Visual Paradigm

How to Define Project Terms with Glossary?

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System specification plays a significant role in projects which helps your team and you to understand the software system. However, there is a hidden risk in the specification document, that is, a single term can have different meaning under different conditions. To avoid having ambiguity, Visual Paradigm supports defining domain terms for your project as glossary. By defining glossary, team members can have a clear understanding on domain terms. In this tutorial, we will show you how to define domain terms as glossary, and to produced a document of glossary that facilitates information sharing.

Creating Terms

There are two ways to create domain terms in Visual Paradigm.

From Glossary Grid

To create terms from glossary grid:

1.   Select **Modeling > Glossary** from the application toolbar to create a glossary grid.

2.   Click on the **New Term (Insert)** button in toolbar to create a term.
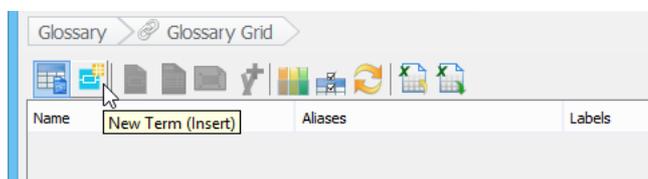
3. Enter the name of the term and press **Enter** to confirm.

Name	Aliases	Labels
car|		

4. Right-click on the term and select **Open Term Editor** from the popup menu.

Name	Aliases	Labels
car		

- 📄 Open Term Editor
- 🖼 New Term
- 📄 Open car Specification...
- Select in Tree
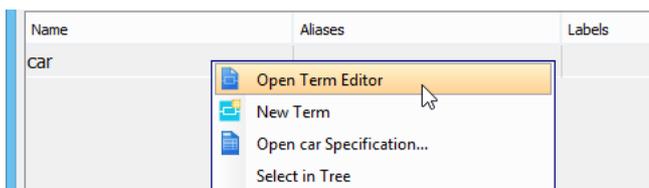
5. Enter the definition of the term.

Definition:

B ▾ ≡ ▾ ≡ ▾ F ▾ ▦ ▾ 🖼 🖋 ✚ ▾ 🖼 ▾ 🔍

A road vehicle, typically with four wheels, powered by an internal combustion engine.

From project content

Besides creating the term one by one in glossary grid, you can also extract terms from project content. To do this:

1. Highlight the textual content from the name and description of any model elements, or from the conversation, conversation and scenario of any user stories.

2. Right-click on the highlighted text and select **Add %TERM_NAME% to Glossary**.

| Conversation | Confirmation | Scenario (2) | Storyboard | Design | References | Description |

Normal scenario
1.Browse vehicle and availability from catalog 2.Select the vehicle....

Login fail
1.Browse vehicle and availability from catalog. 2.Select the vehicle....

1. Browse vehicle and availability from catalog
2. Select the vehicle.
3. Login to rental system.
4. Specify the rental period.
5. Specify the collection and return depot.
6. Specify payment method.
7. Review rental summary.
8. Confirm transaction.
9. Printout confirmation receipt.

- Add "confirmation receipt" to Glossary
- Change to System Response
- ⬅ Step   Enter
- 🔍 Add Extension   Shift+Enter
- Add Control   ▸

After that, the highlighted text will become a term and you can define its definition in **Term Editor**.

Navigate from Model Content to Terms

You can easily navigate from the highlighted glossary terms in whatever part of your project back to the glossary grid by pressing **Ctrl + Click** on it.
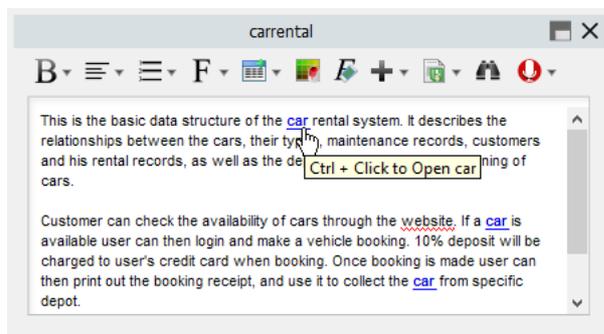
The definition of the term will also be shown when you place your mouse pointer over term in the conversation, confirmation and scenario of user story.
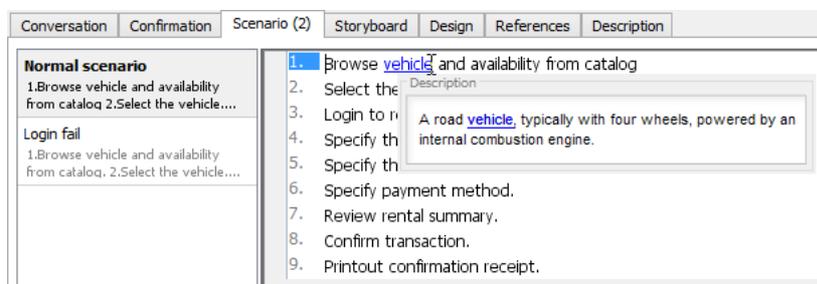
Defining Alias for Domain Terms

Sometimes, you may have multiple terms meaning the same concept in your project. Instead of defining multiple terms on the same concept, you can pick one as the domain term and put the others as alias of the term. This imply all those terms share the same meaning of your business. To define alias for your terms:

1.   Double click on the term to open **Term Editor**.

2.   Click the **Add** button next to **Aliases** field.
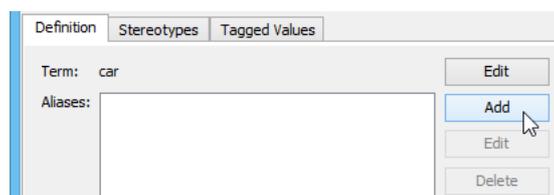
3.   Fill in the name of the alias and click **OK** to confirm.
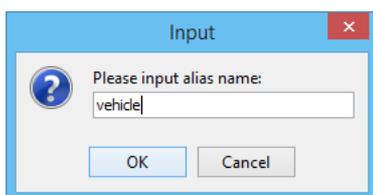
After that, the aliased terms will also be highlighted in your project content and you can navigate back to the original term just in the same way as the standard terms.

Defining Variation for Domain Terms

In real life, a term could have certain variation, i.e. singular and plural forms, which have exactly the same meaning. In Visual Paradigm, you can define such variation as the other forms of the domain term. To define variation for your terms:

1.   Select the term in glossary grid.

2.   Click the **Open Specification...** button on top of the glossary grid.
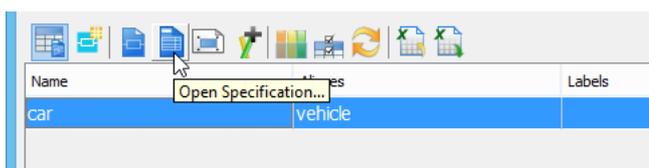
3.   Click the **Edit Other Forms** button.
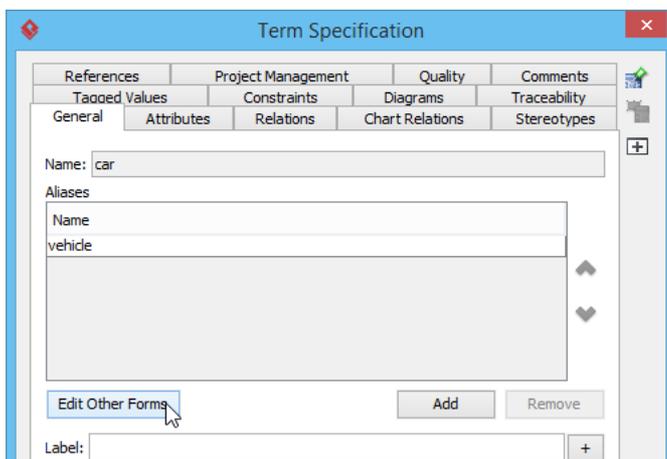
4. Click the **Add** button below **Other forms**.
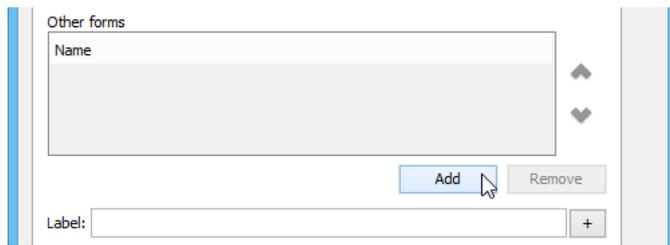
5. Fill in the variation of the term and press **Enter** to confirm.
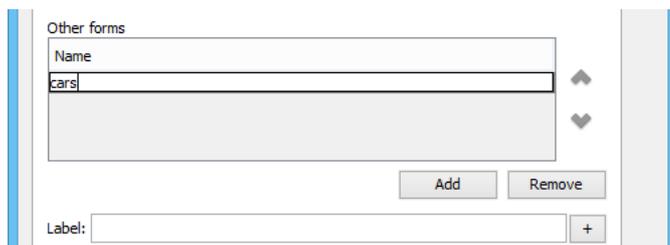
6. Click the **OK** button to close the specification window.

After that, the alternative form will also be highlighted in your project content and you can navigate back to the original term just in the same way as the standard terms.
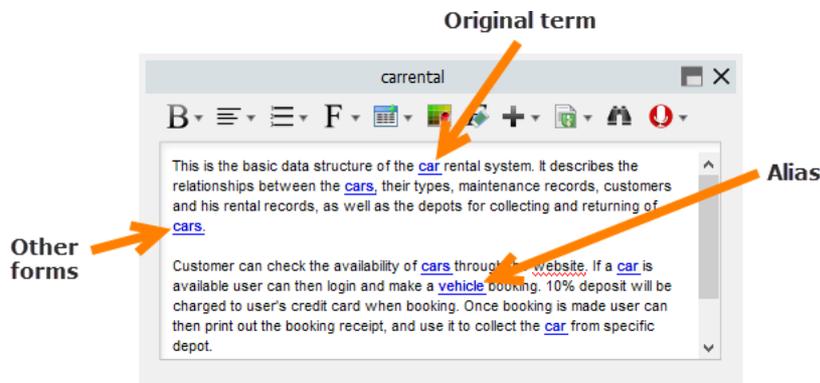

Generate Domain Terms Specification

Once you finished defining the domain terms for your project, you can then generate a document of glossary and distribute it to your teammates.

1. Select **Tools > Doc. Composer** from the application toolbar.

2. Choose **Build from Scratch**.
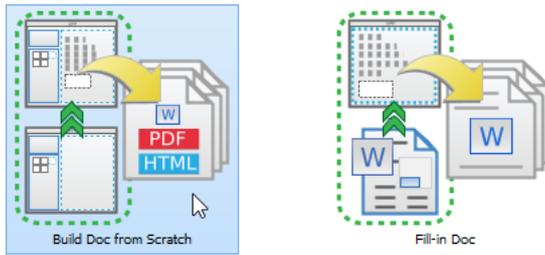
3. Select *Glossary Grid* from the **Diagram Navigator**.
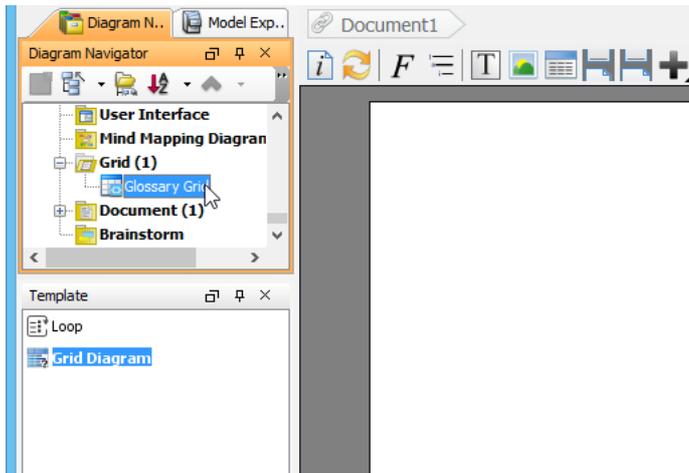
4. Drag out the **Grid Diagram** template from **Template Pane** and drop it onto the document.
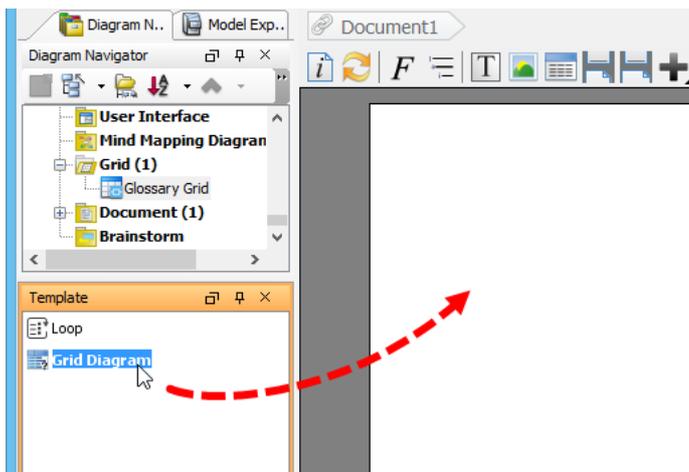
5.   Select **Export > PDF Document...** at the top right corner of [Doc. Composer](#).
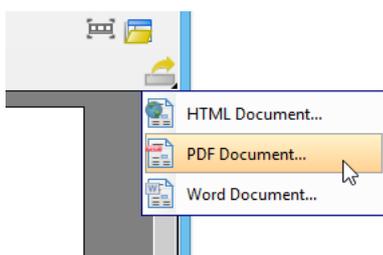
6.   Fill in the **Title** for the document and specify the **Output Path**.
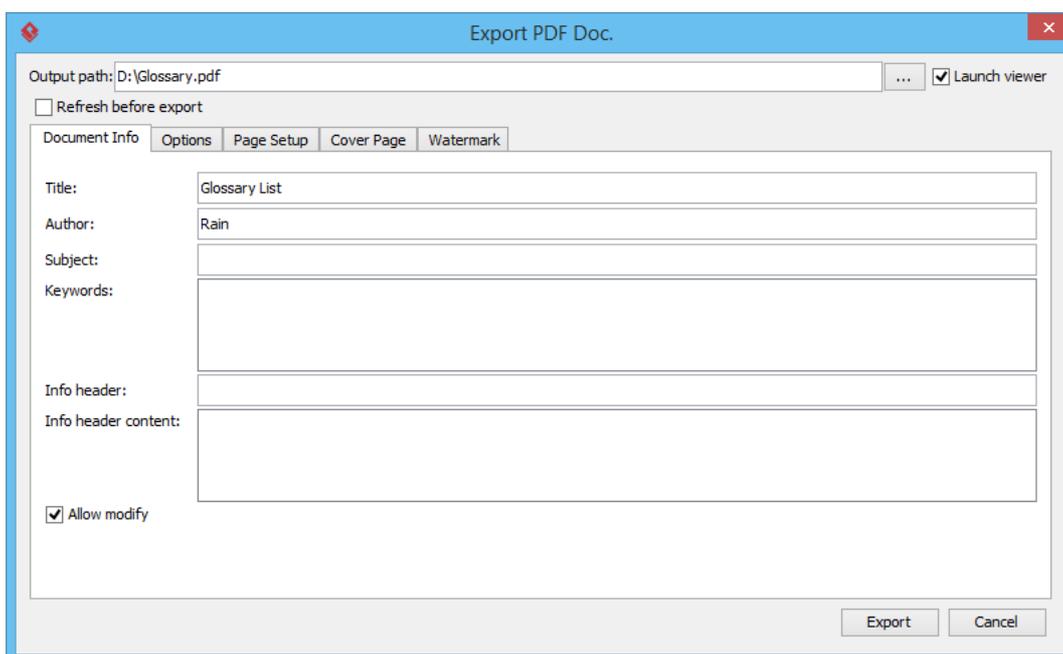
7.   Switch to **Cover Page** tab, keep **Generate default cover page** checked and fill in the **Title**.
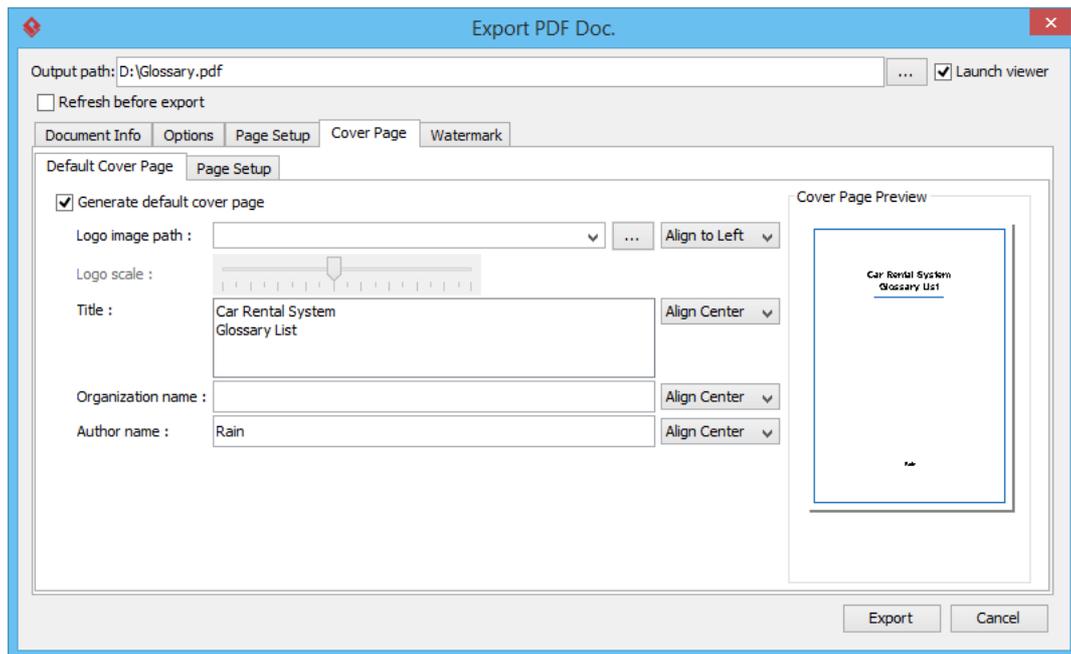
8.   Click **Export** at bottom right to generate a PDF document.

What this video in Youtube
How to Define Domain Terms with Glossary

Related Links

•   Share Glossary Terms between Projects

•   Build a Comprehensive Glossary from Domain Class Model

Visual Paradigm

Visual Paradigm home page
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