The Bentley Zoo Example

The documents in this section chronicle a sequence of iterations to model a Zoo problem where animals and cages and keepers represent the operations of a Zoo.

The model is rendered using UML-2 and was implemented using an object modeling tool called Together 6.2 which runs on the Windows XP environment. Although you may be using some more rudimentary drawing tool (e.g. Powerpoint, Quickdraw, Word, etc.) this progression of model iterations can be instructive as it follows rather closely the UML Modeling Guidelines prescribed in this course.

As with any CASE tool the developers have made choices that work well for them but may be extraneous to our needs in this demonstration exercise. For example, Together adds “lnkXXX” attributes to class definitions that participate in associations something akin to “foreign keys” that you would need in ER models for joins. In this course (and in domain business models in general) we don’t model “foreign keys!” So, try to ignore those. Also, in the sequence diagrams, you’ll see details about timing and encoding of message instances, etc. that are useful for animating a sequence diagram but are not needed for our purposes of demonstrating the documentation of messages and their actions.

So, the best use of these examples is to take a diagram and map each attribute or method to the documented descriptions in the prose that accompanies it. Those descriptions are attempts at examples of Correct, Concise, Clear, and Complete explanations of each element’s role and purpose in explaining what happens in the model to satisfy the narrative and the business rules therein.