

NEW FEATURES OF ARIS 7.2

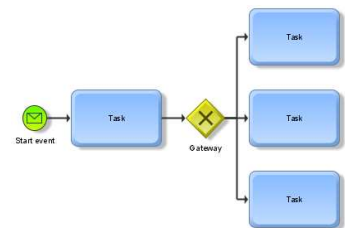
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ARIS 7.2 launched earlier this year bringing with it exciting possibilities for full roundtrip SOA, incorporating **WebMethods 8.2** with **BPMN 2.0** to provide a complete Business Process Management Suite. In this article, the innovative key features of ARIS 7.2 are explained, with the inclusion of a 10-minute demonstration video showcasing some of its new improved characteristics. The *Leonardo Consulting* technical consultants have tested ARIS 7.2, and professionally recommend this upgrade to any client interested in the new features.

Great news for BPMN Modellers

With the BPMN 2.0 Standards released by OMG in January 2011, ARIS 7.2 has renamed the following model types:



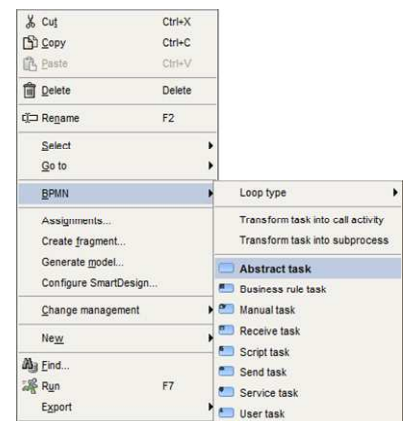
- BPMN process diagram (2.0 Beta) → BPMN process diagram (BPMN 2.0)
- BPMN collaboration diagram (2.0 Beta) → BPMN collaboration diagram (BPMN 2.0)
- BPMN conversation diagram (2.0 Beta) → BPMN conversation diagram (BPMN 2.0)
- BPMN allocation diagram (2.0 Beta) → BPMN allocation diagram (BPMN 2.0)

Leonardo Consulting recommends that users change to these new models to take advantage of the better support in the creation of BPMN diagrams, particularly if using 1.x. Upgrading from version 7.1 to 7.2 will automatically change all 2.0 Beta models to BPMN 2.0. Converting a BPMN model 1.x to 2.0 is achieved simply by copying objects over to a new model of type BPMN 2.0. However, a potential problem occurs when attempting to convert Pool objects to BPMN 2.0, as Pool objects are not supported on this model. A Pool object must be manually replaced with a Lane object and, provided this distinction is observed, the conversion to 2.0 is relatively simple. However, if multiple BPMN models exist and hinder an easy manual conversion, *Leonardo Consulting* technical consultants can readily investigate automation scripts that convert on your behalf, with consideration for your specific conventions.


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Special BPMN modelling support incorporates the following features:

- A mini toolbar for object symbols.
- A BPMN Menu on 'right click' for various objects →.
- The ability to transform function objects between Task, Call Activity and Subprocesses with a range of available symbols.
- The ability to transform the relationships (connections) between functions:
 - sequence flow → conditional sequence flow;
 - sequence flow → regular sequence flow; or
 - sequence flow → default sequence flow.



Right Click BPMN Menu

- Assign loop to functions – the ability to choose between standard loop, multi-instance parallel loop, or multi-instance sequential loop. The Loop Type object attribute will be automatically maintained, and the corresponding loop symbol will appear on the object.
- Specify types of Data object symbols – the ability to choose between Input or Output and Default or Collection type. These choices are symbol types that can be updated from the BPMN menu or Properties window.
- Subprocesses can be expanded/collapsed using the  button and it automatically creates the assignment to the lower level model.
- Call Activity functions incorporate a Global Reference that creates a hidden relationship to function object.
- Better lane object manipulation functionality:
 - when creating a horizontal lane (or pool in BPMN 1.x), the Name attribute is automatically rotated and displayed vertically;
 - increasing/decreasing number of lanes using special modelling functionality;
 - changing the size of lanes while objects are sitting within the lane, and keeping the object layout.
- A new semantic check is called 'Validation of a BPMN model (BPMN 2.0)' is available to check BPMN models (BPMN 2.0) for errors in detail.

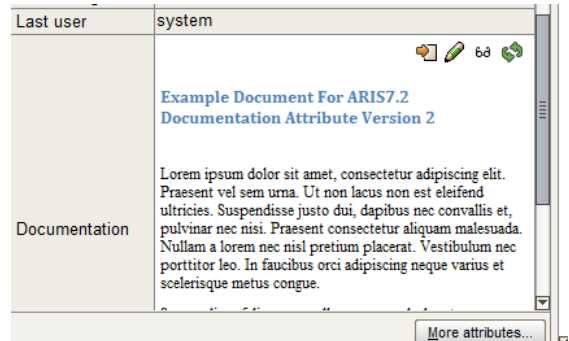




The special BPMN modelling support is available in the following model types:



- BPMN process diagram (BPMN 2.0) and (BPMN 1.x)
- BPMN collaboration diagram (BPMN 2.0)

New Documentation Attribute

The new attribute Documentation allows users to save a DOC or DOCX type file to the item (model, object, etc.). However, unlike the link attribute, a cropped section of the attribute can be viewed within the attribute window. A copy of the document is saved to the server under the name of the model or object. ARIS 7.2 provides the options to view or edit



the document. MS Word documents can be inserted into the Documentation attribute by selecting the Insert icon  and selecting the file from a local directory. Select the View icon  to open the document in MS Word as read only.

Selecting the Edit icon  will open the document in MS Word with the ability to update and save back to the server. Select the Refresh icon  on the Documentation attribute to see the changes. The main advantage of this is that it can even hold documents with advanced formatting and images. Unfortunately, content in the Documentation attribute is not visible through Business Publisher with Service Release 1 without customisation. The service release available from November 2011 includes standards that will make the Documentation attribute content visible to users through Business Publisher.

All of this means there are now three options for using documents in relation to defining objects and models:

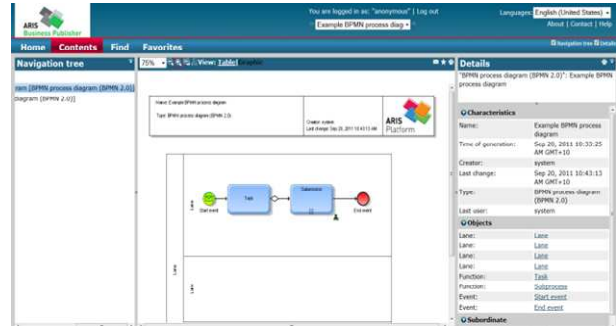
1. Directly into an attribute with limited formatting (such as font, bold, and bullet points).
2. Save a document to the Documentation attribute – which is ideal if there are images or advanced formatting elements within the document (it must be an MS Word document).
3. Storing the document within a Document Management System (DMS) and linking to the model or object using one of the link type attributes.

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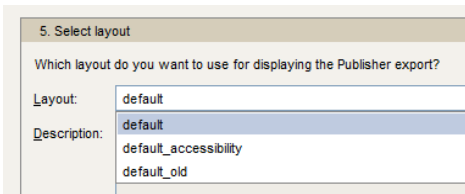
Business Publisher Enhancements

The Business Publisher server for ARIS 7.2 is installed with Tomcat 6 and the database schema has been updated.

In addition to the standard default layout, ARIS 7.2 offers a second default layout that enables users to create an export that will aid Business Publisher users with disabilities. This layout, in combination with voice control and screen reader, will assist users with visual impairment, for example. The **accessibility default layout** provides adjustable frames and hotkeys for all interface items new from the previous versions, but not included in the standard 7.2 default layout. However, it is missing the Matrix and Evaluation capabilities of the standard default layout. Clients will need to create two separate exports to take advantage of both layouts. Leonardo's technical consultants suggest that clients customise Business Publisher by providing an additional link to the same model in the other version. This is something *Leonardo Consulting* can help you accomplish.



ARIS Business Publisher - Accessibility



You may already know that since the last service release for 7.1 (7.1 524795) ARIS Publisher can at last export the **matrix model type**. This is additional to the existing function that allows you to create a dynamic matrix based on pre-defined elements (e.g. Function and Data). Some of our customers have been waiting for this feature for a while now.

Monitoring Business Publisher Use

Are you interested in monitoring who is logging into the ARIS Business Publisher, accessing the models, and viewing the attributes of certain objects? ARIS has the capacity to record all this activity including:

- Logging on and off:
 - Date and time
 - Name and user attributes
 - Database export accessed
 - Language, filter
 - Failed attempts to login
 - Admin logins
- Model and Object Access:
 - Date and time
 - Model name and type
 - BP export name
 - File path
 - Details of the user

Data files can be used to generate customised reports with help from a *Leonardo Consulting* custom script. We have a standard report already available, or clients can request to customise the report to their own requirements. Reports can be run whenever the client requires up-to-date information on the use of their Business Publisher.

Furthermore, reports can provide full names of users and any other recorded user attributes. The reports can focus around the *who* (gives details on what the user has accessed) and/or the *what* (gives details on all the accesses made to a model or object). Monitoring reports are not available if Business Publisher is accessed using 'Anonymous' login only. Where users access Business Publisher with their regular username and password by using an LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) connection can still utilise these monitoring reports – this has been done successfully for *Leonardo Consulting* clients in the past.

In summary, with Business Publisher Monitoring available, ARIS can create informative reports detailing dates and/or times, users' names, the duration specific users were logged in, model and object names and types, failed login attempts, the number of administrator accesses, and more.

WebMethods 8.2

One of the main drives of the ARIS 7.2 release is its unique integration of WebMethods 8.2 into the ARIS platform. This allows for the capability to readily translate existing ARIS models into logical, execution-oriented BPMN models. As a result of these improvements, it is now possible to make roundtrip changes between ARIS and WebMethods, without losing data, by simply transferring models to WebMethods for modification before implementation, and *vice versa*.

Roundtrip: *Where the same process model is used throughout the entire BPM lifecycle, from design to implementation and automation, to monitoring, and back to design. It also includes governance capabilities to ensure that changes made at any stage are reflected throughoutⁱ*

CentraSite, the comprehensive repository for business services, has been further integrated into ARIS 7.2. Acting as the Business Service Repository for SOA and BPM that eliminates re-work, this improvement assures consistent quality, and keeps the services aligned with the needs of the client's business. New services can be requested and implemented – while ,at the same time, existing services can be updated, refined and re-implemented.

While ARIS has claimed in the past to be the only BPM tool on the market to readily support the unique standards for IBM, Oracle, and Software AG, this is the first ARIS release that demonstrates beyond doubt that a full roundtrip is indeed possible. *Leonardo Consulting* has hosted various roadshows in the past to showcase the integration of Oracle BPA (Oracle's version of ARIS), and Oracle's Fusion Middleware Platform. Accordingly, *Leonardo Consulting* has a proven track record in the implementation of successful Oracle-based roundtrip projects for their clientele. With newfound integration now possible between ARIS and WebMethods, *Leonardo Consulting* is able to draw upon previously formulated methodology to support Software AG's WebMethods-based projects.

ARIS Collaboration Feature

ARIS 7.2 contains the functionality for users to workshop and collaborate on certain models together. There is now the capacity to hold virtual team meetings and model collaboratively—all participants can see and comment on the relevant models at the same time. Users can work together and simultaneously create, check, update and comment on models. Moderators can invite participants, moderate the sessions and allow participants read or write access to their models. There is the capacity for real-time online meeting support for greater modelling collaboration with chat, whiteboard, and videoconferencing options. Clients with staff in different locations (nationally or internationally) can use this feature to work as a team within the ARIS process models.

MashZone Enhancements

MashZone enables users to create Mashups (Dashboards) for evaluating a range of data. It gives users the ability to gain better insights and aids the preparation and presentation of key performance indicators associated with decision-making processes. Mashups can be reused and shared with other users. *Leonardo Consulting* Senior Consultant, Andreas Havliza, wrote a newsletter article in January 2011 that explores MashZone: “MashZone – an easy way to illustrate performance”.

MashZone has the following enhancements available in 7.2 as report scripts:

- Output hierarchy (for MashZone)
- Output object information (for MashZone)
- Export database content (for MashZone and BI Tools)
- ARIS Strategy Scorecard to create a BSC Scorecard in MashZone

Upgrade Now!

With the release of ARIS 7.2 by Software AG in July 2011, and the subsequent Service Pack 7.2 577476 in early September, *Leonardo Consulting* continues to offer quality local technical support to clients using ARIS. *Leonardo Consulting* offers services to help you upgrade from any previous version and customise to suit your individual business needs.

For more information on the new features of ARIS 7.2 and how they can help achieve your Business Process Management goals, please contact [Leonardo Consulting](#).

About the author

Brooke Baker recently joined Leonardo Consulting after five years working for the Queensland Government. She was an Information Systems Analyst within the Department of Justice and Attorney General and a Business Analyst at the Department of Community Safety. She has spent over four years as an ARIS Administrator/Architect.

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