

aras community event

2010 International Conference

Packaging Workshop

Peter Schroer

www.aras.com



Hosted by:

MOTOROLA

1295 E. Algonquin Road
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Welcome



Workshop Goals

- Understand what Packaging is and how it works
- Share some Best Practices approaches

Agenda



1. Background Information: Customizing Processes
2. What is Packaging
3. Packaging Process
4. Reasons for Packaging
5. Best Practices Hints
6. Trouble-Shooting
7. Aras Community Projects Web Site
8. Additional Resources

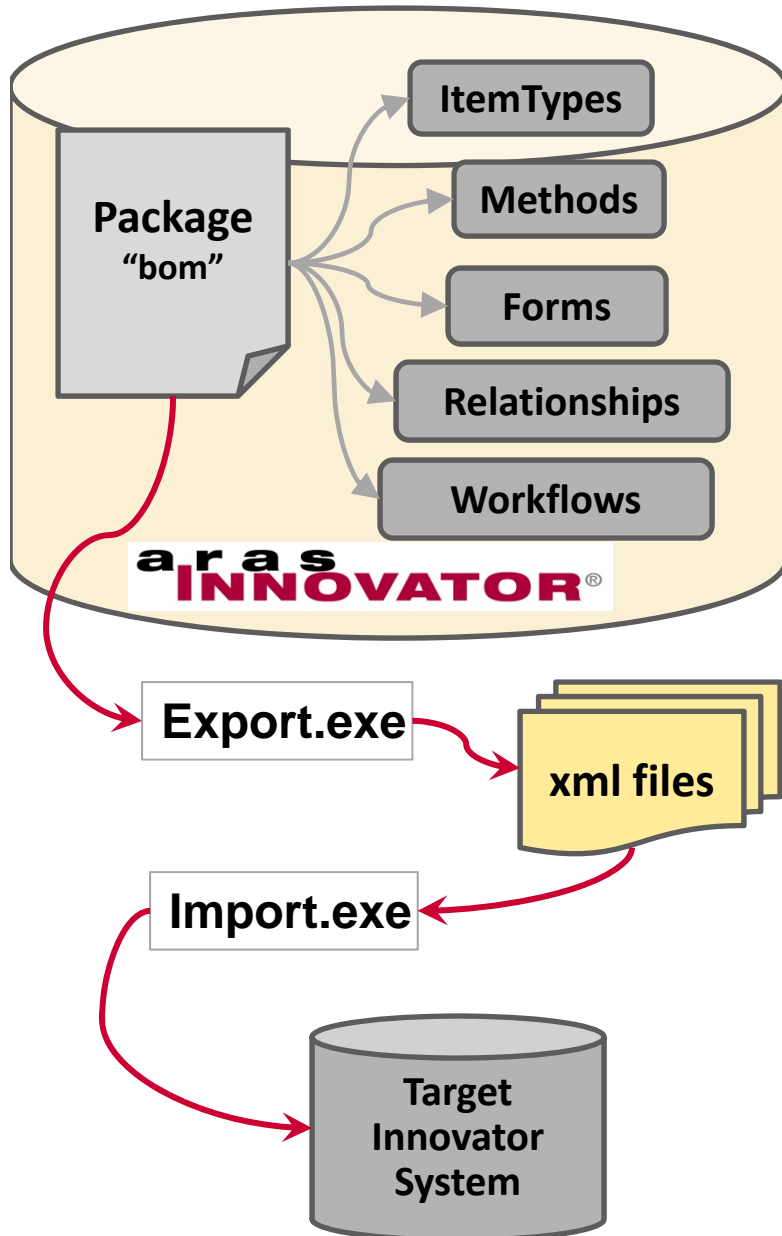
Customizing Aras Innovator



- ❖ Creating and modifying business objects: **ItemTypes**
- ❖ Designing user interfaces: **Forms**
- ❖ Customizing process models: **Lifecycle** and **Workflows**
- ❖ Programming and Scripting: **Methods**

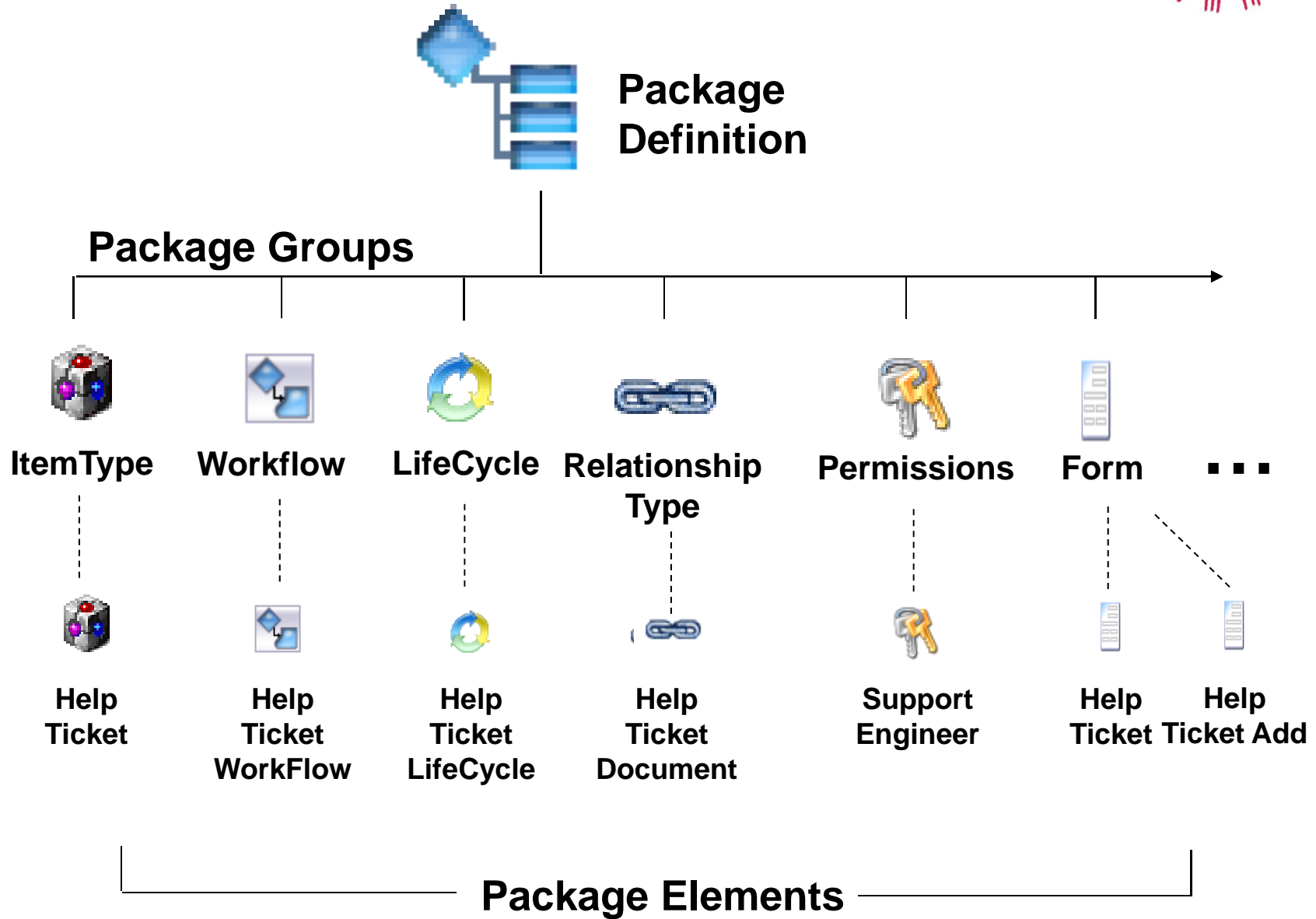
- ❖ Use the Aras Innovator client for all customizing
 - But remember the Client is only sending AML transactions that are updating the Server's running AML Model
 - All customizations are stored in the database and managed as AML

What is Packaging?



- Packages are sets of AML definitions
- Packages can be complete solutions or incremental changes
- Allows customizations to migrate from:
Dev -> Test -> Production
- Allows open source exchange of solutions between companies

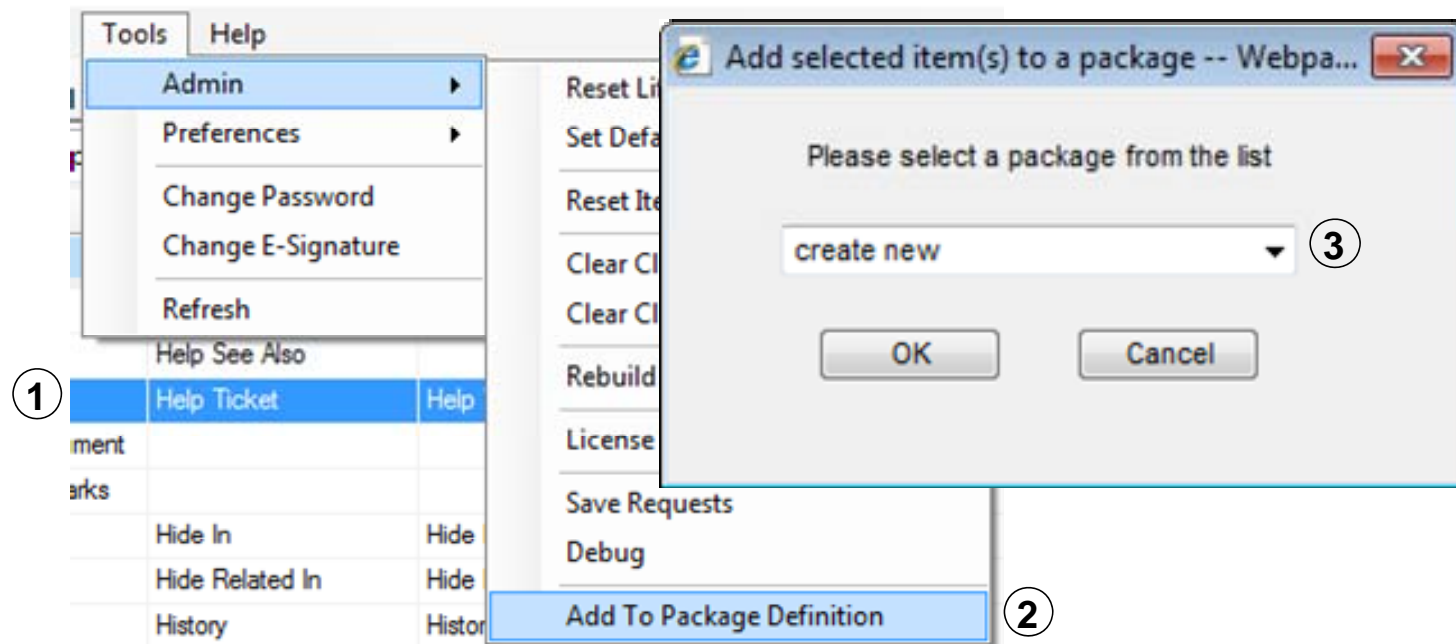
Packaging Overview



Packaging Process



❖ Assign items to a Package using the Admin client



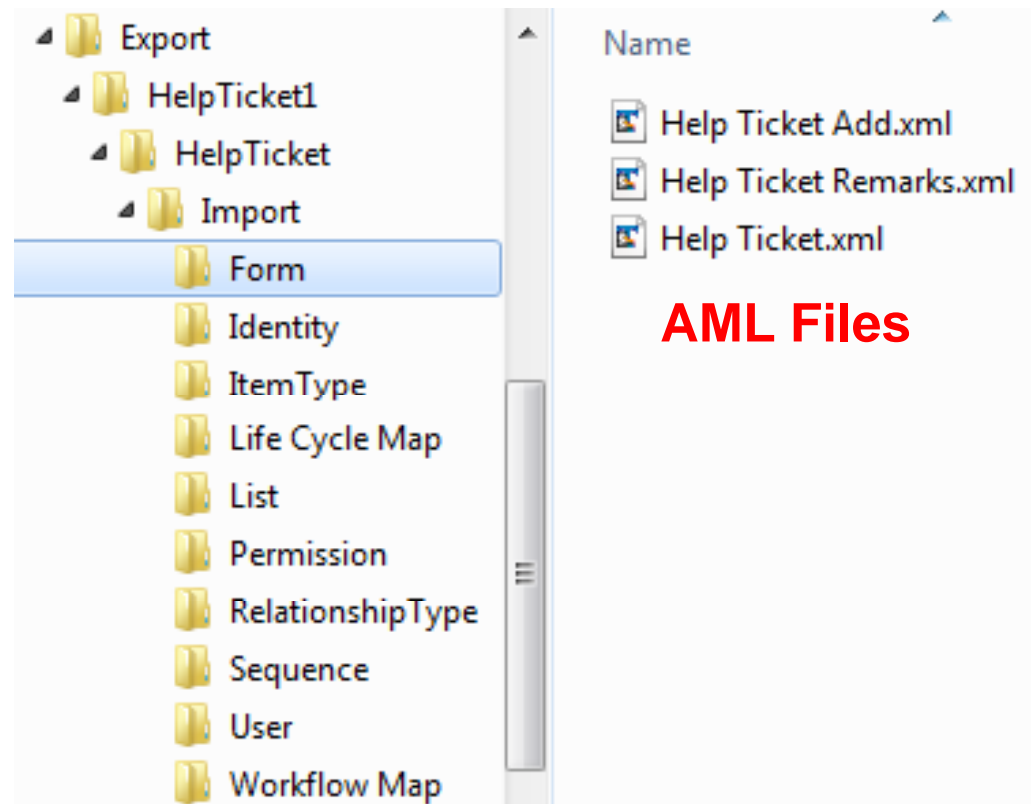
❖ External Utilities

- Import
- Export

Package



- Folder structure of XML files
- Human readable
- Editable outside of Aras Innovator
- Source Control friendly
- Compatible with standard XML tools



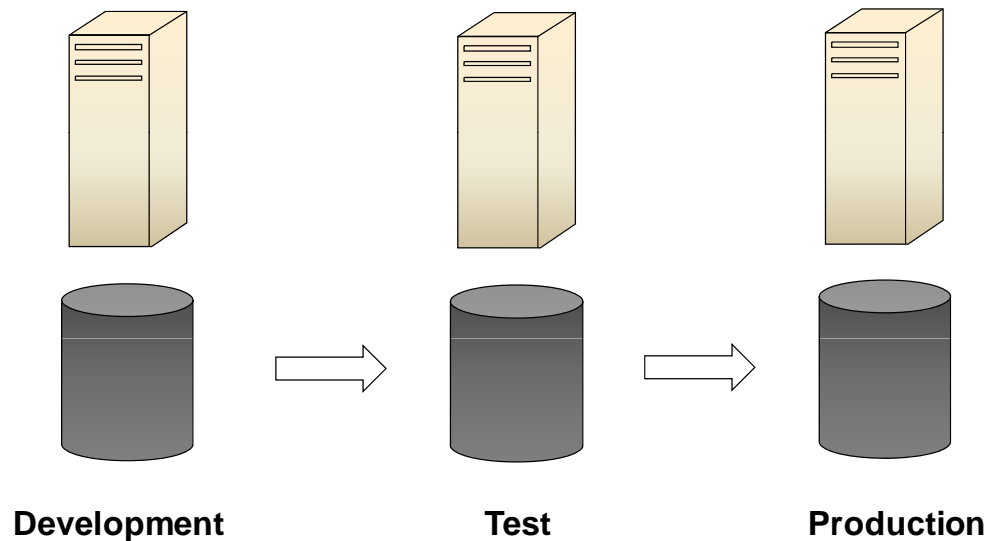
File System

Why Package ?



❖ Internal systems management

✓ Move updates from Dev to Test to Production



❖ Sharing solutions with the Aras Community

❖ Source Code Control

Best Practices Hints



- ❖ Packages are Validated on Export
 - Missing references are flagged
 - Packages can have Dependencies

- ❖ Packages are Validated on Import
 - Name and ID collisions are prevented
 - Missing references prevent import

- ❖ Detailed feedback and messages are in the Log files

Best Practices Hints



❖ Item Naming

- Item Name is enforced as Unique by Packaging
- Use a prefix on all your Itemtypes, Lists, Forms, etc.

❖ When to Package

- At the end when solution is finished OR
- Throughout the customizing process

❖ Export Process

- Expect to iterate – easy to miss some dependencies
- Log File has the answers

Export Log Example



Located in the same directory as the export.exe utility

```
****Export HelpTicket****
start of execution : 4/9/2010 3:19:46 PM
Item id :326CD7710A0B4D0DA0582F9082AA2D02  keyed_name : Help Ticket
Remarks  type : Form successfully exported
Item id :8F0DACB5A10947D9A3BCC2511C917772  keyed_name : Support Record
type : List successfully exported
Item id :1C48C52B899649F180024CDB9C35198E  keyed_name : Help Ticket
Remarks  type : RelationshipType successfully exported
Item id :00C7B038C7D34D3B81615F2224414ADE  keyed_name : Maintenance  type
: Identity successfully exported
Item id :762183BD2B6041538DC865B6FD4FBA74  keyed_name : Response Team
type : List successfully exported
Item id :AEA643870F8C426DB40D0A89109D383F  keyed_name : Engineering  type
: Identity successfully exported
Item id :D723CABAF3A640DDB9F2805CC623F157  keyed_name : Year  type : List
successfully exported
```

Remember all the possible Package Elements



- Actions
- E-Mail Messages
- Forms
- Grids
- Identities
- ItemTypes
- LifeCycle Maps
- Lists
- Methods
- Permissions
- RelationshipTypes
- Reports
- Sequences
- SQL Items
- Workflow Maps

Best Practices Hints



❖ Typical Import Process Errors

- Missing Permission, List or Identity from Package
- View – Form on a Relationship ItemType
- Adding an RelationshipType ItemType to a Package
- Adding PolyItem auto-generated Lists to a Package

❖ Process Improvement Ideas:

- Registry – a MyInnovator service to reserve names
- Dependency mapping tools

Community Projects



❖ Aras Web site for distribution of Packages. Authors include:

- End-users
- Partners
- Aras employees

❖ Classification and Rating System

- As-Is
- Registered
- Certified
- Managed (by Aras)

Community Projects



❖ Notes

- Watch the “Versions Supported” field. Packages may not be updated for the latest version of Aras Innovator. If a package you want is not updated, contact the author and offer to help.
- Submission is optional. We encourage participation, not require it

Community Projects



- ❖ Community Project site URL
<http://www.aras.com/communityProjects/>
- ❖ Community Project site is a web page connected to myInnovator.com
- ❖ Enhancements are planned:
 - ✓ More searching
 - ✓ Check-in
 - ✓ Registry
 - ✓ Versions / Branching
 - ✓ Tighter integration with Forum discussion threads

More Resources



- ❖ Aras Innovator Configuring Solutions Training Class
- ❖ Package Import / Export Tools on Community Project site <http://www.aras.com/communityProjects/>