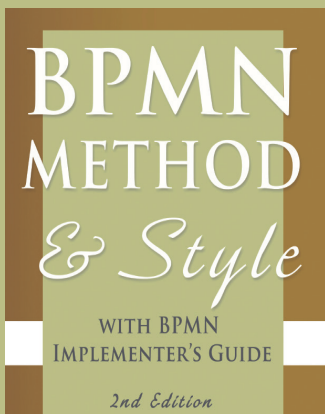


Best Practices

What is **BPMN Method and Style**?

METHOD *& Style*



“Style rule validation built into the Signavio Process Manager not only fixes errors but lets modelers quickly learn and remember best practices.”

Bruce Silver,
Bruce Silver Associates

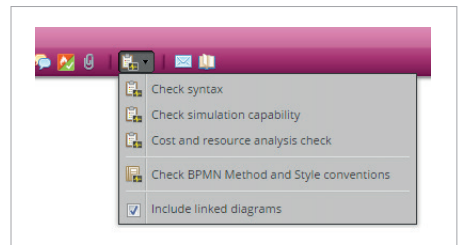
The BPMN 2.0 specification contains a number of rules used to validate a process model, but these are concerned only with proper “operational semantics,” meaning the model is possibly executable on a process engine. But that is not the primary concern of most BPMN users! For most people, BPMN’s real purpose is communicating the process logic clearly, completely, and consistently via a diagram. Doing that requires additional conventions on top of the rules of the BPMN spec. BPMN Method and Style from Bruce Silver Associates is such a set of conventions that can be validated in all editions of the Signavio Process Manager.

For example, while the BPMN specification does not require labels for any shapes in the diagram, it is common sense that a diagram in which activities, gateways, and events are unlabeled is not going to communicate very clearly. Method and Style rule validation will flag the unlabeled nodes in the diagram. Many other shapes that add meaning to the diagram are optional according to the specification, but required by Method and Style rules. For example, a Message event, Send task, or Receive task must have a Message flow connector.

Other Method and Style rules aid in traceability of the process logic between diagrams representing different process levels. For example, each distinct end state of a process or subprocess should be represented by a separate end event labeled (Noun-adjective) to indicate the end state. A subprocess with, say, three such end events should be followed by a gateway with exactly three gates, la-

beled to match each end state. Mechanical label-matching rules such as these help those outside the immediate project team to understand the diagrams even when they are unfamiliar with the process logic or its terminology.

To use the Method and Style rule validation feature, simply select **Check BPMN Method and Style** conventions from the toolbar. From a top-level diagram, make sure **Include linked diagrams** is checked, as some rules – like the label-matching convention described above – need to compare values in two separate diagrams.



Method and Style rule validation feature

Having Method and Style validation built into the tool not only improves model quality but teaches modelers the rules. After a short while, creating “good BPMN” becomes simply a habit.

More information is available in Bruce Silver’s book, *BPMN Method and Style*, 2nd edition, available in English, German, and Spanish. For Signavio-based BPMN Method and Style training and certification, see <http://methodandstyle.com/product/bpmntraining/>.



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