

# Practice Workbench

## Overview

The Practice Workbench is an Eclipse-based development environment for composing, authoring, collaborating and managing software development practices and methods. Its comprehensive features and robust capabilities ensure a professional, intuitive and productive authoring and development experience for practice authors and method engineers allowing them to focus on the essential business value of the practices and methods they create. The Practice Workbench makes it easy to author and deploy practices based on the OMG standard Essence language and kernel.

## Key Features

- Easy creation and maintenance of practice elements through a model-based approach and dedicated forms
- Easy to describe practice element guidelines through a simple lightweight markup language and a supporting editor
- Straightforward to share practice results between users by the means of organized workspaces, projects, plug-ins; and built-in version control
- Adopts the Essence language and kernel for practice and method specifications, which is an OMG standard (<http://www.omg.org/spec/Essence/>)
- Supports composition of practices into streamlined methods for use by development teams
- Configurable preview and deployment facilities for practice element cards and guidelines; including multiple content and style settings to fine-tune practice visualizations
- Practice template creation and deployment that lets an organization configure and streamline its own practice development effort
- Localization by adapting practice descriptions to use different languages
- Innovative card-based representation; including overview cards for practice elements, as well as "Poker" cards, including alpha state cards
- Publication of methods, practices and kernels as browsable HTML web-sites
- Built-in installation and update mechanism for the Practice Workbench tool in itself; as well as for add-on software components and practices
- Provides a platform and web browser independent installation.

## Pre-defined Essential Practice Packs

The Practice Workbench supports the use of a set of high-quality Essential Practices. Essential Practices Packs are provided under separate licenses and are optional to download and install into the Practice Workbench.

Each Practice Pack includes one or more lightweight practices that can be adopted individually or composed together in any combination. Together these practices are designed to provide the real essentials – the things we need to get right on any software development project.

The Essential Practice Libraries include:

- Essential Unified Process (EssUP)
- Use Case 2.0
- Agile Essentials
- Agile at Scale Essentials

The Essential Practice Packs provide a perfect head-start when implementing a practice-based approach for your project or organization.

## System Requirements

- Microsoft Windows (32-bit or 64-bit), or Apple Mac OS X (Cocoa 64-bit). For supported versions of operating systems, please refer to the Eclipse information below and to the release notes.
- Java 6 Runtime Environment (JRE) or later (A JRE is bundled on the Windows platform).
- 200 MB free disk space (minimum).

Practice Workbench is based on Eclipse 3.7 (Indigo), and is therefore a Java application. Eclipse is tested on several target configurations; more information is provided at:

[http://www.eclipse.org/projects/project-plan.php?planurl=/eclipse/development/plans/eclipse\\_project\\_plan\\_3\\_7.xml#target\\_environments](http://www.eclipse.org/projects/project-plan.php?planurl=/eclipse/development/plans/eclipse_project_plan_3_7.xml#target_environments)

Please refer to the Practice Workbench Release Notes for more details and installation instructions.