de

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Employment History

Formal Mind GmbH

7/11 – today Düsseldorf, Germany

Formal Mind is a university spin-off, commercializing system engineering research. Services are based on open source software that is applied in requirements engineering and in the validation of safety-critical systems.

7/11 – today Managing Director and Principal Systems Architect

Founding and building up of the company Formal Mind: Creation of business plan, akquisition of funds from funding programs, sales, marketing, human resources. Also working in customer projects.

Customers and Projects (Excerpt)

2/16 – 7/16 Development and Introduction of a MBSE Method *thyssenkrupp Marine Systems*

As part of the introduction of model-based systems engineering according to ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288, a method has been refined and documented. For this purpose, a pilot project has been supported and technical personell was coached to apply the method. In addition, training materials were created and trainings held.

The project is on track for completion on time and on budget, a follow-up project is likely.

8/12 – 12/15 Work Package Leadership openETCS *Deutsche Bahn*

Acquisition and execution of the leadership of the work package “Toolchain Development” for the itea 2 research project openETCS. The budget of this work package consists of 18 person-years over the course of three years.

Tasks include planning of work, coordination with project office; organizing a functioning team from participants; execution of a technology analysis and selection of tool platform, to be used within the project; development of that toolchain, according to the Scrum method.

1/12 – 12/15 Data Generation and Management, ReqIF Implementor Forum *ProSTEP iViP*

A core technology of Formal Mind, Eclipse RMF, is based on the Requirements Interchange Format (ReqIF), a standard for the exchange of requirements. ProSTEP is a standardizing body, which contributed to the development of this standard. Since the end of 2011, ProSTEP has been running an Implementor Forum, which Formal Mind joined in January 2012. The goal of the standard is to ensure interoperability of existing ReqIF implementations. Formal Mind benefits threefold from participating:

- **Validation of RMF:** By participating in the forum’s activities, we can demonstrate that our technology is compatible with commercial market leaders like IBM (Rational DOORS and DOORS Next) or PTC (integrity).
- **Marketing:** In the forum, we have access to OEMs (Daimler, Audi, VW, BMW) and suppliers (Conti, dSpace), which we can approach for business development. Via the OEMs we have the potential to reach suppliers of the automotive industry.
- **Acting as service provider:** Formal Mind is taking on tasks like data generation tool customization and consulting.

5/15 – 10/15 Requirements analysis for a web application

Deutsche Post

As a requirements expert, I led a small team in the requirements analysis for the reimplementation of a web portal. As requested by the customer, we used a model-based approach with Enterprise Architect as the tool.

I designed a lightweight process that, amongst other things, described a limited set of model elements to be used. Next, I developed a small number of concept documents that defined the overall architecture and covered cross-cutting concerns like GUI and rights management. Last, I developed a small number of templates that produced sharable documents, as not all stakeholders had access to the modeling tool. The bulk of the time was spent documenting requirements primarily in the form of a use cases and data model (classes), elicited via stakeholder interviews and legacy system analysis.

This project was completed on time and on budget.

7/11 – 3/12 Project management Rodin Handbook

University of Newcastle

Acquired a project from the University of Newcastle to create a handbook for the tool “Rodin”. Existing documentation had to be reused as much as possible, while filling gaps in the content. Large chunks of the work were delegated to employees and students. The project was delivered on time. The result is licensed under a creative commons license, which allowed Formal Mind to use it for marketing activities. This project contributed significantly to the founding costs of Formal Mind.

rheinjug e.V., Düsseldorfer Java User Group

11/05 – today Düsseldorf, Germany

The rheinjug Düsseldorf is one of many Java User Groups worldwide. It organizes about nine talks a year that are free of charge to visitors. The group reaches over 2000 Java experts in the Rhine area, and talks are visited by up to 200 participants. Most talks are recorded and published shortly after the event under the name rheinjug.tv.

Founder

I founded rheinjug and continuously built it up. Community building was a strong focus, allowing a lot of the work to be delegated to other organizers. Today, the group is financed by sponsors, with an annual budget of €6000. My activities, initially as founder, later as organizer and chairman (until January 2014) included:

- **Founding:** Establishing a minimal infrastructure (mailing list, website, registration mechanism); recruiting of the first talks and sponsors (for food and drinks); marketing, which was especially intensive during the first years; moderation of the events.
- **Marketing:** Systematic announcement of the events on relevant online forums, and via a carefully maintained mailing list; creation of event posters; writing of reviews; updating of the website. After recruiting additional organizers, many of these tasks could be delegated.
- **Event Management:** Recruiting of speakers, planning of the talks, scheduling the talks evenly over the year, while preventing collisions with other important conferences or holidays.
- **Community-Building:** Focused building up a community consisting of visitors, speakers and organizers. We established multiple communication channels for visitors (web, newsletter, Xing, Facebook), resulting in a reach of over 2000 Java experts. Care of these channels could eventually be delegated. The organizers communicate via their own mailing list, and there were regular social events for the organizers. We keep actively in touch with outstanding speakers.

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- **Finance:** Before forming a non-profit, the group never touched money directly. For instance, catering bills were given directly to sponsors to be settled. After becoming a non-profit (“gemeinnütziger eingeschriebener Verein”), we could decouple sponsoring and catering, making it much easier to manage the group’s activities.

Eclipse Foundation

11/11 – today Ottawa, Kanada

The Eclipse Foundation is a non-profit with the task of leading the Eclipse software project and the Eclipse open source community. The Eclipse platform is one of the biggest open source frameworks, consisting of roughly 60 million lines of code and more than 600 active committers (developers).

Project Lead, Committer

In the context of my research activities, I created an Eclipse project for requirements management (see page 8). In November 2011, this became an official Eclipse project, resulting in me becoming project lead and committer of the Requirements Modeling Framework. In this role, I took on the following tasks:

- **Communication with the Foundation:** During the proposal phase, I closely collaborated on IP due diligence. Later, I took on a number of tasks that needed to be taken care of for proper releases, like project documentation, IP checks on external libraries, maintenance of the issue database, etc.
- **Ongoing Software Development.** After the migration to the foundation, we created a release roughly every two months. I actively implemented new features, organized regular (programming) sprints, and published release announcements.
- **Public Relations.** I regularly blogged on the Formal Mind website, published in journals and trade magazines (see literature, starting on page) and regularly spoke in public at relevant conferences like EclipseCon or ReConf.

Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf, Department for Software Technology and Programming Languages

2/08 – 3/13 Düsseldorf, Germany

Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf is one of the newer universities of Northrhine - Westphalia, founded in 1965. Computer Science is taught there since 2002. Prof. Michael Leuschel is the head of the department for software technology and programming languages, and focuses on formal methods and model checking.

Researcher and Post Doc

As a researcher (and later post doc), I actively contributed to research projects and supported in the teaching activities.

- **Doctoral graduation as Dr. rer. nat.** Details on my doctoral work are described in the section “Education” (page 8). My thesis, “The ProR Approach: Traceability of Requirements and System descriptions” was graded “very good” (magna cum laude), and with a little over four years, it has been the fastest doctoral graduation at the department to date.

- **FP7 Deploy.** The majority of my research was spent contributing to the research project “Deploy”, which was executed as part of the 7th framework programme (FP7) of the European Commission. The goal of the project was the application of the formal Event-B method in industrial pilot projects, as well as the ongoing development of the tool “Rodin”, which supports this method. My contribution was the tool extension “ProR” for requirements management, which is described in more detail in the context of my work as project lead of the corresponding Eclipse project. I created a seamless integration of ProR and Rodin. The tooling was complemented with a method for traceability of requirements.
- **Teaching.** Supporting the teaching obligations by lecturing (on requirements engineering and entrepreneurship), management of training sessions (computer science 1), as well as the teaching of block classes (on formal methods). Further, I supervised students in project work, as well as Master and Ph.D thesis writing activities.

HOOD Group

1/06 – 10/07 Munich, Germany

HOOD Group is the leading consultancy in the area of requirements engineering in Europe. HOOD is active with a continuously growing number of customers. Existing customers include Siemens, Audi, BMW, Hella, und Alcatel. For many years, HOOD has been the organizer of ReConf, the biggest conference on requirements engineering in Europe.

1/06 – 10/07 Senior Consultant

Consulting and coaching customers with respect to the user of processes and tools for requirements management (see below for individual projects). I was accredited for multiple HOOD trainings (“Writing Requirements”, “Requirements Engineering”, “Rational DOORS”), which I gave multiple times with customers. Taking on of internal tasks, e.g. process improvements, maintenance and improving IT infrastructure, etc.

4/06 – 10/07 Manager Software Division

In this management role, I reported directly to the executive board. I swiftly built up a group of five software consultants and developers. The team was complemented on an as-needed basis by members of the consulting division and external freelancers. Tasks included acquisition, delegation and execution of customer projects, writing of offers, supporting the marketing division, and ongoing process improvement. By developing this new business segment, I made a positive impact on the company’s success.

Direct customers of the software division included Daimler, Draeger and Knorr Bremse. The division also developed small product, e.g. a specification generator based on DOORS (which was used in customer projects) and the free-of-charge tool Desire, which is available for MS Word and Rational DOORS, for identifying weak-words in specifications, thereby improving the quality of requirements.

8/06 – 10/07 Member of the HOOD Technical Boards

In this role, I directly influenced the company’s strategy with respect to software development and IT. This entailed, amongst others, the introduction of subversion for versioning internal documents, including a web front end. We upgraded the internal process documentation by using the Eclipse Process Framework, providing web access, which was previously not possible. This increased the efficiency of the consultants by making relevant information accessible faster than before. Further improvements were continuously introduced.

Customers and Projects

- 1/06 – 4/06 HELLA KGaA Hueck & Co. *Lippstadt, Gemrnay*
Support in creating system specifications for an automotive manufacturer, training of employees, creation and deployment of standards and processes, to ensure the required quality of these and future specifications.
- 4/06 – 5/06 Siemens VDO (today Continental) *Babenhausen, Germany*
Development of a tool for Rational DOORS, to update content incrementally. this project had a focus on functional testing, realized by an automated testing framework that I developed.
- 6/06 – 10/07 Volkswagen AG *Wolfsburg, Germany*
Supporting the development and pilot deployment of modular requirements specifications for system functionality. For this, we developed a data model that we validated with the stakeholders. In parallel, implementation with an existing internal information system was analyzed and planned. A number of prototypes using various technologies were developed (Rational DOORS, MS Access, Java).

Vitae Pharmaceuticals (formally Concurrent Pharmaceuticals)

3/02 – 7/05 Philadelphia, PA, USA

Vitae is a pharmaceutical company, with focus on computational drug discovery. As of January 2005, the company was renamed from Concurrent Pharmaceuticals into Vitae Pharmaceuticals.

Lead Engineer

I designed the internal software platform, which was used by chemists to manage their molecular data, and to process it further on our server farm. I lead the implementation and participated in the realization of some parts. The system was written in Java, used Swing for the user interface and was deployed to the chemists via WebStart.

With an annual budget of \$400,000, initial deployment took place on time, and over the years the database scaled to eight million molecules, which were processed further on a cluster consisting of 196 CPUs. My focus areas were user interface, database core, cluster management and 3D-Subsystem (OpenGL). I collaborated closely with the chemists (the customers), managed contractors and interns, took on project responsibility and established an internal software development process. This included the introduction of a version control system (perforce), bug tracking, nightly build, code reviews, unit testing, weekly customer meetings, etc.

Xpogen, Inc.

8/01 – 3/02 Cambridge, MA, USA

Xpogen created bioinformatics solutions with a focus on DNA microarray analysis. Xpogen defaulted in 2003.

Senior Software Engineer

I took on project responsibility and helped defining the business requirements of the software platform. I introduced quality standards, to ensure maintainability, scalability and security. I defined and implemented a simple development process. I defined a hiring strategy and helped in the search for qualified engineers. I actively contributed to software development with TCL/TK.

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Netcentives, Inc. (formerly Post Communications)

3/98 – 7/01 San Francisco, CA, USA

Netcentives was a supplier for online marketing services. Initially, I worked for a company called Post Communications, which was acquired in February 2000 by Netcentives, and which continued to exist as the Email Marketing division. The company had strict requirements for only delivering to opt-in recipients, clearly distancing itself from spammers. Netcentives filed for chapter 11 in December 2001.

7/00 – 7/01 Senior Software Engineer

In my role of senior software engineer, I actively contributed to the ongoing development of our core email delivery system. In particular, I executed the internationalization of our software, which was completed on budget and on time (see the publication in Multilingual Magazine, 2001).

1/00 – 7/00 Client Architect

As a client architect, I acted as the intermediary between customer teams and software development. I improved business processes and helped to manage the drastic growth of the customer teams.

1/99 – 1/00 Senior Solutions Engineer

I took on additional responsibility and refactored the software architecture for our customers' profile pages, and acted as lead engineer in customer negotiations.

3/98 – 1/99 Client Services Engineer

Designed and implemented customized solutions for our customers (based on our core architecture), but quickly started to establish an infrastructure that supported the drastic scaling of the following years.

Marble Associates

2/97 – 2/98 Boston, MA, USA

Marble was an IT consultancy that filed for bankruptcy in 1998.

Consultant

As a consultant, I had to understand our customer's business models, to help them find new technologies that were a good fit for them. In this role, I integrated various customer systems and implemented a number of individual software systems.

Education

Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany

2/08 – 6/12 Dr. rer. nat. Informatik

Grade: magna cum laude (very good)

Ph.D. Thesis [The ProR Approach](#)

Creating a system description of high quality is still a challenging problem in the field of requirements engineering. Creating a formal system description addresses some issues. However, the relationship of the formal model to the user requirements is rarely clear, or documented satisfactorily.

This work presents the ProR approach, an approach for the creation of a consistent system description from an initial set of requirements. The resulting system description is a mixture of formal and informal artifacts. Formal and informal reasoning is employed to aid in the process. To achieve this, the artifacts must be connected by traces to support formal and informal reasoning, so that conclusions about the system description can be drawn.

The ProR approach enables the incremental creation of the system description, alternating between modeling (both formal and informal) and validation. During this process, the necessary traceability for reasoning about the system description is established. The formal model employs refinement for further structuring of large and complex system descriptions. The development of the ProR approach is the first contribution of this work.

This work also presents ProR, a tool platform for requirements engineering, that supports the ProR approach. ProR has been integrated with Rodin, a tool for Event-B modeling, to provide a number of features that allow the ProR approach to scale.

The core features of ProR are independent from the ProR approach. The data model of ProR builds on the international ReqIF standard, which provides interoperability with industrial tools for requirements engineering. The development of ProR created enough interest to justify the creation of the Requirements Modeling Framework (RMF), a new Eclipse Foundation project, which is the open source host for ProR. RMF attracted an active community, and ProR development continues. The development of ProR is the second contribution of this work.

This work is accompanied by a case study of a traffic light system, which demonstrates the application of both the ProR approach and ProR.

Harvard Extension School, Cambridge, MA, USA

9/01 – 6/03 [Continuing education](#)

At the Harvard Extension School, I took some evening classes in molecular biology and software architecture. My primary goal was continuing education, not the acquisition of a degree. I attended the following classes:

- cscie-275 Software Architecture
- e-1a Introduction to Molecular and Cellular Biology
- e-109 Principles and Techniques of Molecular Biology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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9/95 – 2/97 Master of Science, Ocean Engineering

Grade: 4.6/5.0

Master Thesis Inspection and Feature Extraction of Marine Propellers

Localization. Localization is the process of determining the rigid-body translations and rotations that must be performed on a set of points measured on a manufactured surface (like a propeller blade) to move those points into the closest correspondence with the ideal design surface. An additional parameter is an offset distance, such that the Euclidean motion brings the measured points as close as possible to an offset of the design surface.

An algorithm to determine the seven parameters (three rotations, three translations, one offset) was developed in 1991 by R. A. Jinkerson. But that algorithm makes some assumptions about the surface and the measured points, which are sometimes not fulfilled. Specifically, it assumes, that a measured point has always an orthogonal projection on the offset surface, regardless of the translation and rotation parameters.

This thesis extends Jinkerson's algorithm, so that these assumptions are not necessary any longer. This involves the development of a new objective function and its gradient.

Feature extraction. During the manufacturing process, a propeller blade surface is subject to manufacturing inaccuracies, that result in small changes to the data describing its features. It is therefore desirable to recompute these features for comparison with the original design data. Most of the characteristics of a propeller blade are embedded in the camber lines of its hydrofoil sections. The objective of this part of the thesis is to recompute the camber line from a hydrofoil shape curve.

An algorithm for this task has already been developed, but it makes the assumption that the blade thickness has a single maximum, which is often not fulfilled, especially, if the hydrofoil has been generated from measured data.

In this thesis, a new algorithm has been developed. It generates a highly accurate camber line by using a two pass iteration method: The first pass generates an approximation of the camber line, and the second pass refines this approximation to the desired accuracy.

University of Hamburg, Germany

2/92 – 2/97 Dipl.-Ing. Shipbuilding

Grade: very good

Diploma Thesis Inspection and Feature Extraction of Marine Propellers

My M.I.T. master thesis was accepted as the thesis for this degree. During my studies, I focused on the application of computer science in the field of engineering, with a particular focus on computer aided design and solid modeling.

Publications and Public Appearances

2016

Michael Jastram, Andrea Herrmann. Standardkonforme Entwicklung mit ISO 29110 – auch für die Kleinen. *ReConf*, 2016.

Michael Jastram, Andreas Kara. Modeling Requirements with Constraints. *IREB RE Magazine*, 2016 (accepted for publication).

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2015

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2014

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2013

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2012

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Michael Jastram and Andreas Graf. Reqif – the New Requirements Standard and its Open Source Implementation Eclipse RMF. Technical report, Commercial Vehicle Technology Symposium, 2012.

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Michael Jastram. Strukturierung von Anforderungen für eine enge Integration mit Modellen. *ReConf*, 2012.

Michael Jastram and Mark Broerkens. Systems Engineering with the Eclipse Requirements Modeling Framework. *EclipseCon Europe*, 2012.

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Michael Jastram and Mark Brörkens. ReqIF in der Open Source: Das Eclipse Requirements Modeling Framework (rmf). *ReConf*, 2012.

2011

Jens Bendisposto, Fabian Fritz, Michael Jastram, Michael Leuschel, and Ingo Weigelt. Developing Camille, a text editor for Rodin. *Software: Practice and Experience*, 41(2):189–198, 2011.

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2010

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2000 – 2009

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Michael Jastram. Adding Multibyte Capabilities after the Fact. *Multilingual Computing & Technology*, 12, 2001.

vor 2000

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