

# Engineering eXchange For Free

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## 1. Introduction

*exff* (pronounced "XF") began life in 2003 with the goal of enabling the use of ISO STEP standard engineering/industrial information models in a modelling and implementation environment based on the Unified Modeling Language™ (UML™). Since then the number of potential uses for the models and concepts behind *exff*, has grown leading to a new expanded scope for the project... and so the new name.

The major business rationale for *exff* remains supporting organizations in taking more advantage of modeling and implementation standards and standard models - and the ISO STEP standards in particular. In support of that goal, a variety of topics are now within the *exff* scope, including but not limited to the following:

- support for knowledge- and/or rule-based applications such as the Semantic Web;
- support for applications used in the definition of systems of systems;
- support for UML-driven software systems engineering and systems integration capabilities;
- support for the interchange of data from UML-based and other graphical notations (e.g. SysML) used by domain engineers;
- support for a variety of implementation methods such as file exchange and Web services
- support for enabling the population of existing and in-development Architecture Frameworks through tool exchange and integration.

### 1.1. License

The *exff* Project is developed under the [Common Public License](http://www.opensource.org/licenses/cpl.php) (<http://www.opensource.org/licenses/cpl.php>) .