

Rational Software Architect (RSA) Overview

IBM Rational Software Architect (RSA) is an integrated design and development tool that leverages model-driven development with the UML for creating well-designed applications and services. RSA integrates with the IBM Rational team unifying platform, providing 'requirements management', traceability, source code control and other team management functions throughout the software engineering life cycle.

RSA, being based on Eclipse 3.0, provides users with all the features of the Eclipse Platform. For the same reason, RSA can be used for developing J2EE Platform technology. In addition, one can convert designs and UML diagrams drawn in the Modeling perspective into Java code. Also the underlying Eclipse platform also provides a robust and feature rich IDE for developers. However, Rational Software Architect is not limited to Java technology or the J2EE platform. UML models can also be converted into C++ code as needed. The code-generation features of the tool allow the users to generate base code that one can then customize. This feature allows developers to leverage the modeling and design pattern capabilities of RSA for non-J2EE platform development.

RSA unifies all aspects of software design and development into one powerful and easy to use tool. The product includes all the J2EE, Web, and Web services features found in Rational Application Developer for 'WebSphere' Software. Thus, RSA adds modeling and support for design patterns along with other existing features to Rational developer packages.

Rational Software Architect is a component of the IBM Rational Professional Bundle.

For more information, refer to [IBM's RSA website](http://www-306.ibm.com/software/awdtools/architect/swarchitect/)
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