

MODEL • ANALYZE • DESIGN • VERIFY • MANAGE

# SystemML

## in Practice

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO  
MODEL-BASED SYSTEMS ENGINEERING



Model



Analyze



Design



Verify



Manage

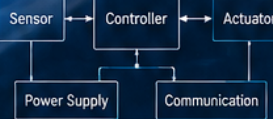
### REAL-WORLD CASE STUDIES

Aerospace  
Automotive  
Defense  
Healthcare  
Manufacturing

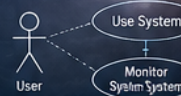
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- 1.1 Functional Requirements
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- 1.3 Safety Requirements

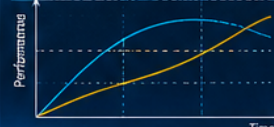
ibd [System]



uc [System]



par [Performance]



# STEVE T.

PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE. BETTER SYSTEMS.

# SysML in Practice

A Practical Guide to Model-Based Systems Engineering

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# A Practical Guide to Model-Based Systems Engineering

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# Introduction: Why Modeling Matters Now More Than Ever

In the summer of 2012, at Airbus in Toulouse, Christian Bénac stood in a test hangar watching engineers run an electrical power-up sequence on the A350 XWB's "iron bird" (a ground-based prototype rig). It was a critical milestone in the certification of what would become one of the most efficient airliners ever built. But two years earlier, Bénac's team had already simulated that same power-up sequence inside a digital model. They found timing conflicts and design clashes before a single wire was cut. The result: problems were solved on paper rather than in hardware, saving months of development time and millions of dollars in rework [1].

The A350 story is not unique. Across aerospace, automotive, defense, healthcare, and manufacturing, engineering organizations are hitting the same wall. Complexity has grown by factors of 100 to 1,000 in a single generation of products. An Airbus A350 contains thousands of embedded processors, dozens of interconnected subsystems, and millions of lines of software code. Traditional document-centric engineering (Word specifications, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations) no longer scales. Miscommunication between disciplines costs organizations up to \$75 million for every \$1 billion spent on projects [2].

Model-Based Systems Engineering answers this challenge by replacing disconnected documents with a shared, machine-readable model of the system. The International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) defines MBSE as the formalized application of modeling to support system requirements, design, analysis, verification, and validation activities beginning in the conceptual design phase and continuing through the entire life cycle [3]. The key distinction is that in MBSE, the model is the authoritative engineering artifact. Diagrams, reports, and specifications are views derived from that model.

This book is about SysML (Systems Modeling Language), the lingua franca of MBSE. SysML was created in response to a clear need: engineers needed a standardized language to describe systems that span hardware, software, data, people, and processes. It emerged from the Unified Modeling Language

(UML), which had proven enormously successful for software engineering but lacked constructs for requirements, parametric analysis, and physical system architecture. The SysML Partners submitted their specification to the Object Management Group (OMG) in 2005, and after a merge process, OMG SysML v1.0 was released in September 2007 [4]. The current v1.6 version arrived in December 2019, and the language was adopted as an international standard (ISO/IEC 19514:2017) [4].

In July 2025, a landmark event occurred. The OMG approved the final adoption of SysML v2.0, published in September 2025, along with the Kernel Modeling Language (KerML) version 1.0 and the Systems Modeling API and Services specification [5]. This is not a minor update. SysML v2 abandons the UML-based foundation of v1.x in favor of a dedicated metamodel grounded in formal semantics, introduces textual notation alongside graphical notation, supports Git-based version control, and provides a standardized API for tool interoperability. Major vendors including Dassault Systèmes, Siemens, IBM, MathWorks, and PTC have already aligned their roadmaps with the new standard [5].

This book covers both worlds. Chapters 1 through 8 focus on SysML v1.6, which remains the dominant version in use today and is supported by a mature tool ecosystem. Chapter 2 provides a detailed comparison of v1.x and v2, with migration strategies for organizations ready to transition. The remaining chapters explore MBSE workflows, verification and validation, simulation, model governance, integration with other standards and tools, and the emerging landscape of AI-assisted modeling, digital twins, and digital engineering.

## Who This Book Is For

This book serves three overlapping audiences:

- **Students and early-career engineers** who need a structured introduction to systems modeling from first principles.
- **Practicing systems engineers and architects** who want to deepen their SysML expertise, learn advanced patterns, and understand how to apply the language in real-world domains.
- **Engineering managers and technical leaders** who are evaluating or implementing MBSE in their organizations and need practical guidance on tool selection, methodology, governance, and ROI.

## How to Use This Book

The book is structured for progressive learning. Chapters 1 through 3 establish the foundations: why modeling matters, what SysML is, and how to get started with tools. Chapters 4 through 8 walk through every major diagram type and modeling construct in detail, with hands-on examples and case studies. Chapter 9 connects SysML to practical engineering workflows and methodologies. Chapters 10 through 12 address the operational realities of model governance, verification, simulation, and toolchain integration. Chapter 13 looks forward to the future of the discipline.

Each chapter includes practical exercises with solutions, best practice checklists, and warnings about common pitfalls drawn from real engineering experience. The language assumes a basic familiarity with engineering concepts but explains all SysML-specific terminology clearly. No prior modeling experience is required.

## A Note on Rigor

This book treats SysML as both a notation and a formal modeling language. Every claim about syntax, semantics, or tool capability is grounded in the OMG specification, vendor documentation, or published research. Where sources disagree, the text surfaces the disagreement and assesses the evidence. The case studies presented are drawn from publicly available reports, peer-reviewed papers, and vendor publications.

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# Chapter 7: Requirements and Traceability

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# Chapter 11: Model Governance, Collaboration, and Version Control

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## Detailed Model Review Checklist

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## Checklist: Model Governance Implementation

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## **Checklist: Model Governance Implementation**

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# Chapter 12: Integration with Other Standards and Tools

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