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PlantUML

- <https://plantuml.com/en/starting>
- <https://plantuml.com/en/activity-diagram-beta>
- Online Diagram Editor: <https://www.planttext.com>
- Links
 - PlantUML for Eclipse
 - <https://www.dokuwiki.org/plugin:plantumlparser>
 - <https://real-world-plantuml.com/>
 - <https://crashedmind.github.io/PlantUMLHitchhikersGuide/index.html>
 - <https://crashedmind.github.io/PlantUMLHitchhikersGuide/layout/layout.html>
 - <https://www.augmentedmind.de/2021/01/17/plantuml-layout-tutorial-styles/>
 - <https://marketplace.atlassian.com/search?query=plantuml>
 - [Visual Studio Code has some plugins available](#) that provide syntax highlighting, code snippets and live preview when editing PlantUML code
 - recommendation: [jebbs PlantUML](#)

Why Use PlantUML?

First of all: I'm not really a big fan of UML Diagrams and of documentation that exists just because this was part of a contract...

But sometimes a potentially simple diagram really may help to understand your code.

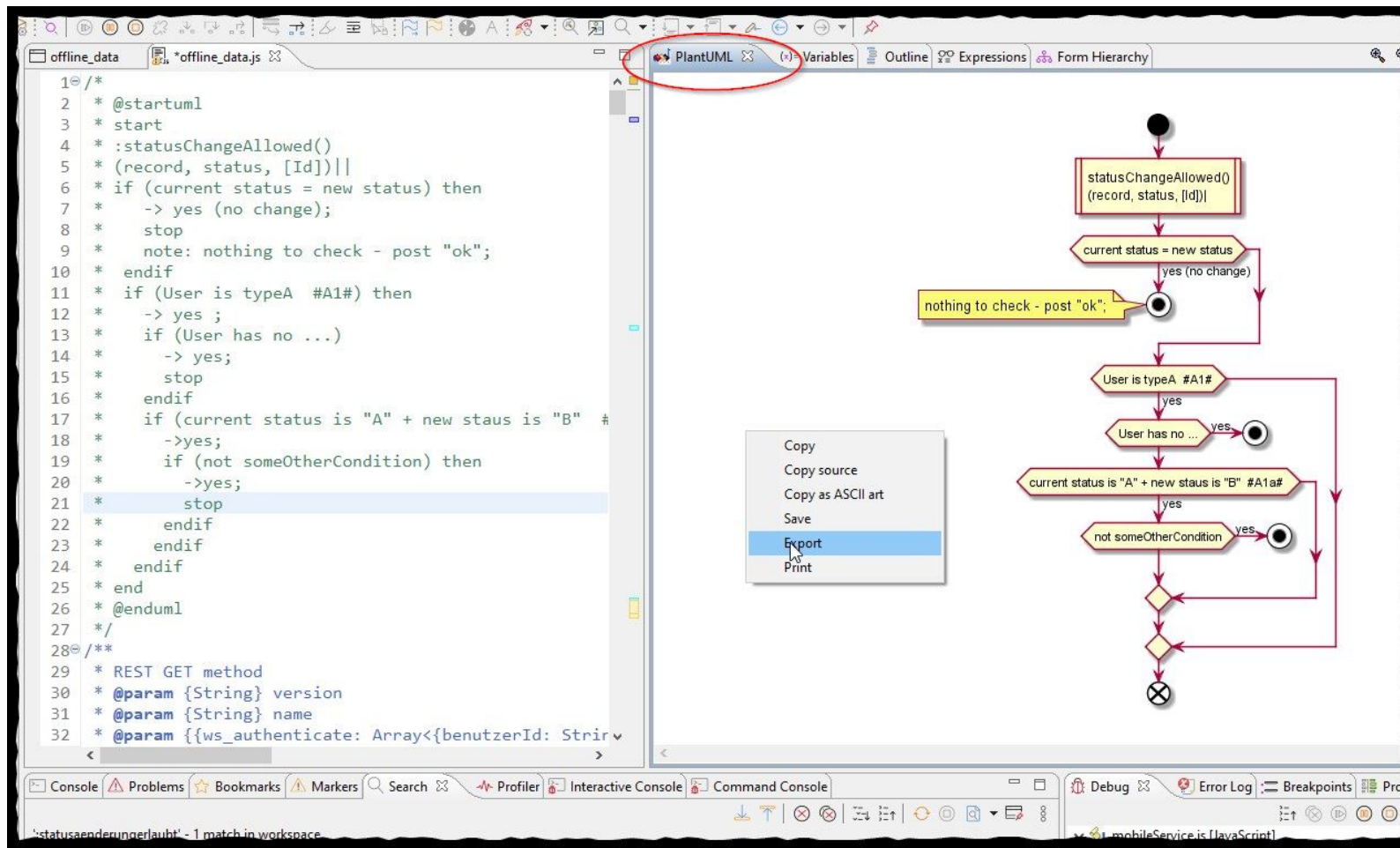
In this context simple means not to focus too much on using the “correct” arrows and lines out of the available 5×3 types.. 

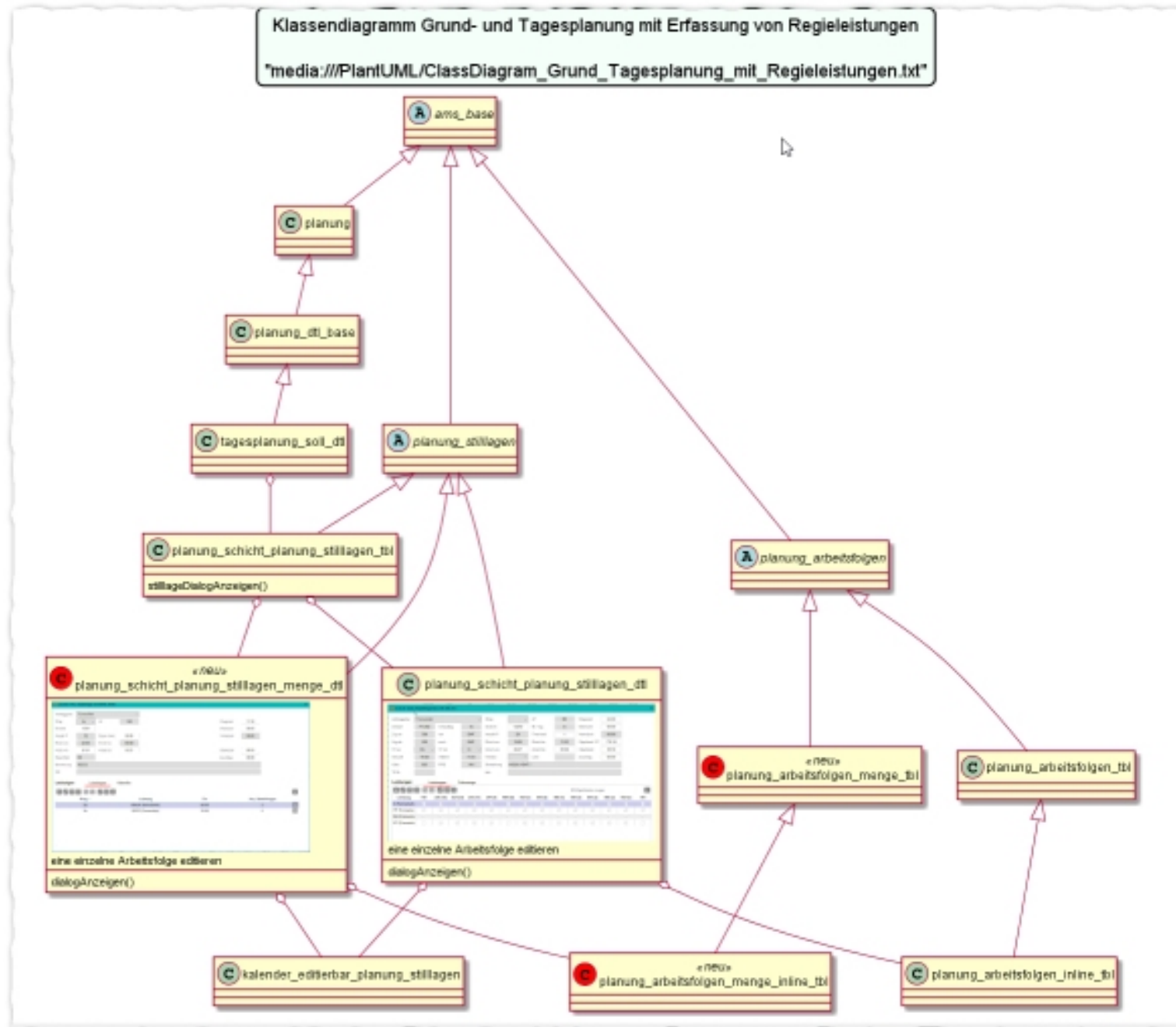
As soon as you start to create diagrams with a tool like Visio, Powerpoint, Excel... you are getting into trouble when you try to

- keep this in sync with your code changes because these tools and their output are completely separated from your dev environment.
- keep track of changes. Version compare doesn't work well for most of them.
- share the diagram definitions with others - some people don't have Powerpoint or Visio available.
- publish the graphics to a website without manual interaction.

PlantUML is open source and can help you to create diagrams which visualize complicated parts of your project by **defining diagrams in text form** - optionally **inside your sourcecode**. It may help you to make it less painful to maintain and **use** this documentation and to keep it in synch with your code base.

There's lot of software that uses PlantUML for visualization and some of them are able to display your PlantUML code via Plugins so that you can re-use your diagrams in a more "formal" documentation e.g. in Jira/Confluence, Dokuwiki, Word, ...

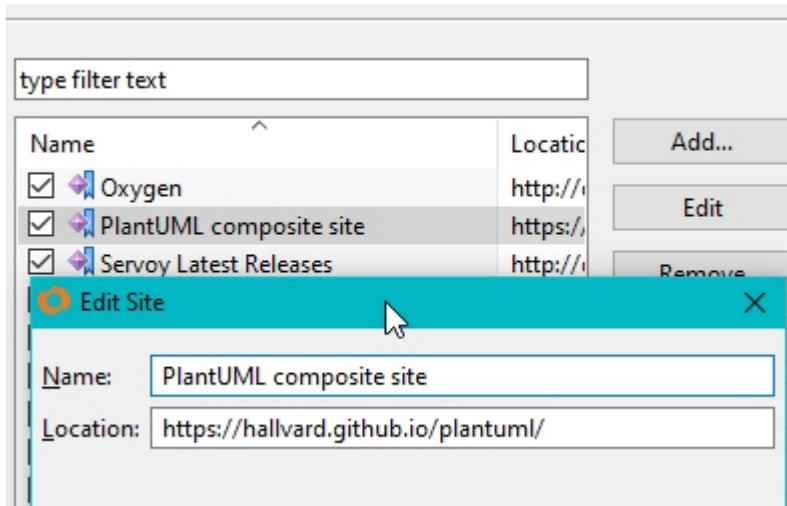


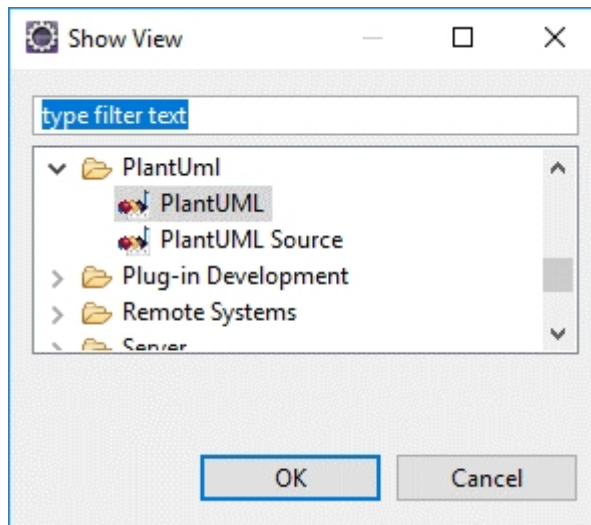


PlantUML for Eclipse

Infos about the PlantUML Eclipse Plugin: <https://plantuml.com/en/eclipse>

Installation: Help > Install New Software ... <http://hallvard.github.io/plantuml>



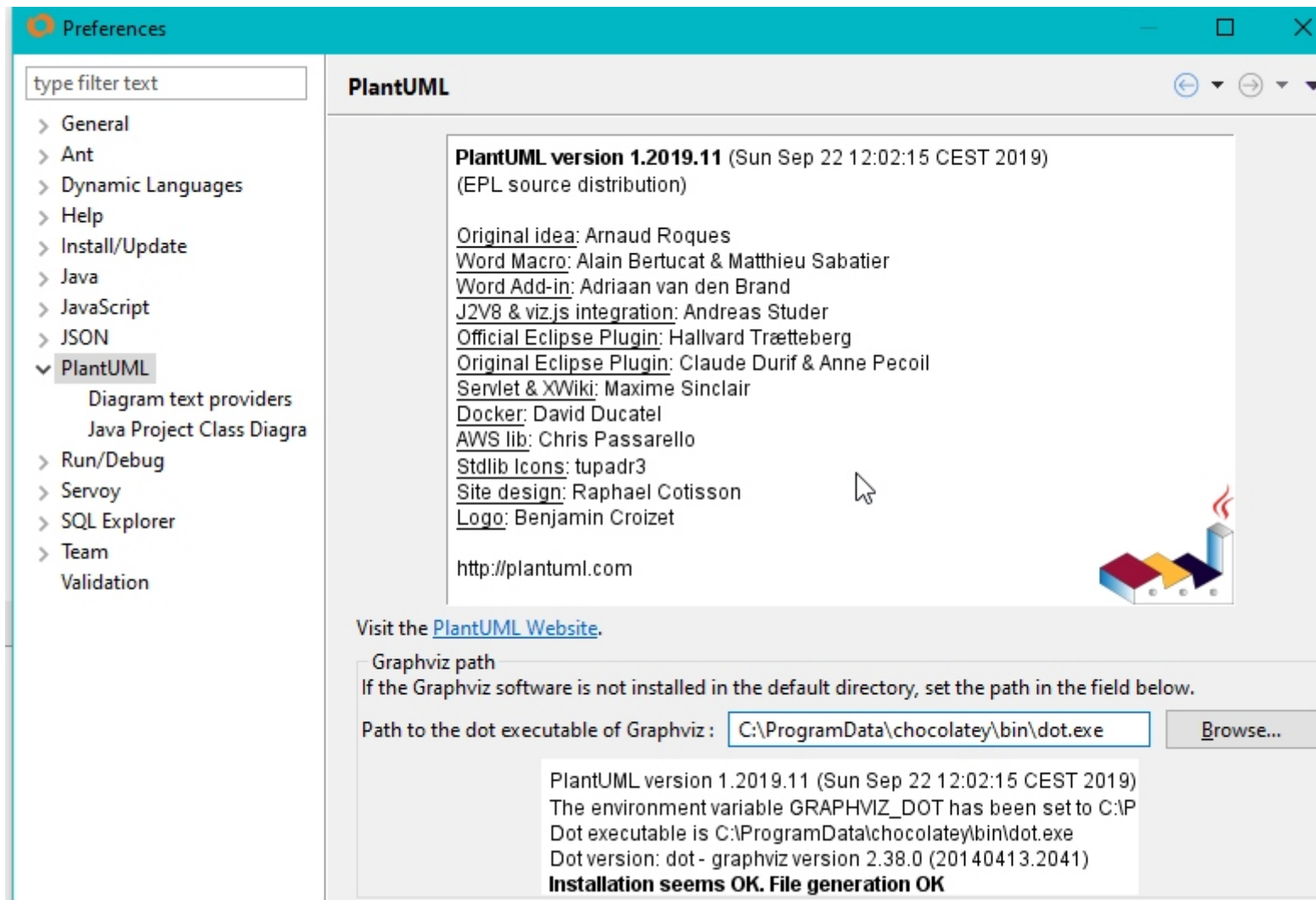


If you write some comment in PlantUML language, the corresponding diagram is automatically displayed. If you have several comments with diagrams, it displays the one the cursor is in.

You need these things to run PlantUML:

- Java
- Graphviz (optional only if you need sequence diagrams and activity (beta) diagrams)
Most simple installation on Windows: chocolatey install graphviz

In the Preferences window you might need to set up the GraphViz path:



PlantUML and Servoy / Tips

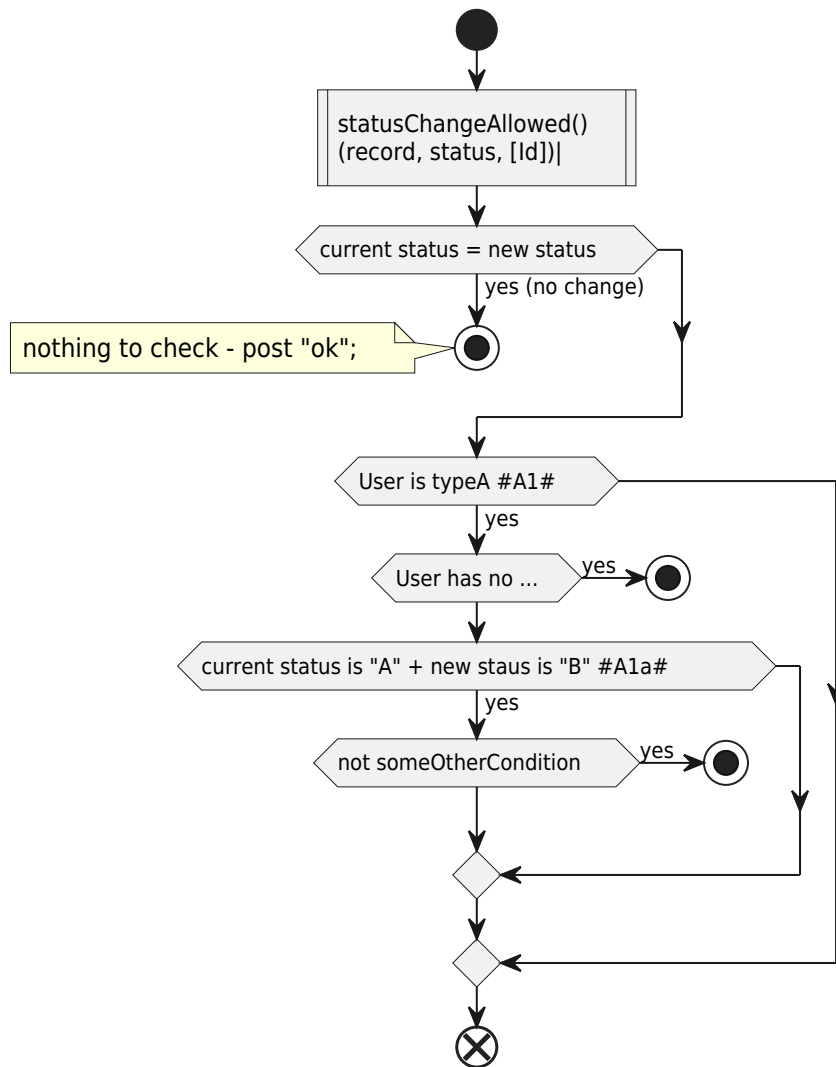
Link your Code to Diagram Items

Put tags like “*#A1a#*” into your sourcecode **and** in your PlantUML definitions:

- this makes it much easier to communicate with others (customers?) “what *IF Status = open* are you talking about?” (see below)
- it's easy to see there's documentation describing this possibly complicated part of your sourcecode
- increases the probability of keeping this documentation up-to-date

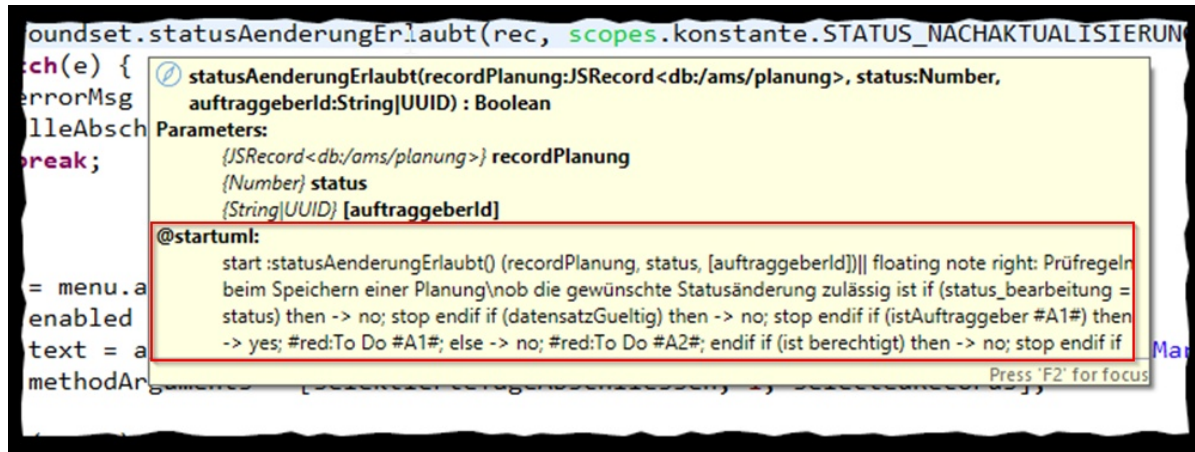
```
@startuml
start
:statusChangeAllowed()
(record, status, [Id])||
  if (current status = new status) then
    -> yes (no change);
    stop
    note: nothing to check - post "ok";
  endif
  if (User is typeA #A1#) then
    -> yes ;
    if (User has no ...)
      -> yes;
      stop
    endif
    if (current status is "A" + new status is "B" #A1a# )
      ->yes;
      if (not someOtherCondition) then
        ->yes;
        stop
      endif
    endif
  endif
end
@enduml
```

Appears as:



Where to store it

The @startuml ... @enduml tags can be stored in any text file. They even can be part of your js files:

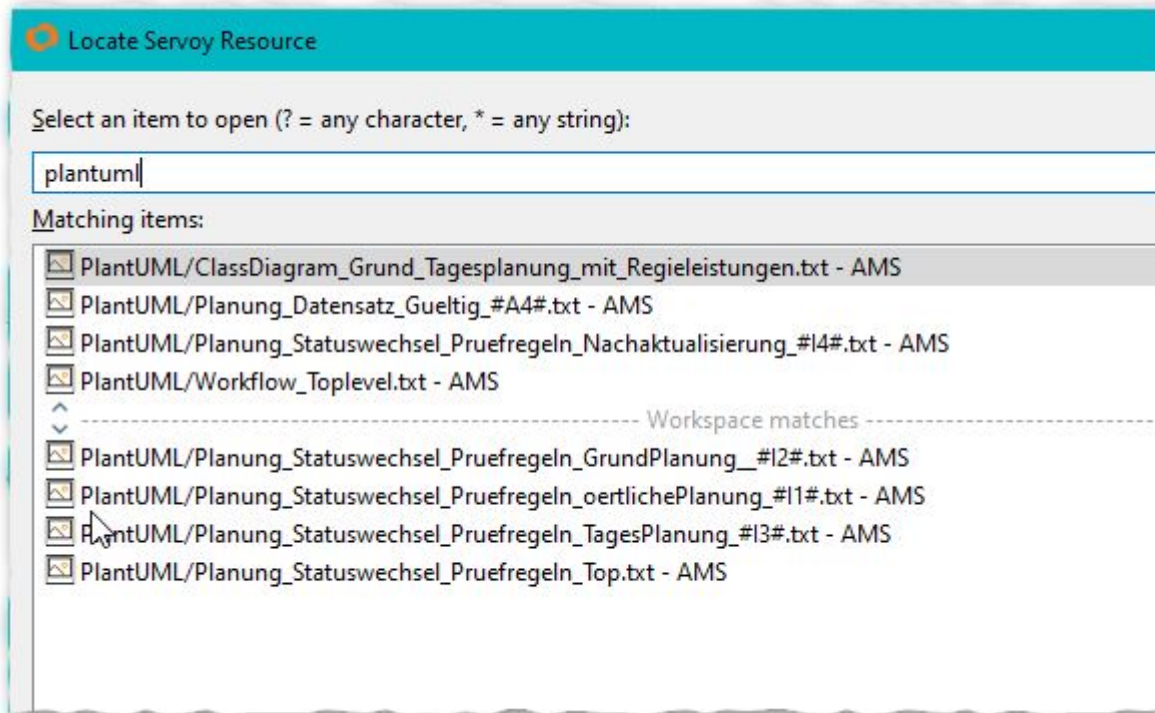


Attention: If you use method headers to store @startuml ... @enduml tags, this will appear inside the context help

If your diagrams get larger or if you want to run a bulk update for all diagram images, use txt files separated from your js files and possibly split them into smaller chunks:

e.g. medias:///PlantUML/myValidation#A1#.txt

When using a separate sub-folder for all your diagrams, the "Locate Servoy Resource" search (shift+alt+k) might be really helpful:



Bulk Update the Images for all Diagrams

The PlantUML application (to be installed locally) can process the contents of a directory and generate diagrams for all PlantUML definitions found in there.

This might be a good reason to have all diagram definitions to be stored in a separate/dedicated folder.

Usefull Snippets

Formatted titles

```
* @startuml
* skinparam titleBorderRoundCorner 15
* skinparam titleBorderThickness 2
* skinparam titleBorderColor black
* skinparam titleBackgroundColor MintCream
* title Validation rules when saving a customer\nDiagram
definition:\n<b>media:///PlantUML/customer_validation.txt</b>
* @enduml
```

Appears as:

**Validation rules when saving a customer
Diagram definition:
media:///PlantUML/customer_validation.txt**

Sprites

The locally installed PlantUML provides the tool “Sprite Window” which converts an image which has been copied to the clipboard into a text representation so that it can be used within diagrams



Diagram definition:


```
title <$demo>
end
@enduml
```

From:
<http://localhost/db/> - **DB Servoy Wiki**

Permanent link:
<http://localhost/db/doku.php?id=servoy:plantuml>



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