Patterns and Best Practices for Dynamic OSGi Applications

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Agenda

- ***Dynamic OSGi applications***
- Basics
  - Package dependencies
  - Service dependencies
- OSGi Design Techniques
  - The Whiteboard Pattern
  - The Extender Pattern
- Conclusion

"Classic" Java applications

Java Standard Edition:

» Linear global class path

» Only one version of every library per application

» No component nor module concept above the classes level

» Totally different deployment models for different kind of environments

Java Enterprise Edition:

» Hot deployment possible, but requires special deployment types (e.g. WARs, RARs, EARs)

And the result is…

Now we have OSGi

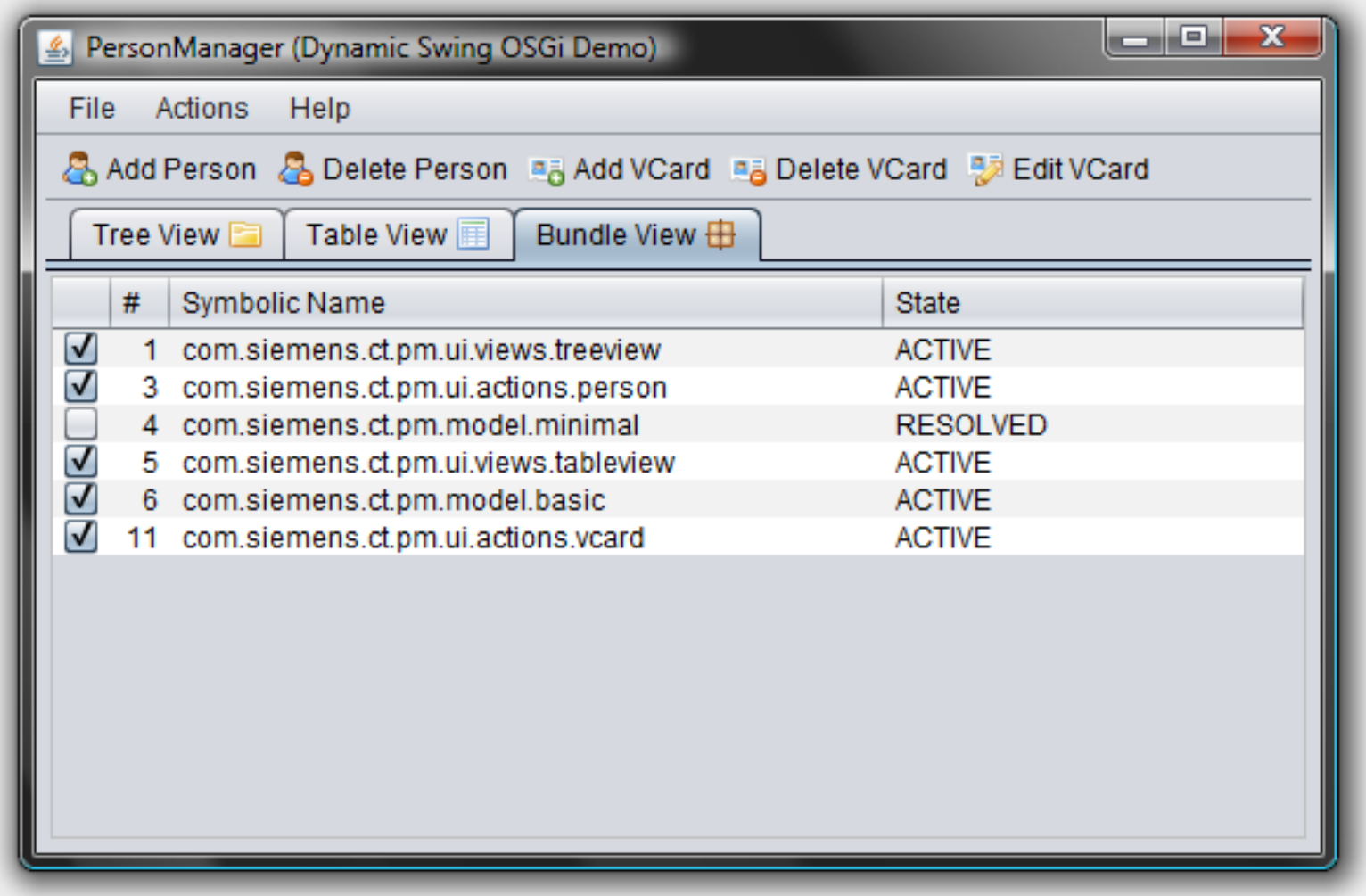
» “OSGi - the dynamic module system for Java”

» You can define:
  » Bundles (aka Modules)
  » Dependencies
  » Visibilities

» **This is a huge step forward !!!**

And OSGi is dynamic!

Dynamic Swing OSGi Demo



How to get the Demo?

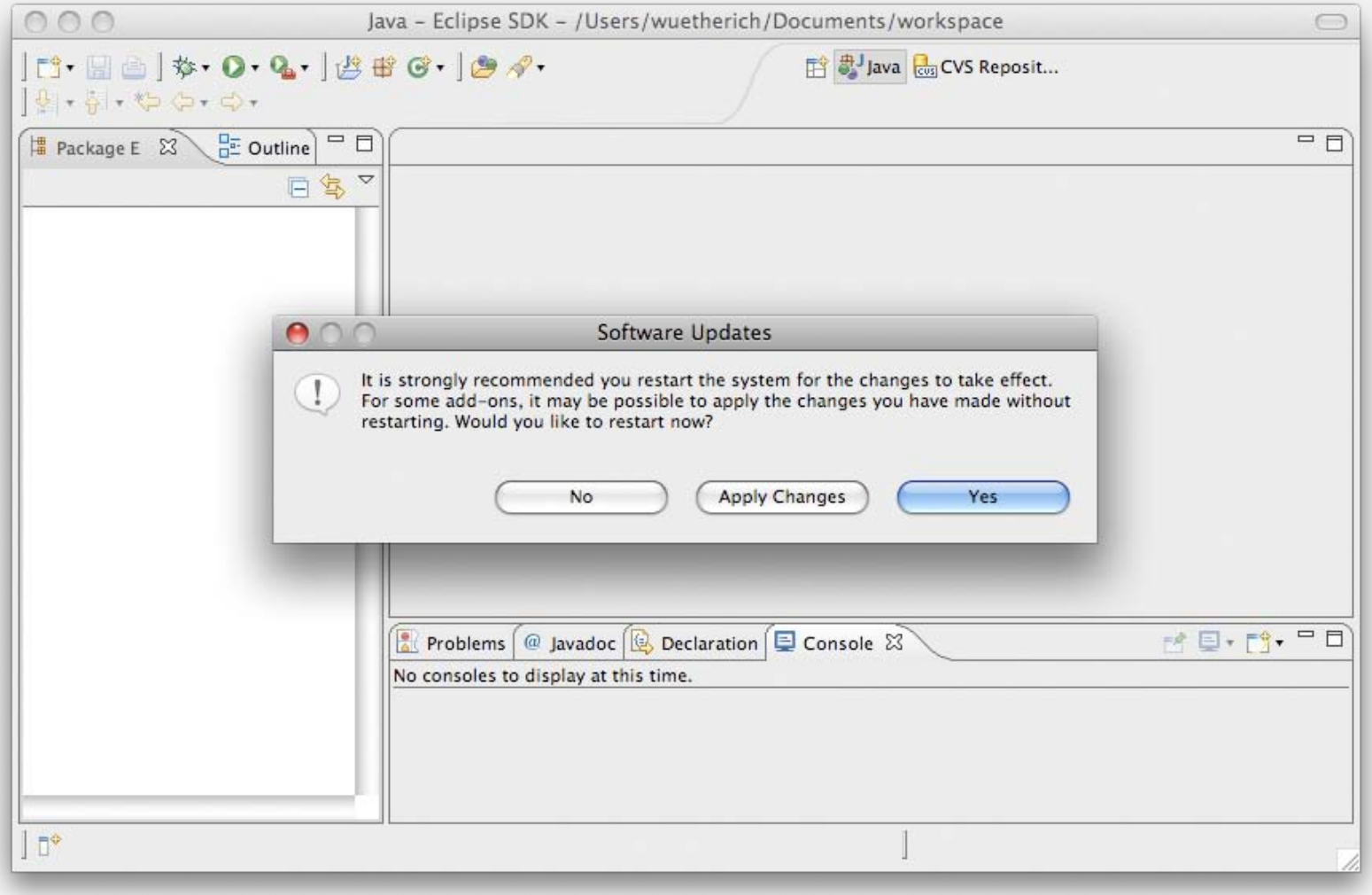
- The PM Demo project home page is: http://max-server.myftp.org/trac/pm
- There you find
  - Wiki with some documentation
  - Anonymous Subversion access
  - Trac issue tracking
- Licenses
  - All PM project sources are licensed under EPL
  - Swing Application Framework (JSR 296) implementation is licensed under LGPL
  - Swing Worker is licensed under LGPL
  - The nice icons from FamFamFam are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 License.

The first impressions

- "Wow - OSGi does dynamic install, uninstall and update of bundles, this is cool…"
  - I don’t need to take care of dynamics anymore
  - I don’t need to think about this at all
  - Everything is done automatically under the hood
  - Objects are changed/migrated and references to objects are managed all automatically
  - Huge bulk of magic

- **This is all wrong!!!**

If its all magic, why this?

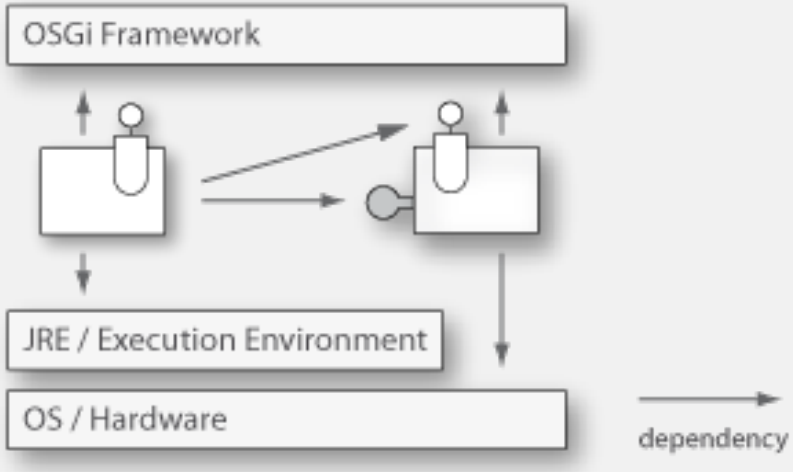


The basic idea

- OSGi controls the lifecycle of bundles
  - It allows you to install, uninstall and update bundles at runtime
  - It gives you feedback on all those actions
  - But it does not change any objects or references for you
    - "No magic"

- **OSGi gives you the power to implement dynamic applications**
- **How you use this power is up to you**

What is the problem?



» Bundles have dependencies, e.g. package or service dependencies

» Dependencies have to be handled with respect to the dynamic behavior!

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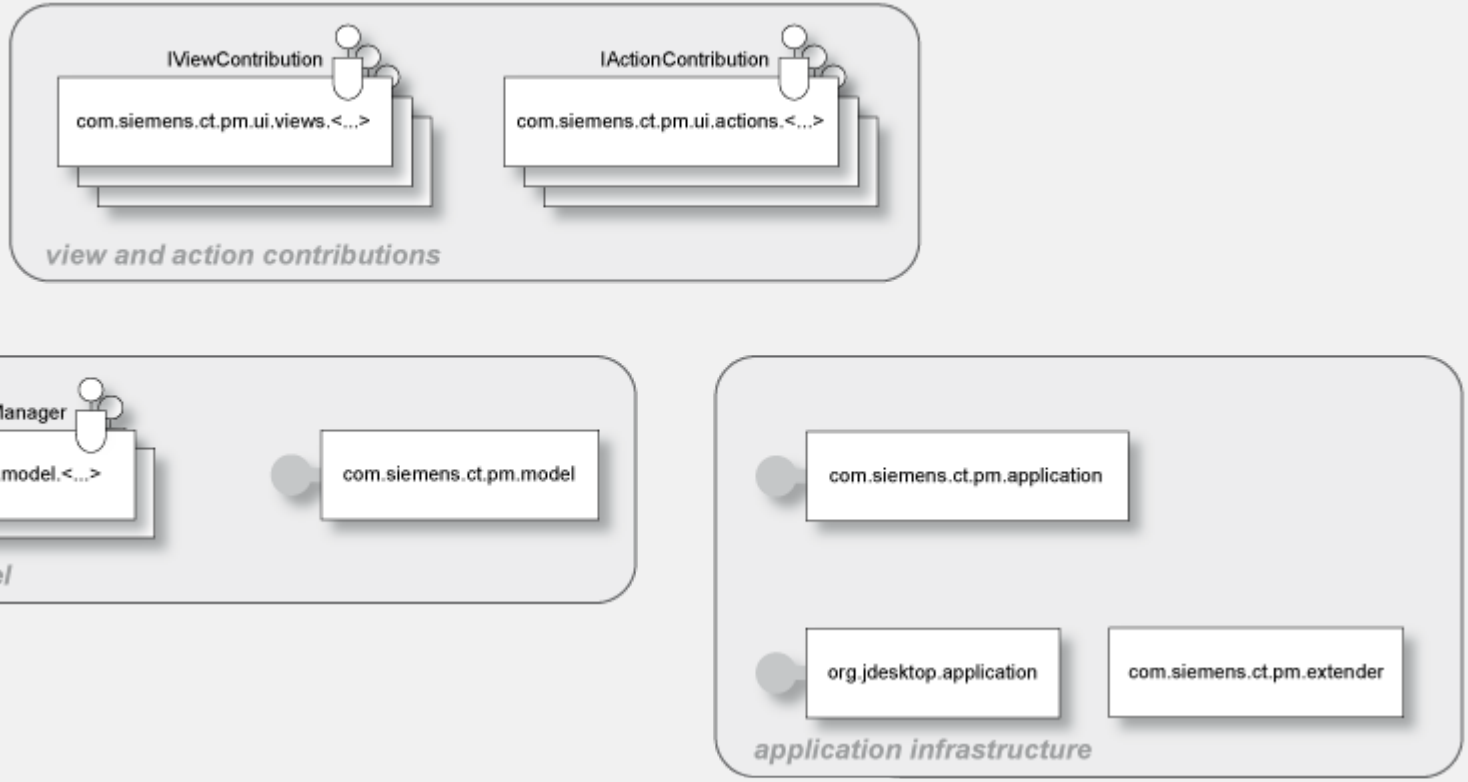
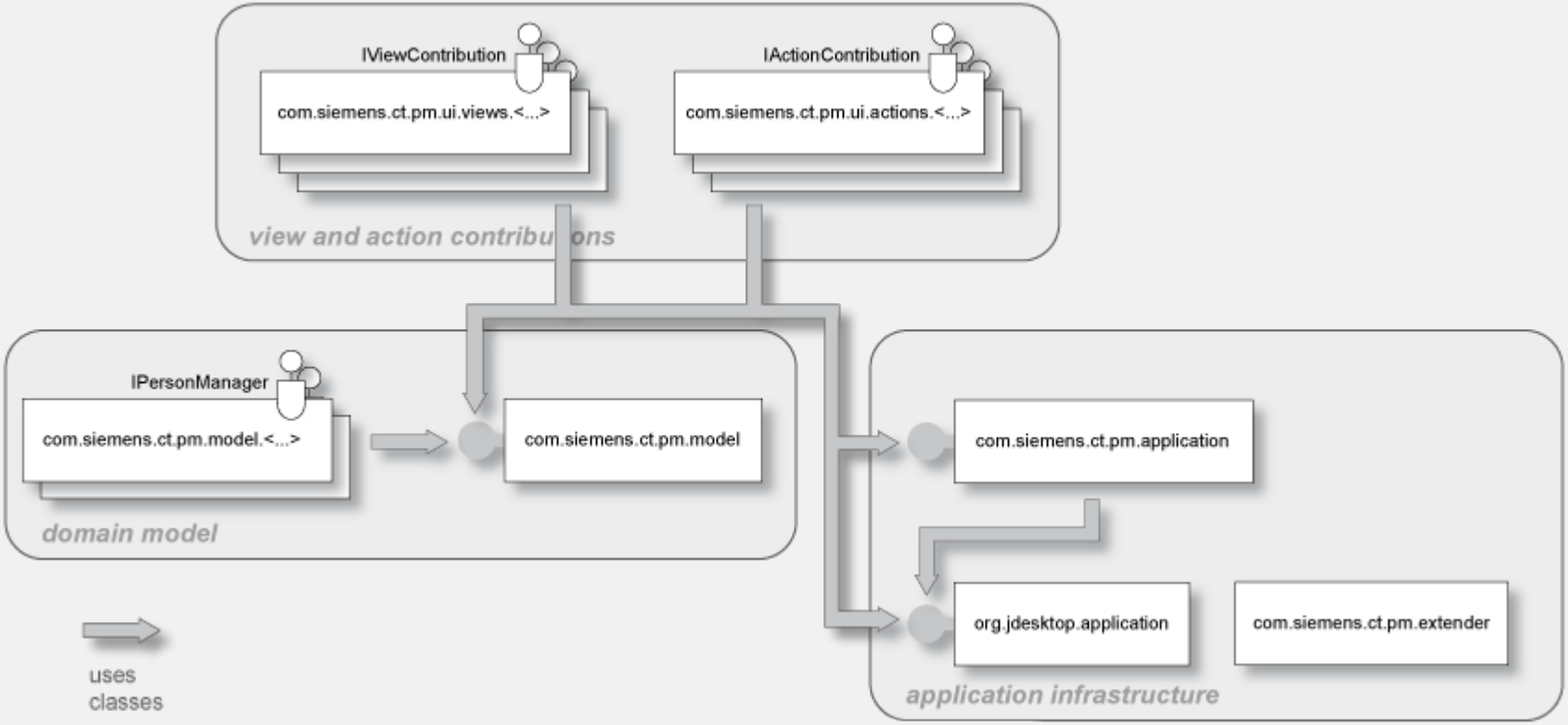
System overview



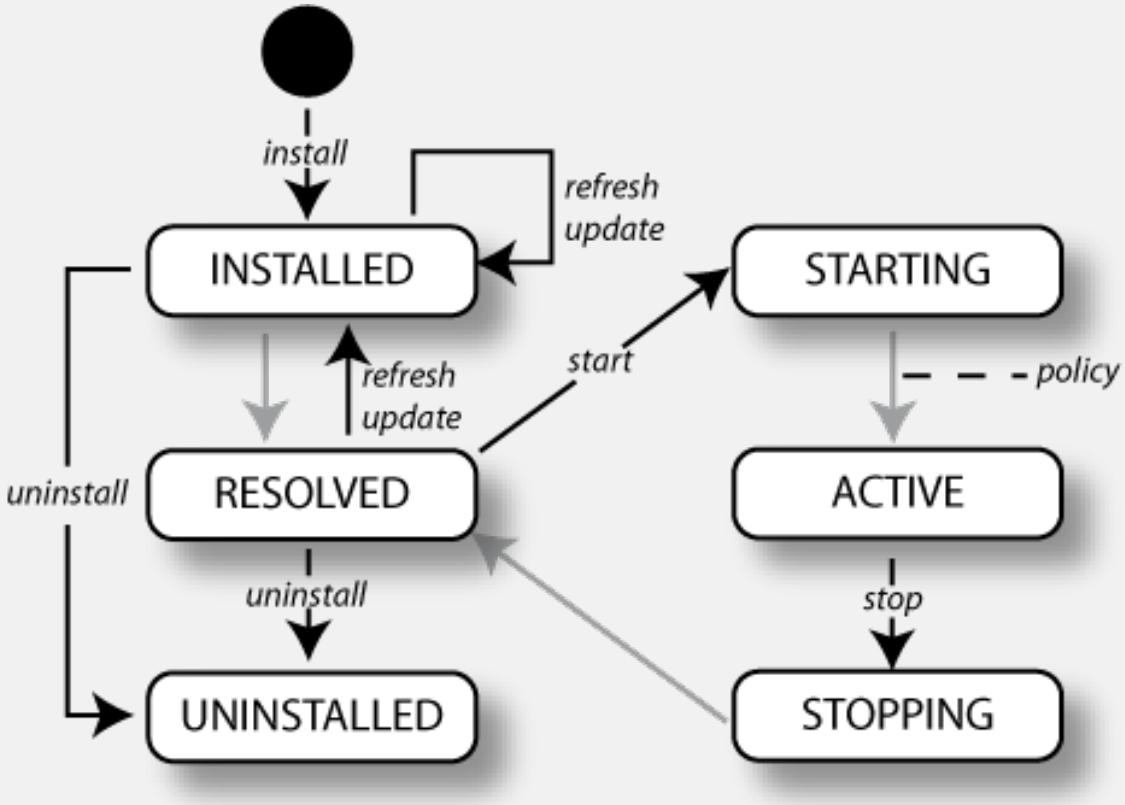
Package Dependencies



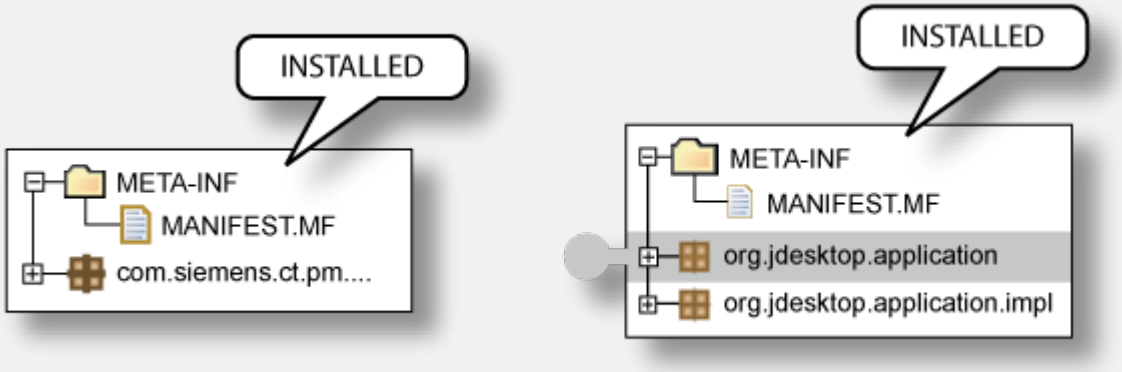
» Export of packages with **Export-Package**

» Import of packages via **Import-Package** or **Require-Bundle**

Digression: Bundle-Lifecycle

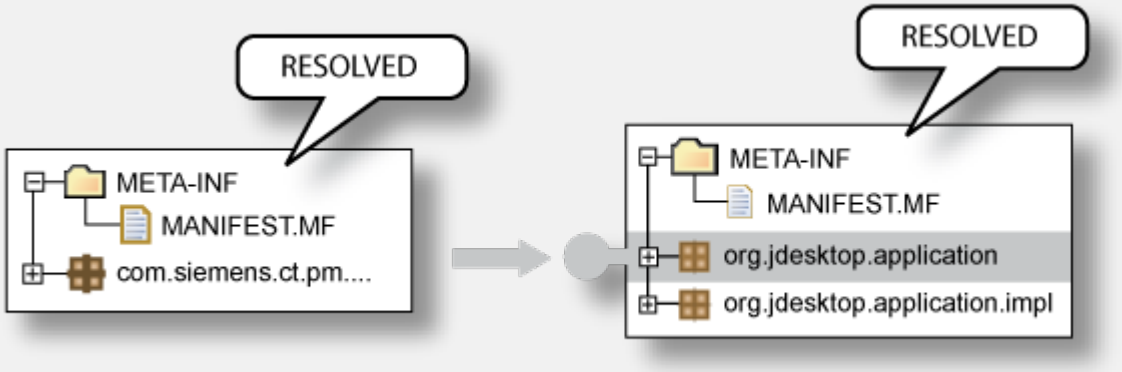


Installing



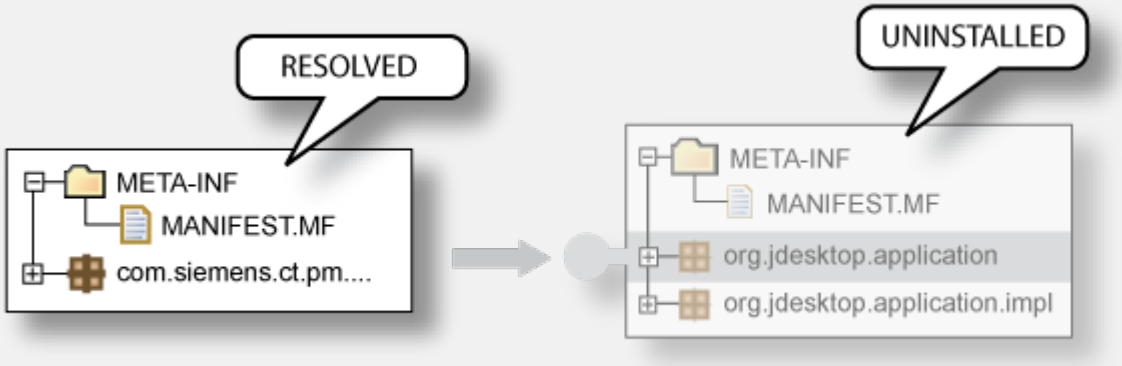
- Makes a Bundle persistently available in the OSGi Framework
  - The Bundle is assigned a unique Bundle identifier (long)
  - The Bundle State is set to INSTALLED
  - The Bundle will remain in the OSGi Framework until explicitly uninstalled

Resolving



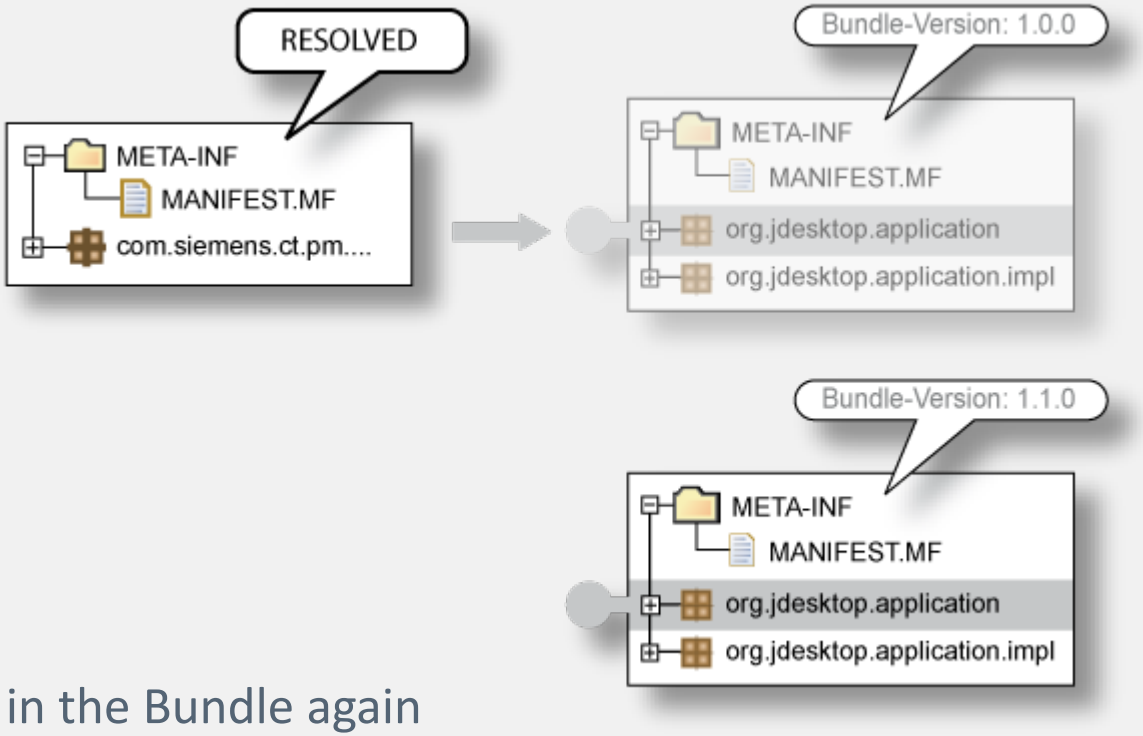
- Wires bundles by matching imports to exports
- Resolving may occur eagerly (after installation) or lazily
- There is no API for resolving
- After resolving -> Bundle is in state RESOLVED

Uninstall



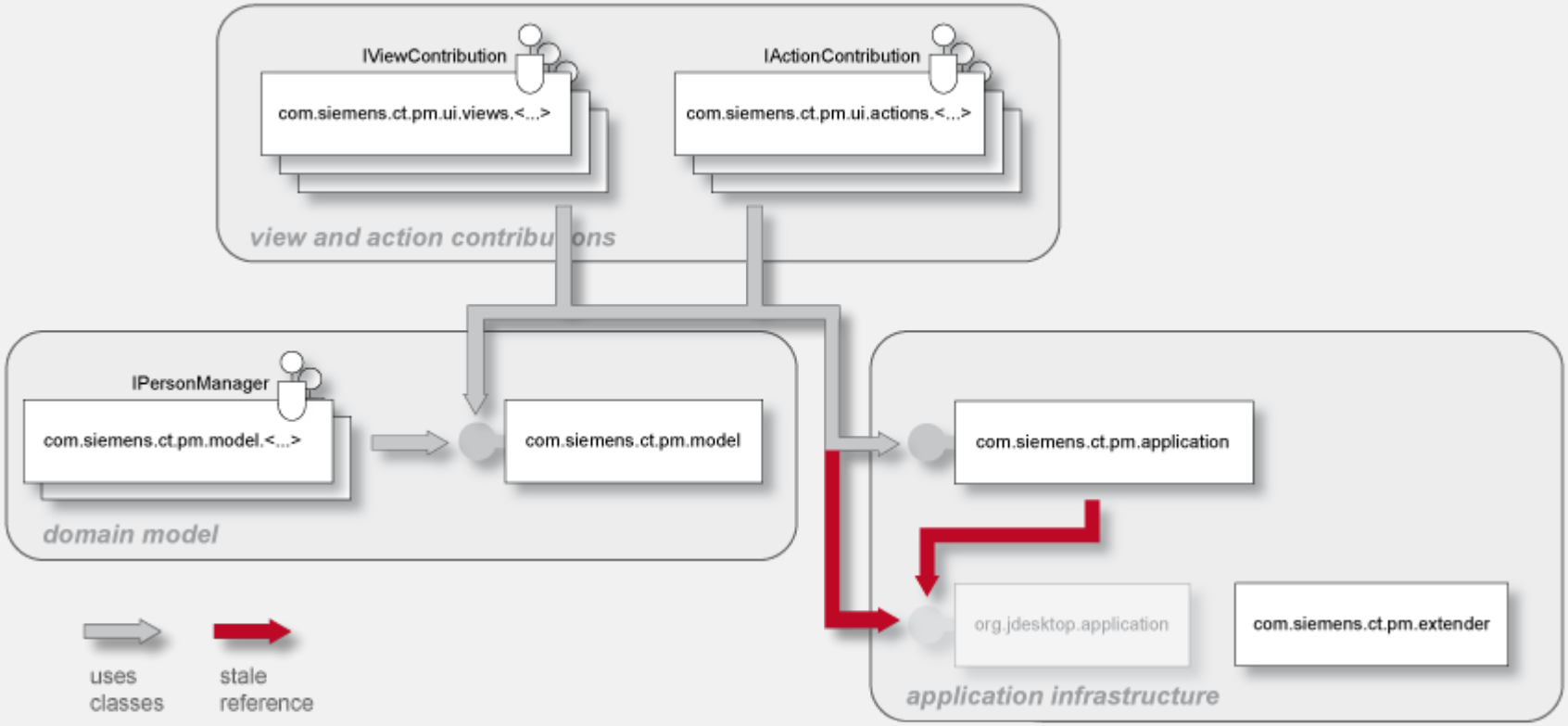
- … removes a Bundle from the OSGi Framework
- The Bundle State is set to UNINSTALLED
- If the Bundle is an exporter: Existing wires will remain until
  - the importers are refreshed or
  - the OSGi Framework is restarted

Update and Refresh



- Update:
  - Reads in the Bundle again
  - If the Bundle is an exporter: Existing wires will remain until the importers are refreshed or the OSGi Framework is restarted
- Refresh:
  - All the bundle dependencies will be resolved again

What does this mean?



» Update or uninstall of bundles can lead to stale package references

» Refresh -> restart of the bundles

We need to re-think designs

- Just modularizing into bundles with clearly defined package dependencies is not enough!

- We need to think about dynamics while building the system
- We need to think even more about dependencies
- We need to re-think typical well-known designs
  - More will follow

Best Practices: Package Dependencies

- Only import packages that are really used/needed
- Use Import-Package rather Require-Bundle
- Only use Require-Bundle when it comes to split-packages
  - This is the unfortunately the case in many bundles of the Eclipse platform!

- -> Reduce coupling

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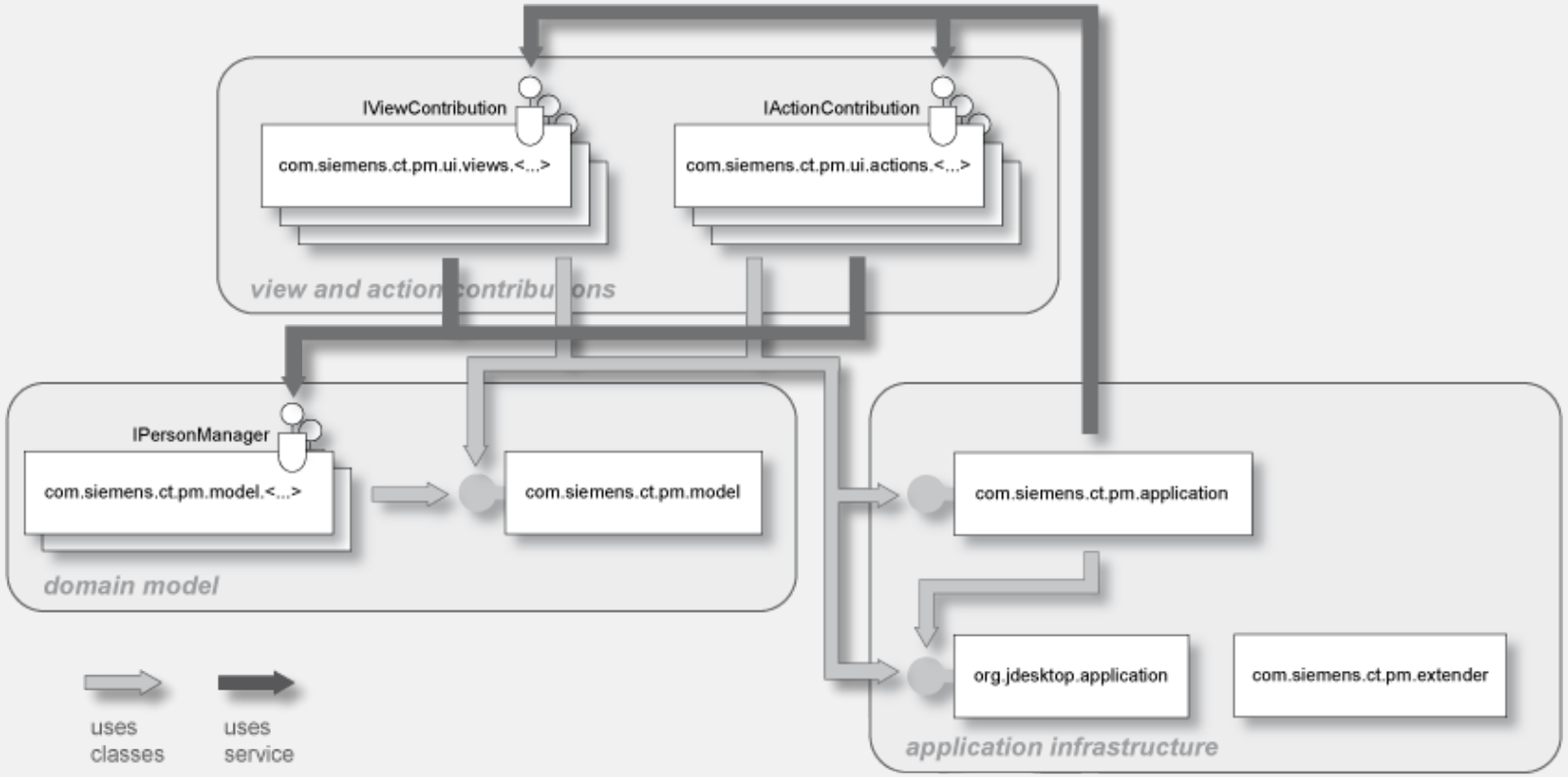
Service dependencies



» One way to reduce coupling
  » Split interface and implementation into different bundles
  » Lookup implementation(s) dynamically

ServiceListener / ServiceTracker

- But be careful:
  - If you lookup a service implementation, you get the direct reference to that object
  - If the implementing bundle goes away, you need to be careful not to keep this object referenced

- ServiceListener / ServiceTracker help you
  - ServiceListener: calls you back if something changes
  - ServiceTracker: listens to service listener events for you (less code than using service listeners manually)

Declarative (and other) Approaches

- **Declarative Services**
  - Part of the OSGi specification, declarative description of services with XML
- **Spring Dynamic Modules**
  - Spring goes dynamic with help of OSGi
  - http://www.springframework.org/osgi
- **iPojo**
  - “Original” DI framework for OSGi
  - http://ipojo.org
- **Guice - Peaberry**
  - Guice: Performant, lightweight DI Framework
  - Peaberry: Extension of Guice for OSGi
  - http://code.google.com/p/peaberry/
  - http://code.google.com/p/google-guice/

Best Practices: Services

- Use a ServiceTracker
  - Don’t do all the service getting manually
  - Service tracker help you with dynamically coming and going services
- Better: Use declarative approaches!
  - Either DS or Spring DM
  - Both help you with service dependencies and dependency injection

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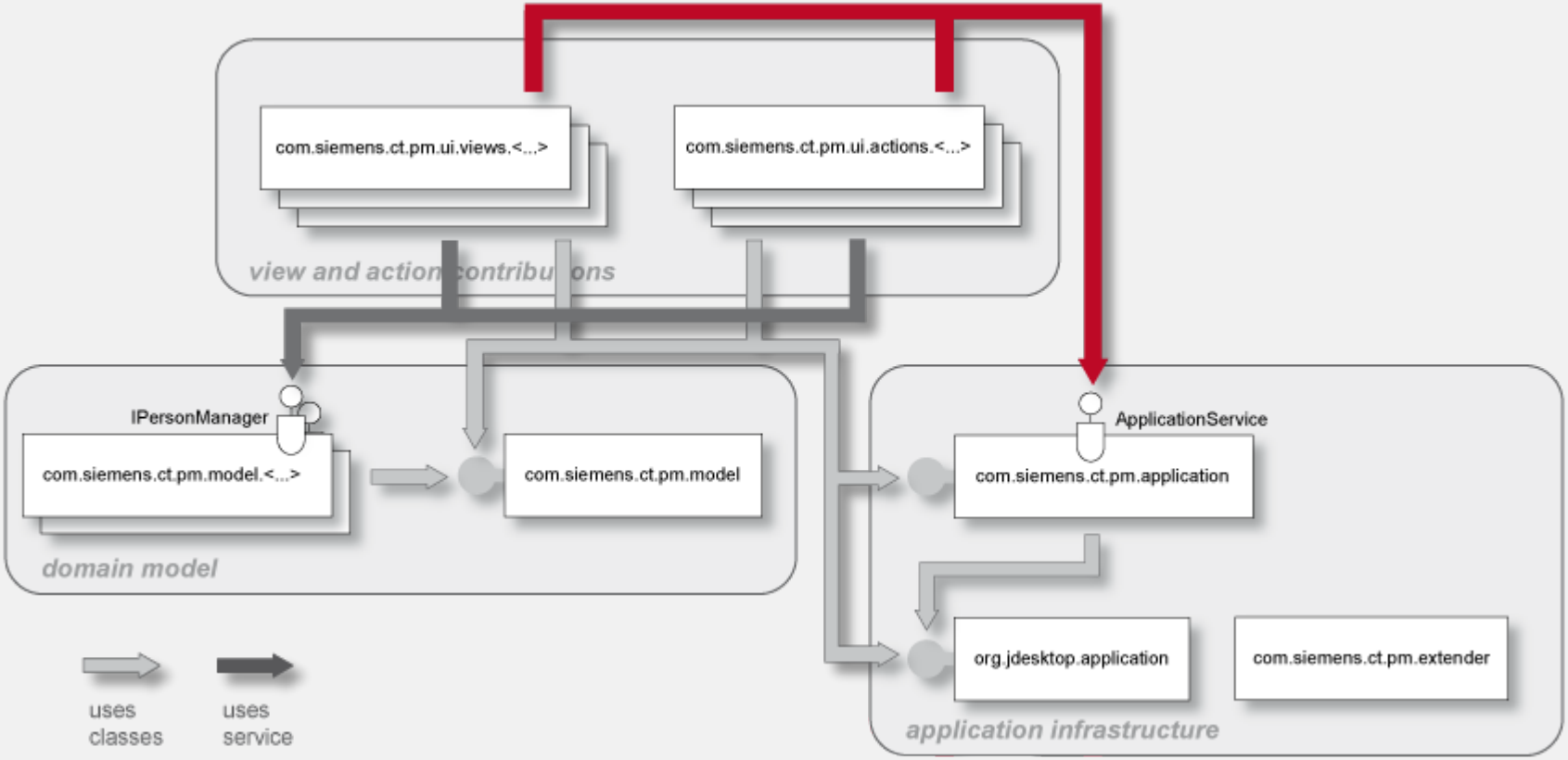
The Whiteboard-Pattern

- Problem:
  Often a service provides an implementation of the publisher/subscriber design pattern and provides methods to register listeners for notifications
- The OSGi service model provides a service registry with these notification mechanisms already!
- So:
  - Don’t get a service and register as listener
  - Be a service yourself and register with the OSGi service registry!

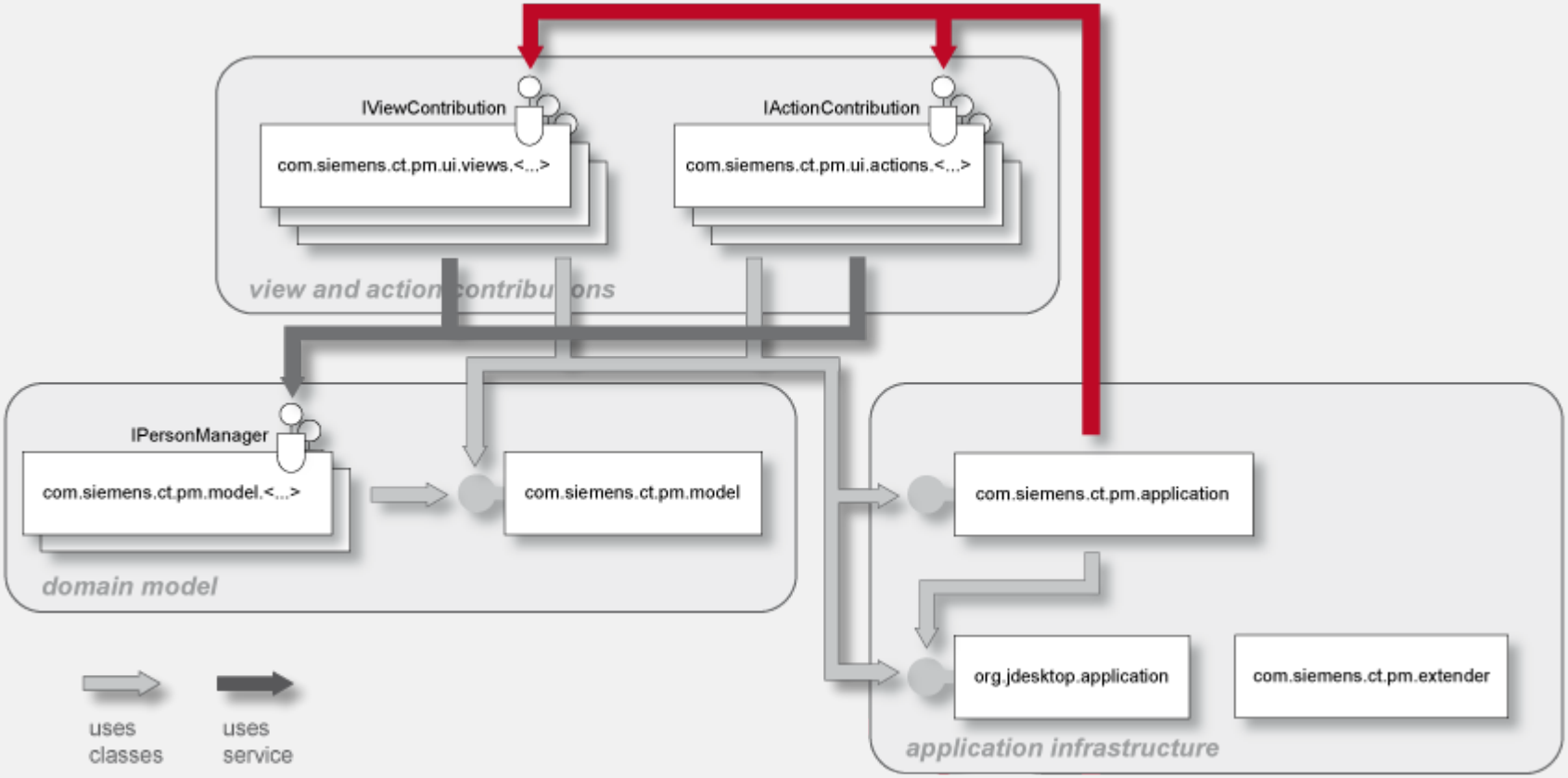
Example: The Listener Pattern



» Clients use ApplicationService to register view and action contributions

» Client is responsible for handling dynamic behavior

Example: The Whiteboard Pattern



» Clients register view and action contributions as services

» Application manager is responsible for handling dynamic behavior

Whiteboard Pattern in PM Demo

- The Action and View contribution managers are NOT services
  - Instead, they are wrapped in a DS component
- All action and view contributions are OSGi services and implement
  - IActionContribution
  - IViewContribution
- Take a look at the bundles
  - com.siemens.ct.pm.application
  - com.siemens.ct.pm.ui.actions.*
  - com.siemens.ct.pm.ui.views.*

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The Extender Pattern

- The **extender pattern** allows bundles to extend the functionality in a specific domain
- It uses the synchronous bundle listener
- The extender adds a bundle listener to the BundleContext
- The bundle listener overwrites
  `public void bundleChanged(BundleEvent event)`
- Then the listener checks the started bundle for a specific handler and performs some (domain)specific action
- The extender should also check all already started bundles in its activator

PM Demo Extender: Registering Services

- The following example shows a demo extender
- Implemented in `com.siemens.ct.pm.extender`
- Registers a bundle listener
- Looks for the manifest header "Action-Contribution" in every bundle
- When found in a started bundle
  - Parses the value as class name
  - Registers the class as service implementation for `com.siemens.ct.pm.application.service.IActionContribution`
- When found in a stopped bundle
  - Unregisters the service

Thank you for your attention!

» Questions welcome!

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