

## New and Noteworthy in CoFFEE 5.0 “ISISLab”

Here are some of the more noteworthy things available in milestone build in July 21, 2010

- New Tools
  - CollabXMind Tool
  - Document Sharing Tool
  - Shared Drawing Tool
- Feature
  - Activity Indicators

### New Tools

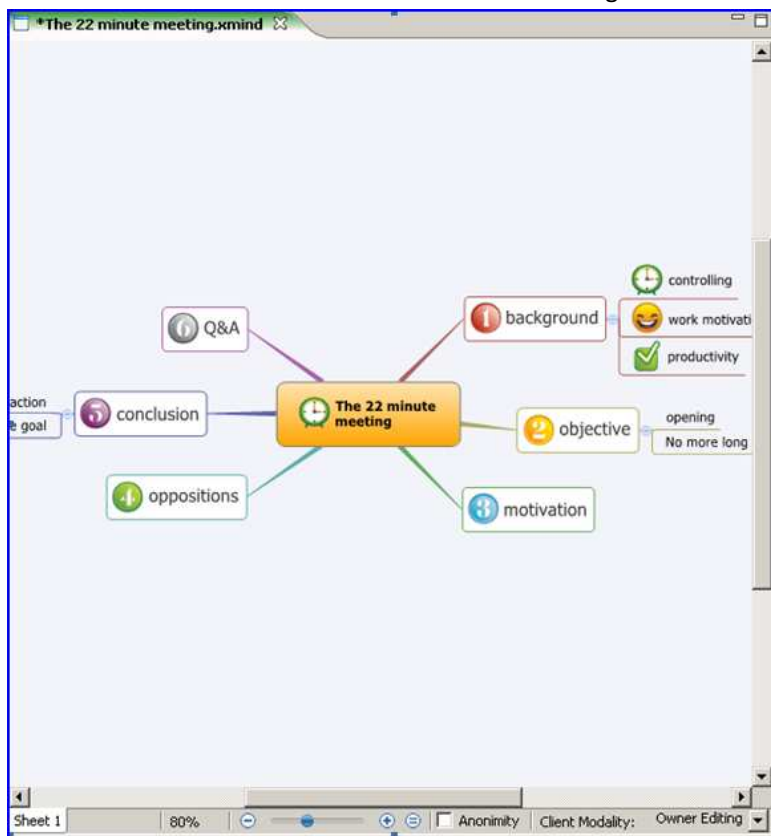
The following section describes details of each new tool introduced in the CoFFEE.

#### CollabXMind Tool

The tool is a **collaborative real-time** mind-mapping tool that enables multiple users to cooperate in parallel way on the shared map.

CollabXmind tool's user interface is similar to <http://www.xmind.net/XMind> mind-mapping application, indeed it inherits most of the XMind's features.

A screenshot of CollabXMind in CoFFEE is the following:



## The CollabXMind tool, usage example

The tool cannot be scheduled in a CoFFEE session, but can only be started on the fly.

### Configurability

There are 4 editing policies:

- Clone: with this policy, the students see exactly what the teacher see. If the teacher scrolls or zoom, the same happens on the students' side.
- View: the students still cannot edit, but they are free to zoom and scroll.
- Owner Editing: each student can edit only the items added by him/herself.
- Open Editing: everybody can edit everything.

The teacher can change the editing policy at any time by selecting it on the bottom-right corner of the tool.

### Notes

Each XMind package now contains English, German, Japanese, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional) language packs.

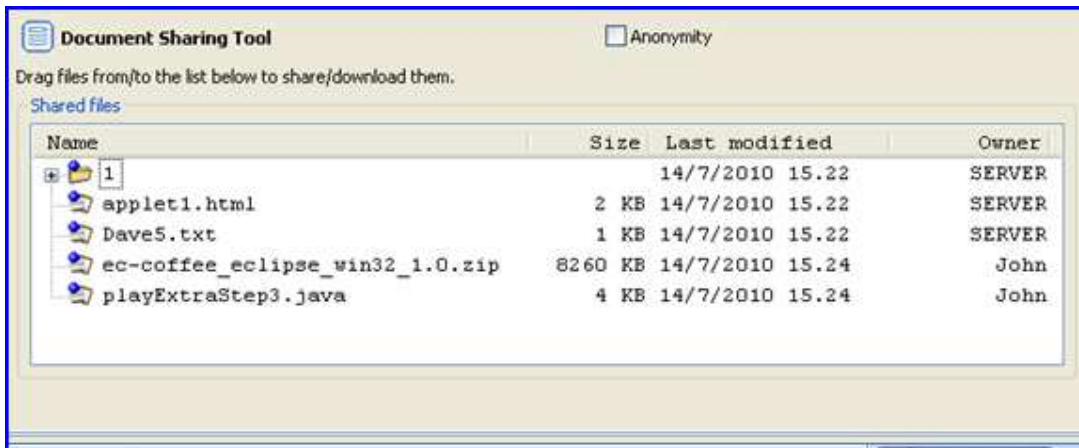
So the CollabXMind tool in CoFFEE is available only English version.

## Document Sharing Tool



The Document Sharing Tool is an FTP server which allows file sharing between CoFFEE users. The tool works in a quite intuitive way: upload/download operations are performed via drag&drop or copy&paste actions. The teacher can delete any file or folder, while each student can delete only the files uploaded by himself. The tool can also work in an anonymous way, so that the author of the upload is hidden to the other students.

This is how the tool appears:



## Shared Drawing Tool

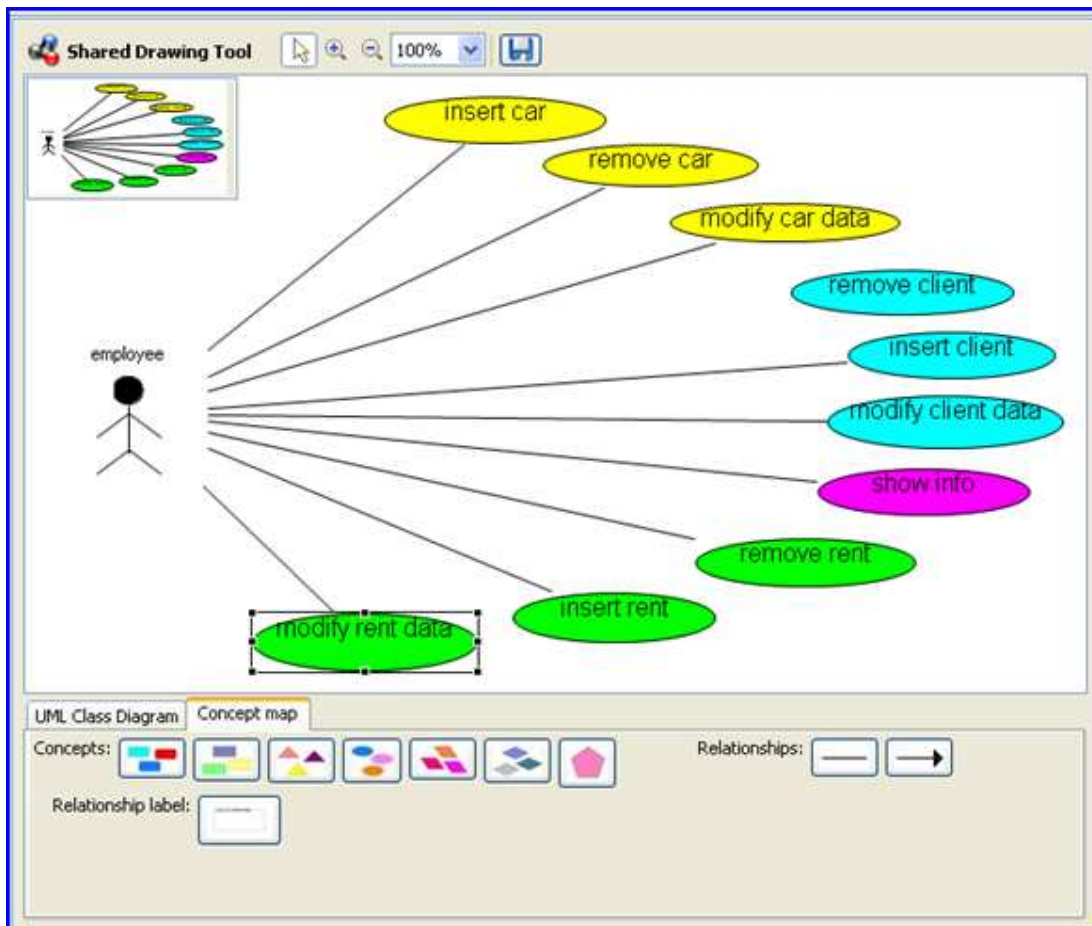


The Shared Drawing Tool (SDT) supports the collaborative creation and editing of graphs, with geometrical figures containing text and connection lines between figures.

SDT is more generic than CoFFEE Graphical Tool, that is used in graphical argumentation. The Graphical Tool in CoFFEE has a single (although taggable) fixed-sized shape, with a fixed font, to avoid any graphical 'domination' in the discussion.

On the other hand, the SDT allows a variety of different shapes and arrows, and provides also a direct support for creating concept maps and UML diagrams.

The SDT provides support for building graph-based diagrams in a synchronous collaborative way. It has a shared 2-dimensional space (workspace) which can be filled with figures containing text (eventually) linked with arrows. Arrows which point to other arrows are allowed too. There is no limitation to figure sizes, fonts and colors. A variety of figures and arrows is provided, included the ones specific for UML class diagrams and concept maps, as shown in the following figures:






## New features

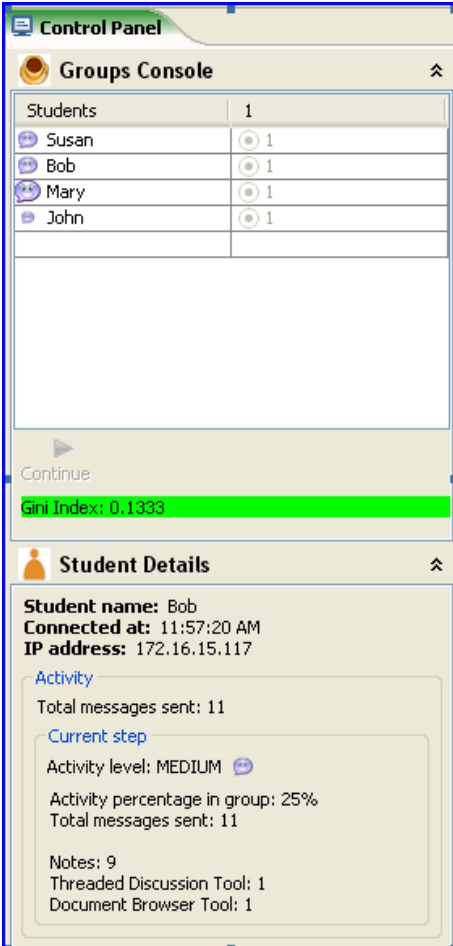
## Activity Indicators

The Controller can now monitor the activity level of each student in real time. When the teacher selects a student in the Groups Console view, he/she can read details on the student's activity in the Student Details view.

The information visualized is:

- The total number of messages sent by the student since the beginning of the session;
- The activity details in the current step, specifically:
- The activity level indicator: at the moment the indicators are organized in quartiles of the activity (number of messages sent) in the group (first quartile =  LOW , second quartile =  MEDIUM , third quartile =  HIGH );
- The activity percentage in the group, i.e. the percentage of messages sent in the group;
- The total of messages sent in the group;
- The messages sent in each tool.


The activity level icons of all students are visible in the Groups Console view, so the teacher can immediately realize who is participating more or less to the discussion in each group. There is also shown the "Gini index", an index of the overall participation level in the discussion (from 0 – equal participation – to 1 – totally unequal).



The screenshot shows a software interface with two main sections: "Groups Console" and "Student Details".

**Groups Console:** A table lists four students: Susan, Bob, Mary, and John. Each student has a small activity level icon and the number "1" next to their name. Below the table is a "Continue" button and a green bar displaying "Gini Index: 0.1333".

**Student Details:** This section provides information for a selected student, Bob. It includes:

- Student name:** Bob
- Connected at:** 11:57:20 AM
- IP address:** 172.16.15.117
- Activity:**
  - Total messages sent: 11
  - Current step:**
    - Activity level: MEDIUM 
    - Activity percentage in group: 25%
    - Total messages sent: 11
  - Notes: 9
  - Threaded Discussion Tool: 1
  - Document Browser Tool: 1