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FIPA-OS Overview

http://fipa-os.sf.net



Schedule

- FIPA-OS in a Nutshell
- FIPA-OS & emorphia
- FIPA-OS Features
- Who is using FIPA-OS?
- How to use FIPA-OS



FIPA-OS in a Nutshell

- A 'reference implementation' of the FIPA open standard for agent interoperability
 - Enables adoption of FIPA without the need to implement the specifications
- Open Source. Royalty Free for commercial use.
- Component-based toolkit enabling rapid development of FIPA compliant agents.
- Supports the majority of the FIPA Experimental specifications
- Continuously improved as a managed Open Source project
- Developed using sound software engineering principals, e.g.
 - Design Patterns
 - Coding standard
 - Software reuse
- Started in August 1999, 14+ formal releases to date (40,000+ downloads)
- Easy to use and extend



FIPA-OS & emorphia

- emorphia manage the Open Source project
 - Generate formal releases
- FIPA-OS is developed/tested by emorphia & a growing list of contributors
 - See http://fipa-os.sf.net/contributors.htm for details
 - Defined process for contributors
- emorphia employ the initial developers of FIPA-OS from Nortel Networks



FIPA-OS Features

- API available for JDK1.1 and JDK1.2 (100% pure Java)
- Agent deployment for small footprint devices and PCs
- Integration with commercial database & messaging solutions
- Integration with JESS
- Suite of developer tools:
 - Automatic installer
 - Configuration Wizard
 - Agent Loader (manage start-up/shutdown of agents)
 - MessageSpy (provides graphical representation of messages exchanged)
 - IOTestAgent (manual debug tool for agent comms)
 - Task generator (reduces coding required)
 - DF GUI (visualises registered agents)
- Comprehensive documentation, including:
 - Developer's Guide
 - Range of Tutorials
- Runtime FIPA platform, including AMS & DF



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Who is using FIPA-OS?

- Numerous European projects, including:
 - CRUMPET
 - SHUFFLE
 - PATTERNS
 - NGNi SMONET
 - AgentCities
- Commercial organisations, including:
 - MITRE
 - Jefferson labs
 - Fiat
 - emorphia

- Universities around the world, including
 - University of Helsinki
 - University of Saskatchewan
 - University of Ottawa
 - Carleton University
 - Nottingham Trent, UK
 - QM-UL, UK
 - Czech Technical University
 - Unersidad Conplutense de Madrid
 - Informatics Institute of Computer Studies
 - Saarland University
 - University of York

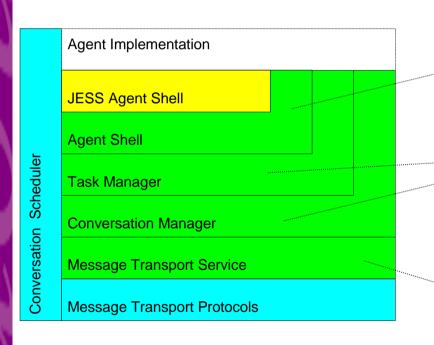


How to use FIPA-OS

- 1. Download from fipa-os.sf.net
- 2. Run the Installer
- 3. Use Task Generator tool to produce skeleton tasks
 - All agents extend the AgentShell through the implementation of Tasks
- 4. Complete the domain specific tasks (Java coding)
- 5. Run & test your agent system with the Agent Loader



Developing agents & services



Specify the agent architecture, agent organisation & roles

Specify service Interface & Implementation

Handle, parse & transmit ACL messages

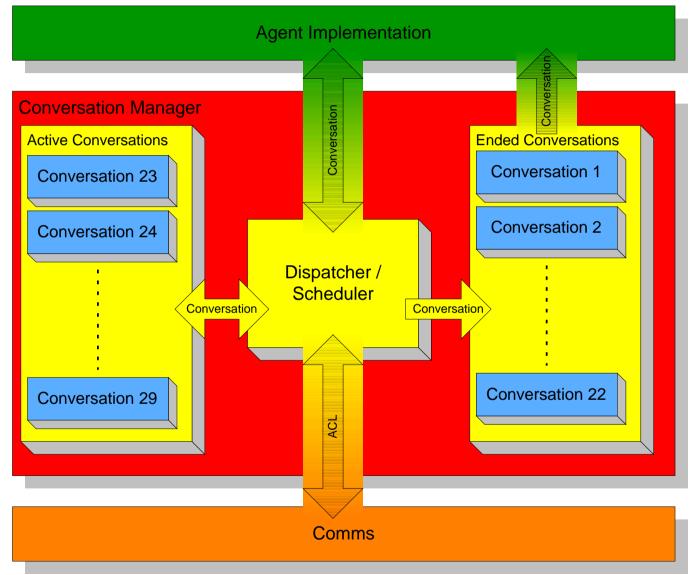
Set transport encoding, content languages

Support mandatory services: Naming, directory, transport

Interlink agent platforms and services

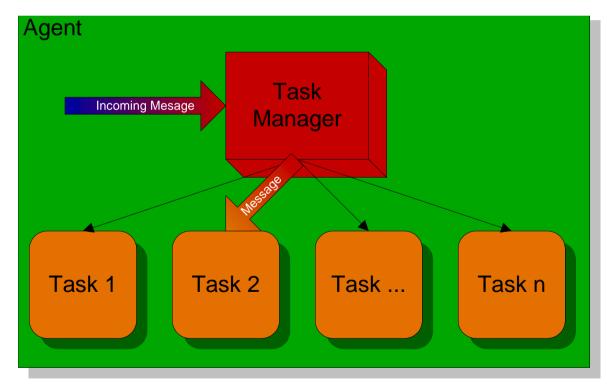


FIPA-OS Conversation Manager



FIPA-OS: Task Manager

- Separates agent 'tasks' into distinct objects
- Messages are automatically routed to the correct state
- Inter-task events are possible





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Downloads & documentation available from:

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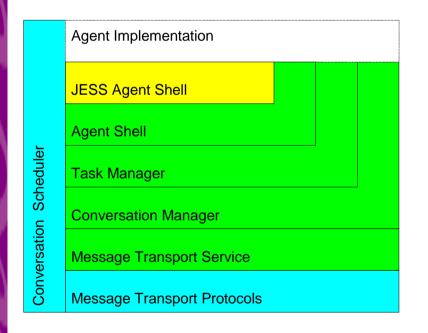


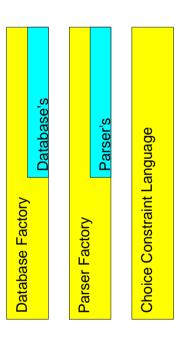
Backup

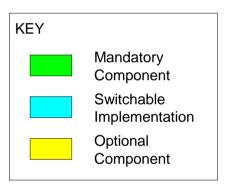


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High Level Architecture of FIPA-OS Agent Shell

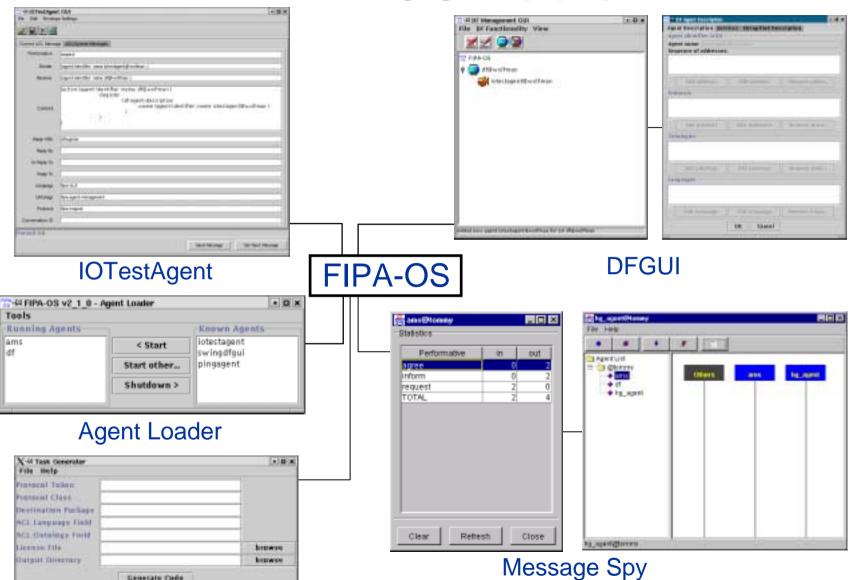








FIPA-OS Tools



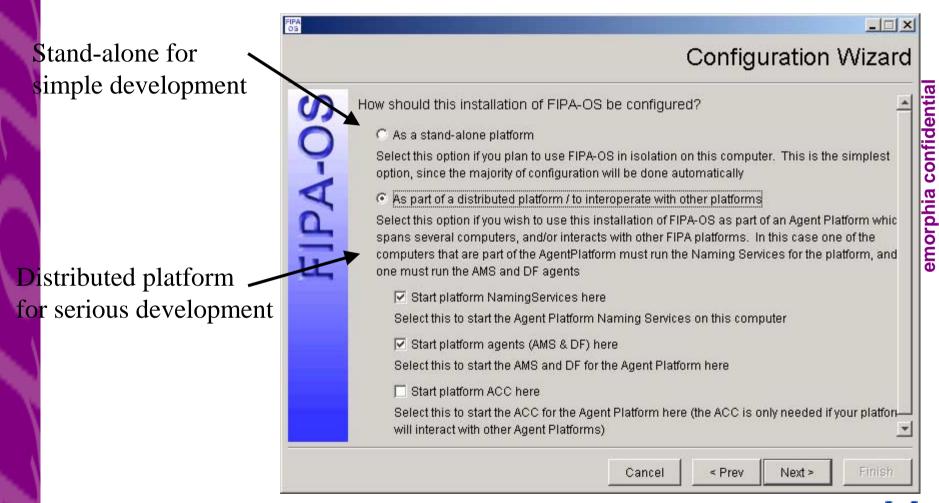
Task Generator

Generate Code

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Configuration Wizard





Starting Up

- By starting the Agent Loader, the platform agents (DF, AMS) will start up
- New agents can be started by selecting them in the right list, and clicking "Start"
- Unlisted agents can be started by selecting "Start other..."

Exercise

- Install and Configure FIPA-OS using the Wizard for a 'stand alone platform'
- Install the Tutorial agents
- Start-up the platform using the AgentLoader (StartFIPA-OS)

