



How to View and Revert Software Design Changes with Visual History?

Written Date : August 13, 2013

What is this Tutorial About?

The purpose of this tutorial is to show you how to use Visual History to see the history and evolution of a [use case diagram](#). At the beginning of this tutorial, you will be asked to create a simple use case diagram for an ATM, make some changes, and perform several rounds of commits. After that, you will run Visual History to see the changes you have made and to revert some of them.

Preparation

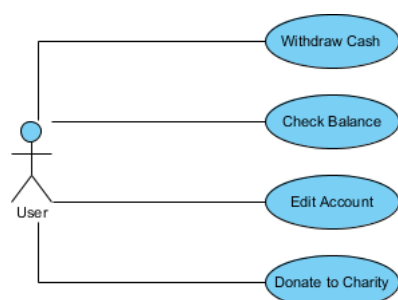
In order to perform the steps in this tutorial, make sure you have [Visual Paradigm](#) downloaded and installed. You may [click here to download Visual Paradigm](#) if you do not have it installed.

To avoid disrupting your production environment during the tutorial, please import a new project into Teamwork Server/Visual Paradigm Online to walk through the steps in this tutorial.

Part I – Building a Sample Project with a Use Case Diagram

In this section, you will draw a simple use case diagram for an ATM. Several rounds of commits will be performed as well.

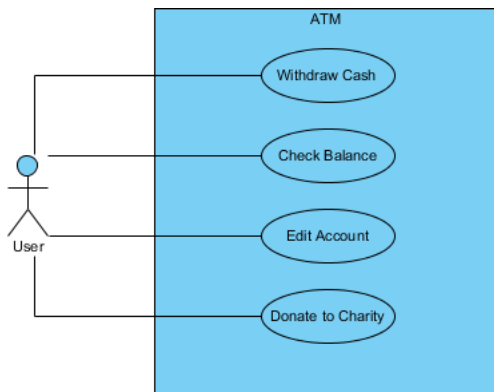
1. Open the new project you just imported into Teamwork Server/Visual Paradigm Online.
2. Create a use case diagram named *ATM*. Draw a simple use case diagram with an actor, *User*, and several use cases: *Withdraw Cash*, *Check Balance*, *Edit Account*, and *Donate to Charity*.



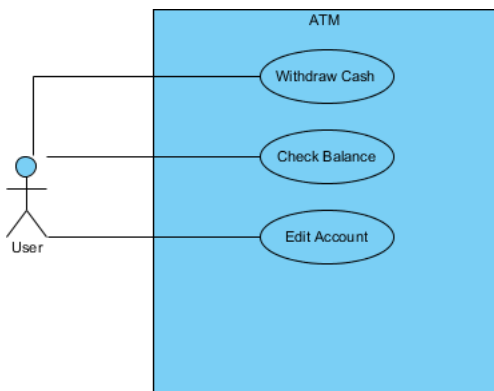
If you are not familiar with use case diagrams or use case modeling, please read the [user's guide page about use case diagrams](#). For advanced users, you may want to read about the [10 tips to create a professional use case diagram](#) in our Know-How article.

3. Commit the changes to the server (by selecting **Team > Commit...** from the toolbar).

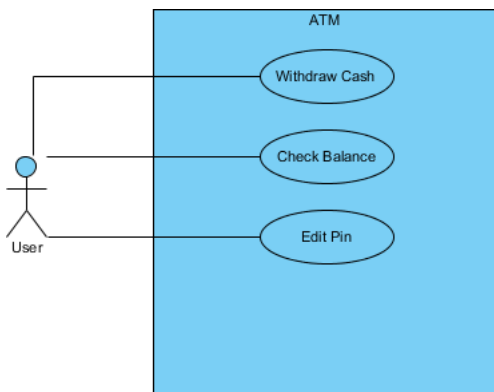
4. Contain the use cases within a system shape. Name the system *ATM*.



5. Commit the changes to the server.
6. Let's say the *Donate to Charity* use case was found to be redundant in the ATM system. Delete it.



7. Commit the changes to the server.
8. The *Edit Account* use case was found to be a bit unclear. Let's rename it to *Edit PIN*.

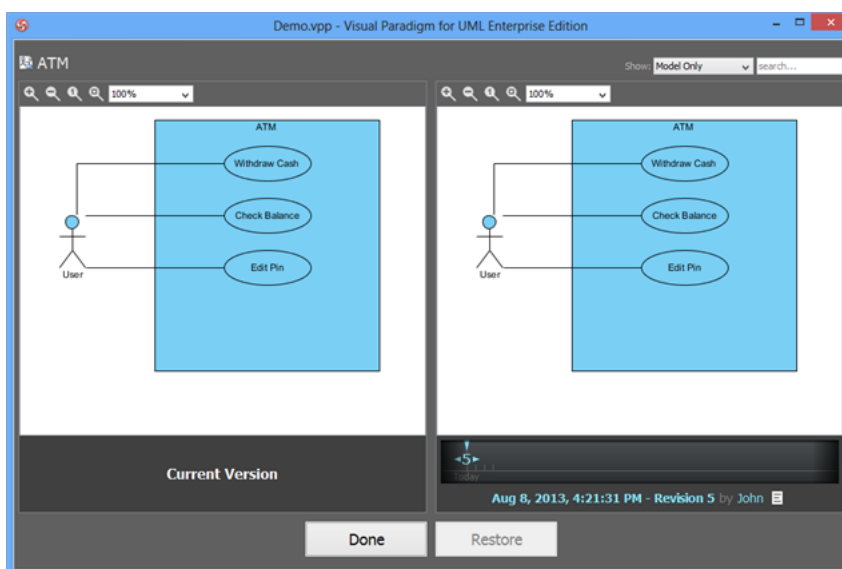


9. Commit the changes to the server.

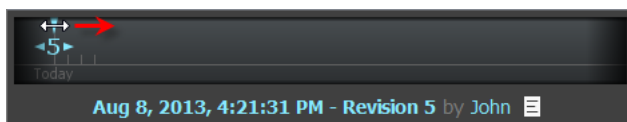
Part II – Using Visual History

In this part, you will use the **Visual History** feature to review previous designs. You will also revert some of the changes.

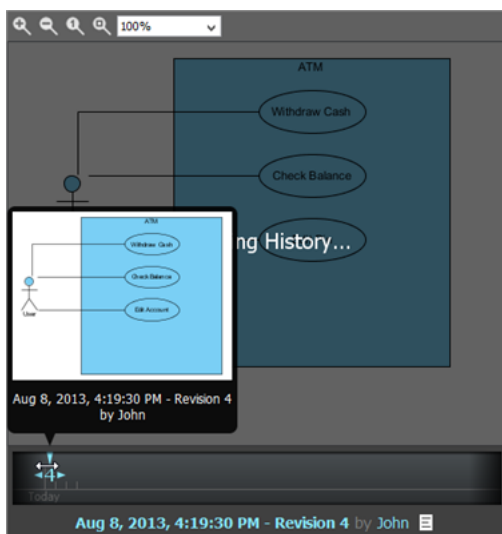
1. Open **Visual History** by selecting **Team > Visual History...** from the toolbar.
2. **Visual History** is mainly divided into two sides. The left-hand side shows the diagram image of the currently open revision, while the right-hand side shows the diagram image of the revision selected in the timeline below it.



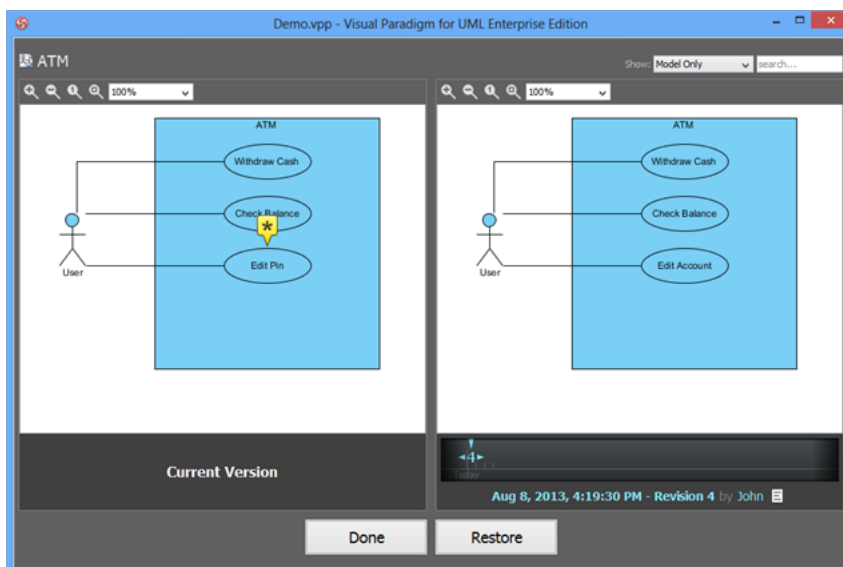
Now, press on the revision pointer in the timeline and drag it to the right by one revision.



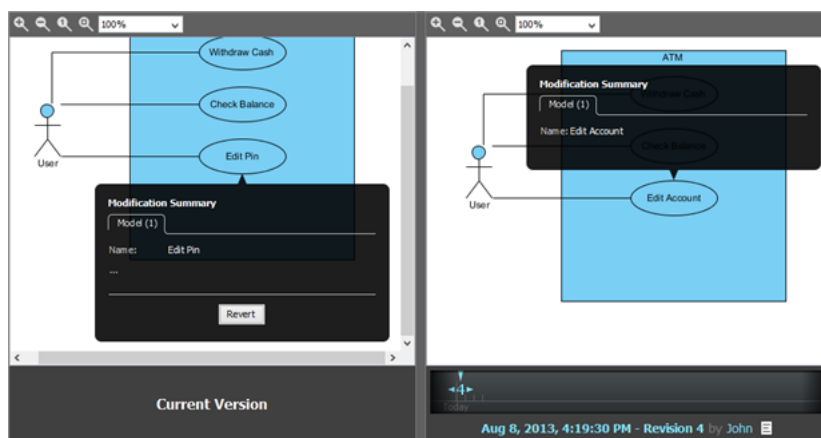
- When you arrive at a revision, a preview of the diagram in that revision will appear. Release the mouse button.



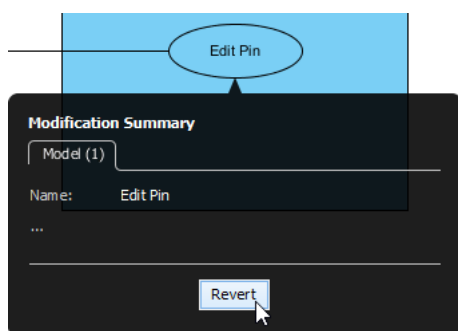
- Once you have released the mouse button, you can see the use case diagram from the previous revision appears on the right-hand side. Besides, a yellow pointer appears above the *Edit PIN* use case on the left-hand side. It indicates where a modification took place.



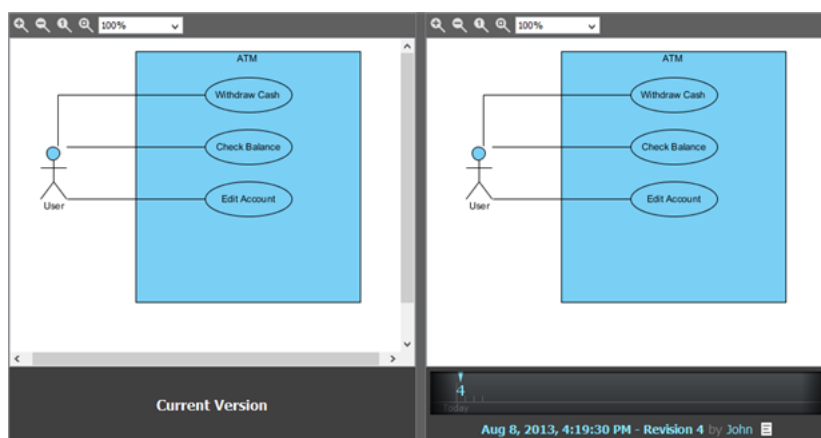
- Click on the yellow pointer. This pop-up shows a summary of modifications made to the *Edit PIN* use case between the revision selected on the right and the current revision. In this case, the summary tells you that the use case was renamed from *Edit Account* to *Edit PIN*.



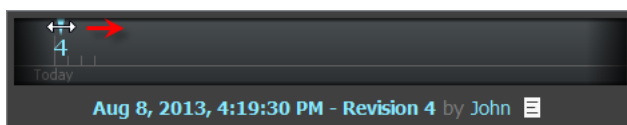
- Let's say we want to re-apply the old use case name. Click **Revert** in the **Modification Summary** pop-up.



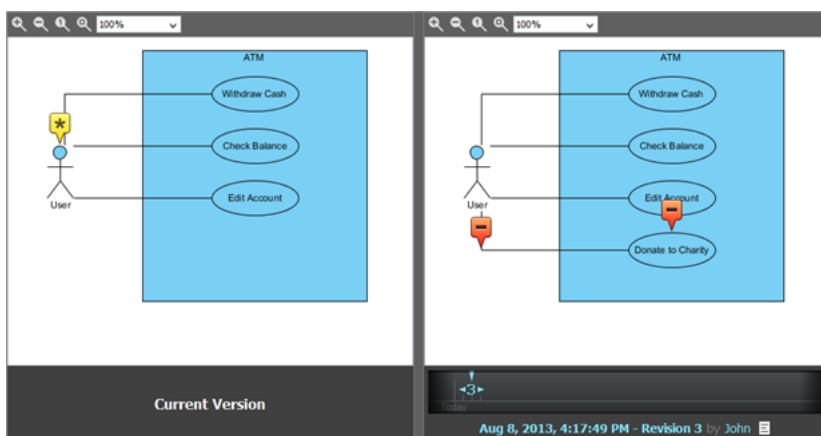
- The use case (in the current revision) is instantly renamed to *Edit Account*, following the previous revision.



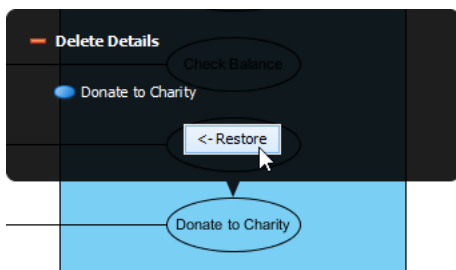
- Now, move one more revision backward by adjusting the revision pointer in the timeline.



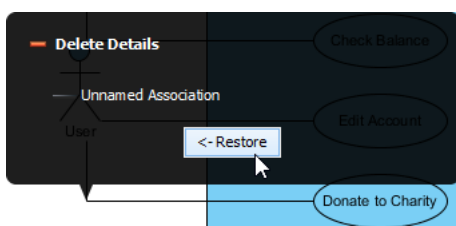
- This time, you should see two red pointers, with a minus sign in them, appear on the right-hand side. This means that the *Donate to Charity* use case and its connector were present in the chosen old revision but are no longer present in the current revision.



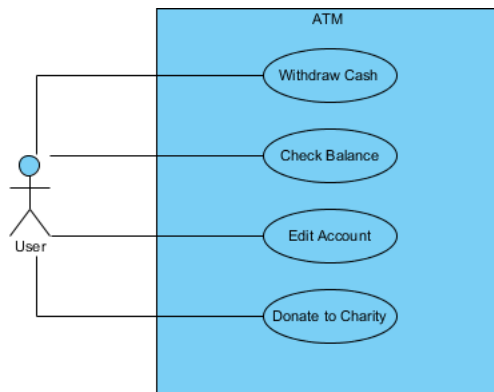
- Let's restore the *Donate to Charity* use case. Click on the red pointer above the *Donate to Charity* use case. In the pop-up, click **Restore**.



- You should see the *Donate to Charity* use case reappear in the current revision. Let's also restore the association that connects the *User* actor and the *Donate to Charity* use case.



12. You're done. Click **Done** at the bottom of Visual History to go back to the diagram.



13. Finally, don't forget to commit the changes to the server.

Related Links

- [Learn more about Visual History](#)
- [Learn more about reverting design with Visual History](#)
- [Check the collaboration support of Visual Paradigm](#)



Visual Paradigm home page
(<https://www.visual-paradigm.com/>)

Visual Paradigm tutorials
(<https://www.visual-paradigm.com/tutorials/>)