

Why Modeling Book Authors Use MagicDraw as The Best Product

Interview and Survey of the Most Reputable Book Authors

Interview made by Saulius Pavalkis - No Magic Analyst

MagicDraw is a business process, architecture, software and systems modeling tool. It is one of the most popular UML and SysML tools in the market. It has been available since 1998 and has over 500,000 installations in 10,000 companies in 90 countries.

More and more books, papers and even OMG specifications are prepared using MagicDraw, its plugins and other No Magic Inc. modeling products. Standard bodies such as ISO, OMG, ACORD, SWIFT, and others have adopted MagicDraw as the de facto standard for producing their work products. The most popular modeling books such as *UML Bible* by Tom Pender, and *A Practical Guide to SysML: The Systems Modeling Language* by Sanford Friedenthal are prepared using MagicDraw. The list of authors using MagicDraw includes: *Jim Arlow, Tom Pender, Pascal Roques, Tim Weilkiens, and others.*

We work closely with people to understand their needs, including authors. We interviewed some of the most reputable book authors to identify why and how they use modeling tools.

They ranked the factors that modeling tools should satisfy from most important to least important and commented their choices. The first most important factor received 10 points, the second received 9 and so on. We combined factor scores and feedback from surveys. A summary of the factor scores is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Result of survey: key factors that modeling tools should satisfy

#	Factor	Importance
1	Standard conformance and enforcement	40
2	Visually pleasing diagrams	35
3	High usability	29
4	High definition and scalability of image export	22
5	Wide range of supported domains	18
6	Competitive price	11
7	Pervasiveness	9

The Truth is in the Details. So let's see what reputable authors tell us why MagicDraw is beneficial for their work and why they recommend the product for their readers.

Why this group of users is important?

In addition to writing books, most of the authors do hundreds of consulting and training sessions, and contribute to standards. These are advanced, well-informed, and highly demanding users. They seek perfection in many areas. But most important is that the **things important to them are valuable for everyone, and they had time to search, find and change for the best.**

"I have found that MagicDraw is the best choice for book authors because of its excellent standards compliance and the quality of the diagrams it can export."

Jim Arlow

The author of the standard UML textbook used in hundreds of Universities worldwide

"Model consistency and confidence that created diagrams are correct is what I got only with MagicDraw systems engineering solution."

Pascal Roques

The author of the most famous French UML books (50.000 copies sold), and first SysML book author in France

"MagicDraw is conformant to the standard and I use it as reference tool for my modeling concepts."

Tim Weilkiens

Author of one of the most popular SysML books.
Coauthor of SysML standard.

Key Factors in Details

1. Standard Conformance and Enforcement

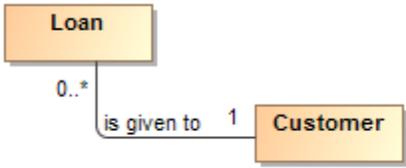
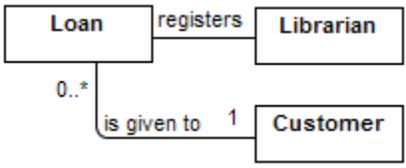
MagicDraw supports the latest UML (one of the first to implement UML 2.0), SysML (first to implement V1.0, 1.1, and latest 1.2), BPMN, UPDM metamodels, XMI and EMF XMI standards for data storage and interchange. Incorrect model simply cannot be created.

Standards compliance is the single the most important factor authors find when preparing diagrams for a wide audience. Unlike most of the solutions in the industry does not use any tool-specific notations. Instead, MagicDraw enforces diagram and model correctness according to the standards only. Authors can be sure that their models are correct and fully standards complain so authors do not waste time correcting improper models.

How this is achieved?

No Magic is a top influential member in the Object Management Group (OMG) organization. Our experts are significantly involved in OMG standards development. We are typically standards compliant even before the standards are released to the public. This is enabled by MagicDraw, a very versatile platform that is easily adaptable to changes in the standards.

2. Visually Pleasing Diagrams

	3D shadow
	Gradient color
	Rounded corners of path
	Arc style line jump
	Black and white notation

Visually pleasing diagrams with **3D SHADOW**, **GRADIENT COLOR**, and **ROUNDED CORNERS OF PATHS** for better-looking model presentations is the second most important requirement for authors. Additionally, **an arc style line jump**, for diagrams that have many intersecting links, makes them easier to understand.

"If the diagrams don't look good, then they can't be published in a book."

Jim Arlow

"Diagrams have the look and feel of designs with the touch of a graphic artist, which is quite important for good communication."

Pascal Roques

On the other hand **black and white notation** is a **must** for scientific papers. According to Tim Weilkens, it is important to have diagrams without any proprietary adornments with independent styles, e.g. no color shading etc.

3. High Usability

MagicDraw provides intuitive controls within a very well designed GUI, that allows users to model without having to spend time learning about the controls. Authors admire how quickly they can learn the MagicDraw GUI and they value the ability to save time and improve productivity.

This is identified as the third most important factor. Tim Weilkiens strongly emphasized the usability of a tool. According to him, today poor usability is one of the main

hurdles of introducing a modeling culture in a company.

Easy access to the most common operations is a cornerstone of MagicDraw's user interface.

With **hundreds of usability features** such as:

You'll find MagicDraw indispensable for helping to reach high-velocity

- [Element specific smart manipulators giving just the required relations set for the context.](#)
- Drag and drop to set any property. [Sample with Dependency Matrix](#)

in diagram creation and editing, as all major commands are available through a single click.

How is this achieved?

1. We just listen!
2. Each new release contains enhancements and fixes requested by our users and our internal team.
3. MagicDraw is mature - 10 years in the market means a lot.



"It helps a lot that the tool is easy and quick to use!"

Jim Arlow

"Many ease of use features such as drag and drop typing of symbols and elements, customizable menus, toolbars and smart manipulators reduced my learning curve while increasing my productivity."

Tom Pender

"With MagicDraw you can complete your tasks with half the steps demanded by other tools."

Pascal Roques

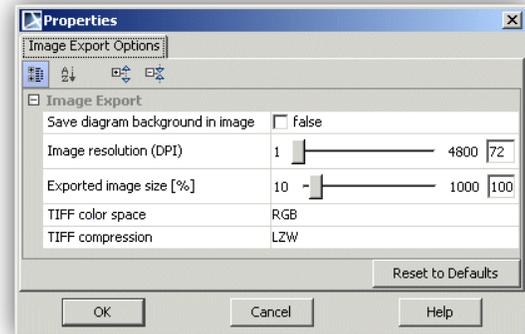
"The team behind the tool is very helpful and responsive and they implement the features that are requested from real-life projects."

Tim Weilkiens

4. High Definition and Scalability of Image Export

For publishing it is very important to produce high quality scalable graphics.

- **Export to TIFF format.** Widely supported by image-manipulation and publishing software, TIFF files can be edited and resaved without suffering a compression loss.
- **Flexible image size.** Higher resolution images can be produced without losing the quality, suitable for publishing.
- **Custom DPI.** Definable exported picture quality (resolution) gives raster images processing applications information to scale the image to appropriate size while being printed or displayed.
- **Scalable SVG and EMF images export** allows adjusting the size of already exported images without losing quality.



5. Wide Range of Supported Domains

It is very important for the tool to support a variety of extensions that customize the product for a wide range of activities, that are described by the authors. Two examples of these are:

- State machine and activity simulation supported by our first-in-the-industry extendable model execution framework based on OMG fUML and W3C SCXML standards
- MDA and custom modeling domain support, enabled by the flexible model driven MagicDraw Domain Specific Language (DSL).

“One solution does not fit every need. I especially like the way MagicDraw provides customizable perspectives in order to tailor the set of available features to the type of user. There is also great support for extending UML and the other UML-based standards to create domain-specific concepts.”

Tom Pender

Unlike in the open source market, our product compatibility is outstanding, with technology, language and domain extensions.

6. Competitive Price

The price is not always a major concern for the book authors. We leverage between expensive, often stagnant, non-flexible, old fashioned solutions and inexpensive, well known but in many aspects, fragile products. We maintain a reputation for the product with the best price for value.

“MagicDraw is at the top end in terms of functionality but in the middle of the price range; a very good value.”

Tom Pender

Further Steps

We are happy to provide products so widely and so well recognized. From the interview and survey we also received a list of very valuable requested improvements. This will help us to continue to deliver the highest standard of solutions in the future.

About the Author



Interview made by Saulius Pavalkis. No Magic Analyst for the MagicDraw platform, responsible for business and systems features. Saulius is also the global customer support manager, experienced in ensuring nonstop customer support for 10 000+ users with support centers spread in three different time zones.

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Let's keep in touch!

About Authors



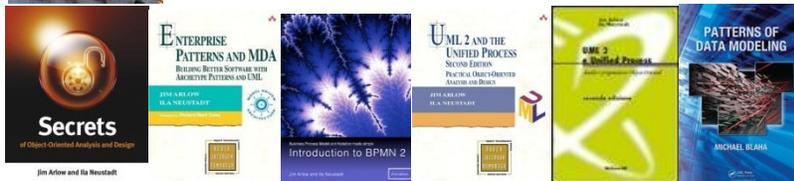
Pascal Roques

The most famous French UML books (50,000 copies sold), and first SysML book author in France. Longtime trainer and consultant. System engineer and modeling expert.



Jim Arlow

Independent author, trainer, consultant and researcher. His book - *"UML 2 and the Unified Process"* is one of the most popular and used as a standard textbook in hundreds of Universities worldwide.



Tom Pender

Author of one of the most popular UML books. Also Tom is author of several courses on UML, SysML, and UPDM. He has taught throughout the United States and in 12 other countries and has over 20 years of systems development experience in various industries.



Tim Weikiens

CEO of the German consulting company [oose GmbH](http://www.oose.com), is a member of OMG working groups about SysML and UML and has written sections of the SysML specification. He is involved

in the INCOSE MBSE activities and co-founder of the [MBSE Challenge Team SE^2 Telescope Modeling](http://www.model-based-systems-engineering.com). Model based system engineering blog and one of the most popular SysML books author: www.model-based-systems-engineering.com.

