



PathMATE Spotlight

Multiple Instance Panes

Version 0.1
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PathMATE Technical Notes

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Figure 1: RSM State Chart with STT View Pane **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

1 Introduction

This technical note suggests an extension to Spotlight to support multiple class instance data viewing panes. This extension is prepared in response to Team Track issues:

- 1423 - Class inheritance cannot be followed on Spotlight5
- 1425 - Association can not be followed
- 1427 - Multiple windows for instance list
- 1440 - Multiple Instance list windows on Detail Pane

We understand the customer's need to view 2 or more instance lists side by side when debugging models. We have identified a way to provide this functionality while keeping within the constraints of both of our current GUI environments - MS .NET and Eclipse.

These constraints include:

1. Free-floating windows violate commonly held GUI Best Practices and Ergonomic standards. They are not part of most Windows applications any more.
2. Microsoft .NET application architecture conventions to not permit free floating windows separate from the root application.
3. Eclipse primitives do not readily support free floating windows, and there do not conform to Eclipse conventions.
4. Ready For Rational standards specifically forbid the use of free-floating windows

2 Feature Overview

Within each task viewer, the details view area stacks "instances" panes vertically as the user selects additional class instances to view. Each instance pane has both vertical and horizontal scroll bars, splitter bars between them to allow individual panes to be resized, as well as a close button to allow the user to close an individual pane.

In addition association navigation through Spotlight opens a new instances pane, allowing a chain of navigations to be performed (TT #1425). Also, addressing TT #1423, selecting an instance of a supertype opens a new instance pane showing all the subtype attributes for that one instance.

The following illustrates these elements:

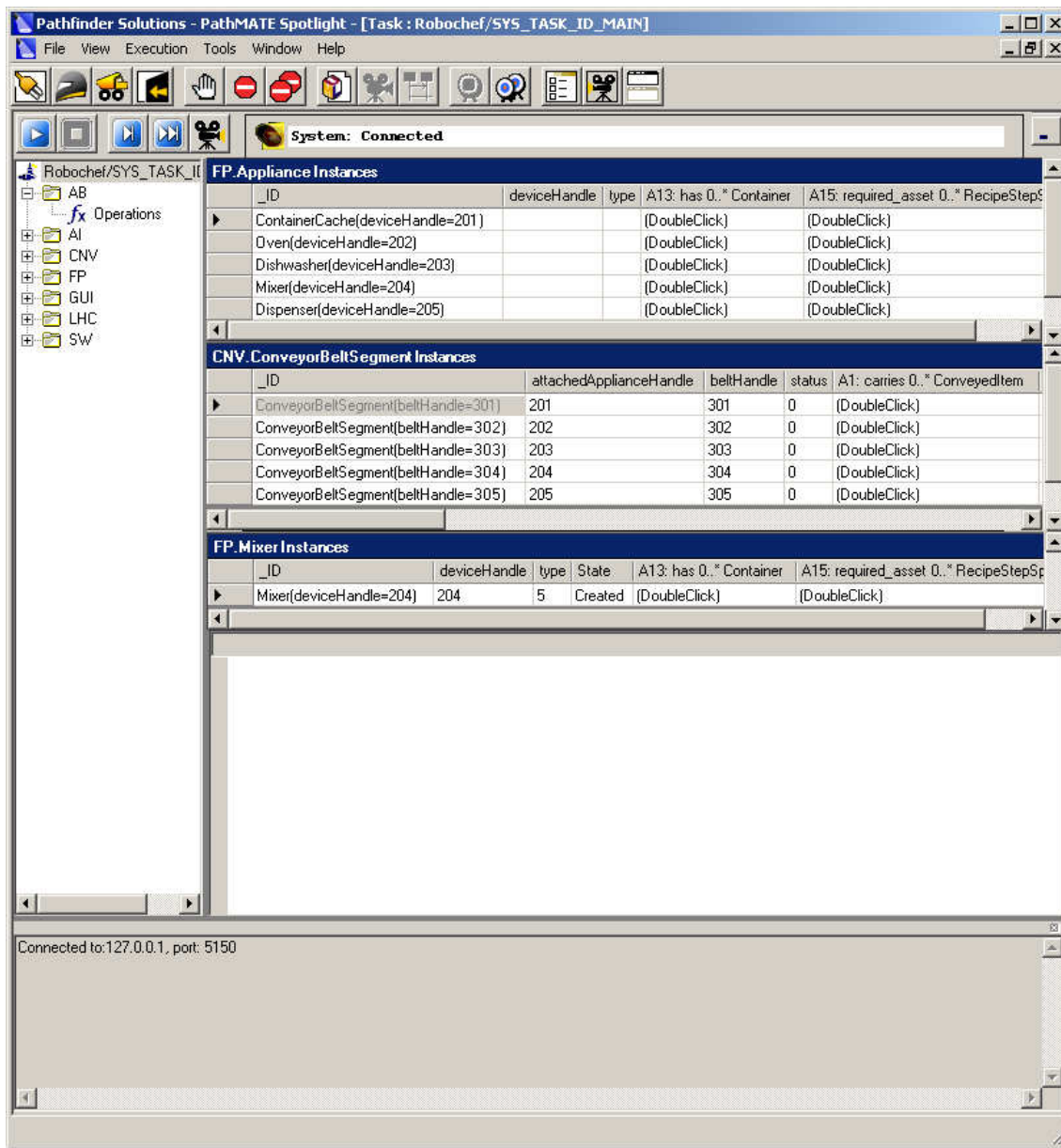


Figure 1: Multiple Instance Panes

Note: This diagram is simply a mockup and does not reflect any actual changes made to Spotlight5.