

SystemJ Quick-Start Guide

Version 2.0

By now you've installed the SystemJ Development kit for Eclipse and likely heard about its strengths in designing and programming concurrent and distributed software systems, so what now?

If you just want to jump straight in to development this 'Quick-Start' guide is what shows you how to use the toolset in Eclipse, or else, if you want a more detailed demonstration of SystemJ itself please have a look at the Detailed SystemJ guide. Please note that these guides are available in several locations; the website (http://www.systemjtechnology.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=73) and in the Eclipse documentation at Help>Help Contents>SystemJ Developer Guide>Development Guides. Additionally, there is an FAQ available at http://systemjtechnology.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=41. Should you have any further questions on what is needed or should be explained better please send an email to info@systemjtechnology.com, or file a bug report at <http://www.systemjtechnology.com/trac/systemjcompiler/newticket> and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

As per the installation guide, by this point you are now assumed to have a licensed version of SystemJ installed on your machine.

To begin with, there is a conventional structure to which SystemJ projects adhere as shown in Figure 1. Firstly, the .sysj file should be kept at the root of project whereas the Java packages can be placed in the src folder. A SystemJ project is organised in this manner primarily for clarity due to the typical project configuration; one or two .sysj files and several Java packages Following this is the naming convention which helps the tools to relate different file types to one another. For instance, the .xml file which defines the network structure used by SC.sysj should be called SC.xml; the tools have been designed to automatically search for files which satisfy this convention when the respective .sysj file is launched. The same convention applies to the .sjio debugging file.

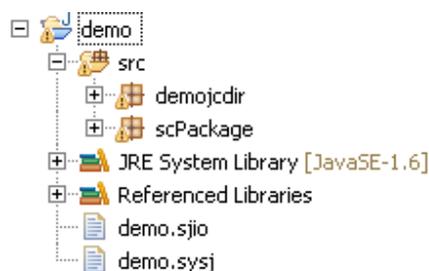


Figure 1: Project Structure

Now that you understand the expected project layout you can create one yourself using the SystemJ project wizard shown in Figure 2. You can provide only a name and click finish to generate a project with the default settings or you can page through and customise it further. If the project generated is lacking something that you require you can create that file through the .sysj,

.xml and ,sjio wizards as you see fit. Like the project wizard, you can stick with the defaults or customise it as long as you maintain the naming conventions as shown in Figure 3.

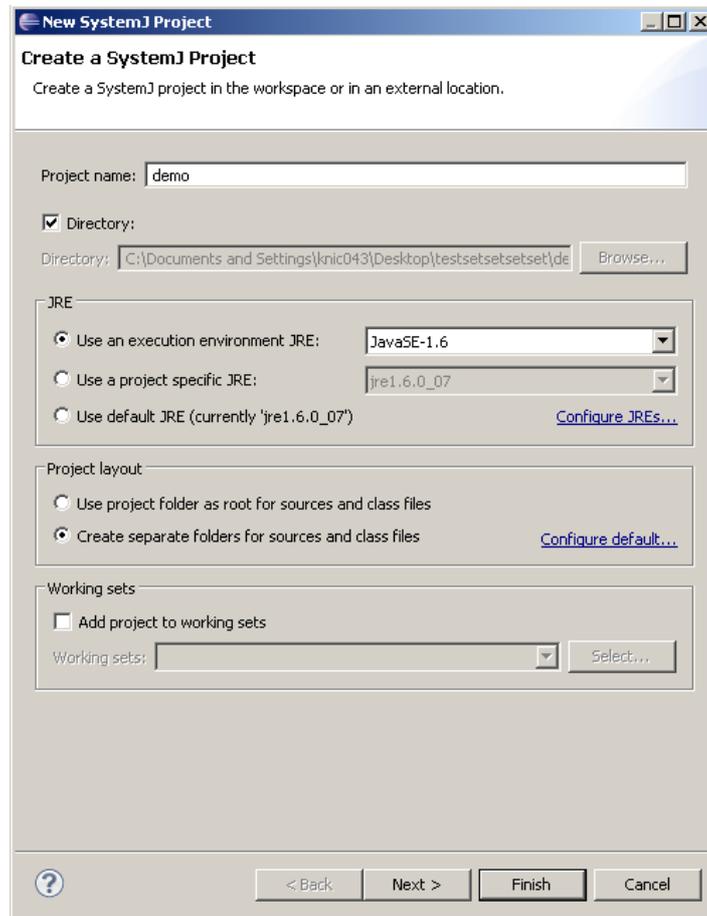


Figure 2: SystemJ Project Wizard

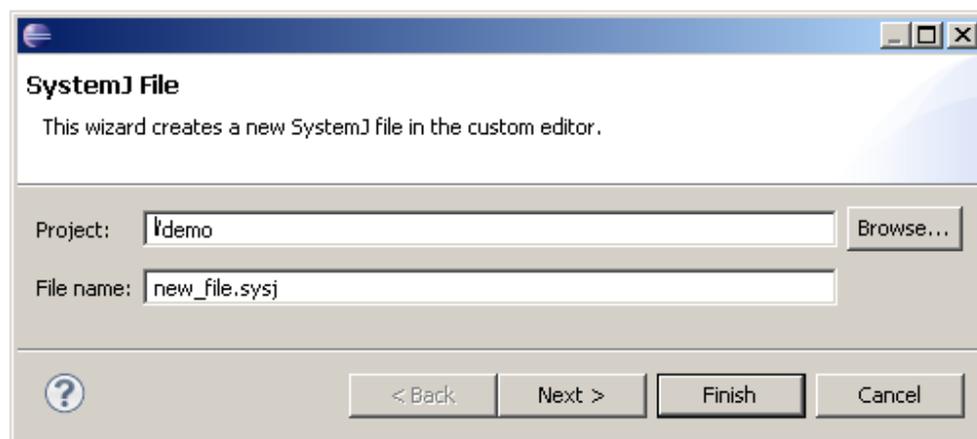


Figure 3: SystemJ File Wizard

As shown in Figure 4 the demo project makes use of the non-networked template and includes a demo.sysj and a demo.sjio file which are automatically opened in the SystemJ Code Editor when

the project is generated and the user is prompted to open the SystemJ perspective. The code editor offers syntax highlighting among other useful features which are complemented well by the perspective that adds some shortcuts to the file and projects menus as well as organising the views on the workbench in a way conducive to SystemJ development.

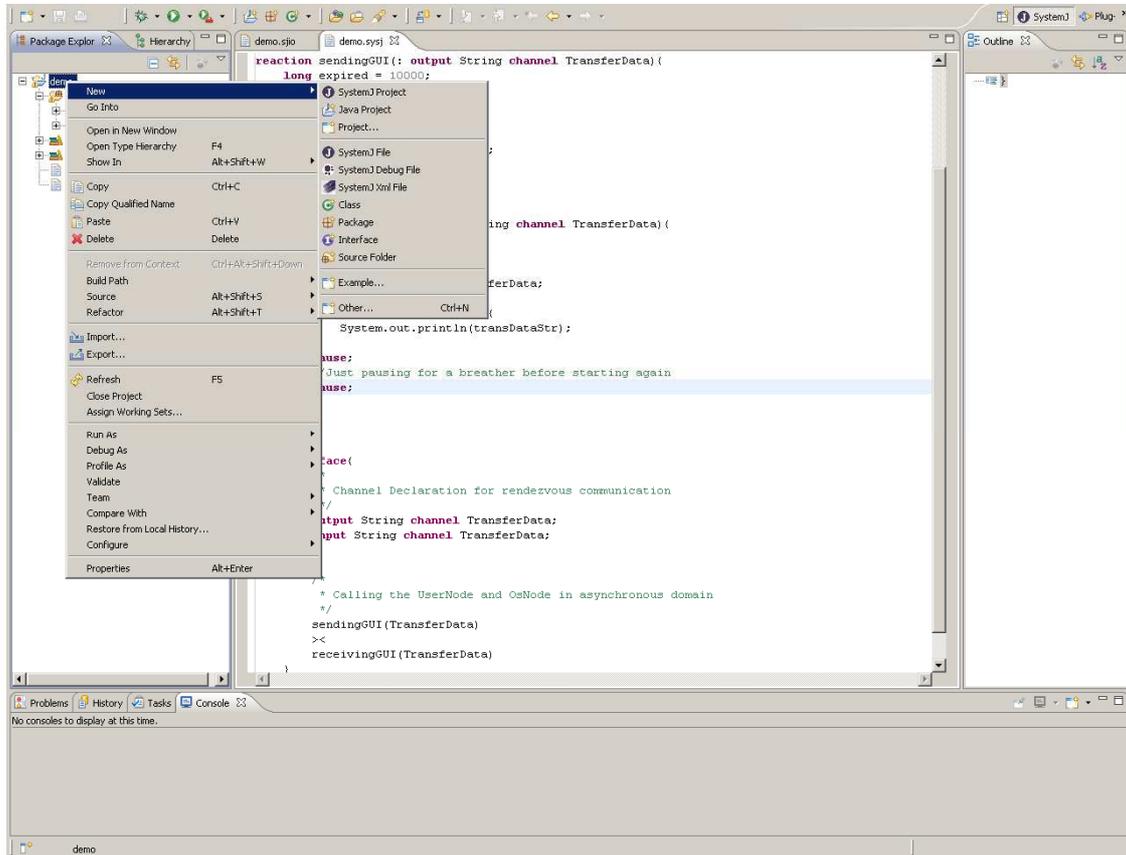


Figure 4: SystemJ Perspective – Includes ‘Outline’ to the right, ‘Code Editor’ in the middle and the shortcuts on the ‘right-click > New’, or ‘File > New’ menu, on the left.

And finally, the most important tools are those which enable the running and debugging of SystemJ projects. Within Eclipse the process of a launch configuration is shortcut>delegate>launch, and through the tools you, the user, can take action at either of the first two levels. The shortcuts have been made context specific and are available at the project level, the respective compiled directory level and at the .sysj file itself under ‘Run As > SystemJ Application’ and ‘Debug As > SystemJ Application’. Moreover, what a shortcut does is essentially configuring a delegate with default parameters and then launching them. Should you want more control over the launch configuration you can easily alter the parameters at the Run > Run Configurations.. (Figure 5) or Debug>Debug Configurations.. (Figure 6) options respectively.

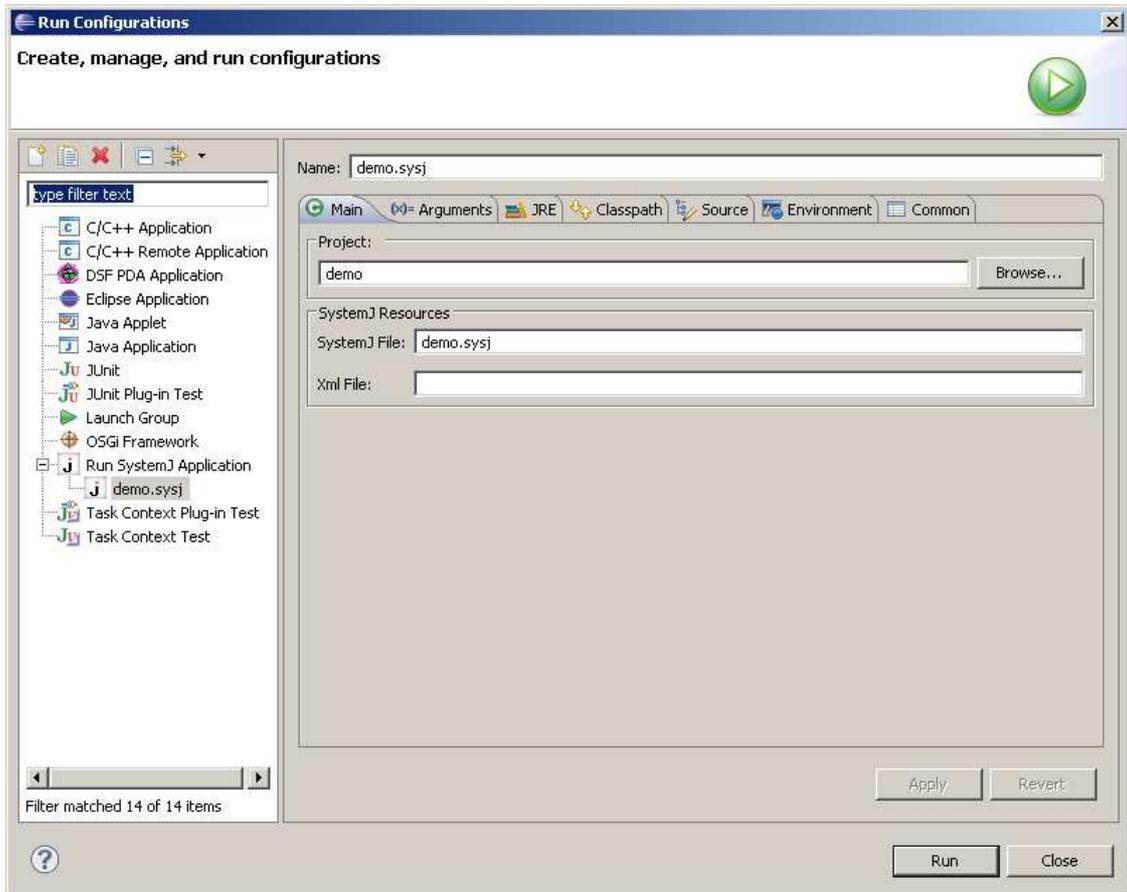


Figure 5: Run Delegate

Take note though, that the debug launch type does not require an .xml due to the manner in which it is compiled. Because of this, as seen in the images, the two delegates differ slightly in what settings need to be configured for a launch.

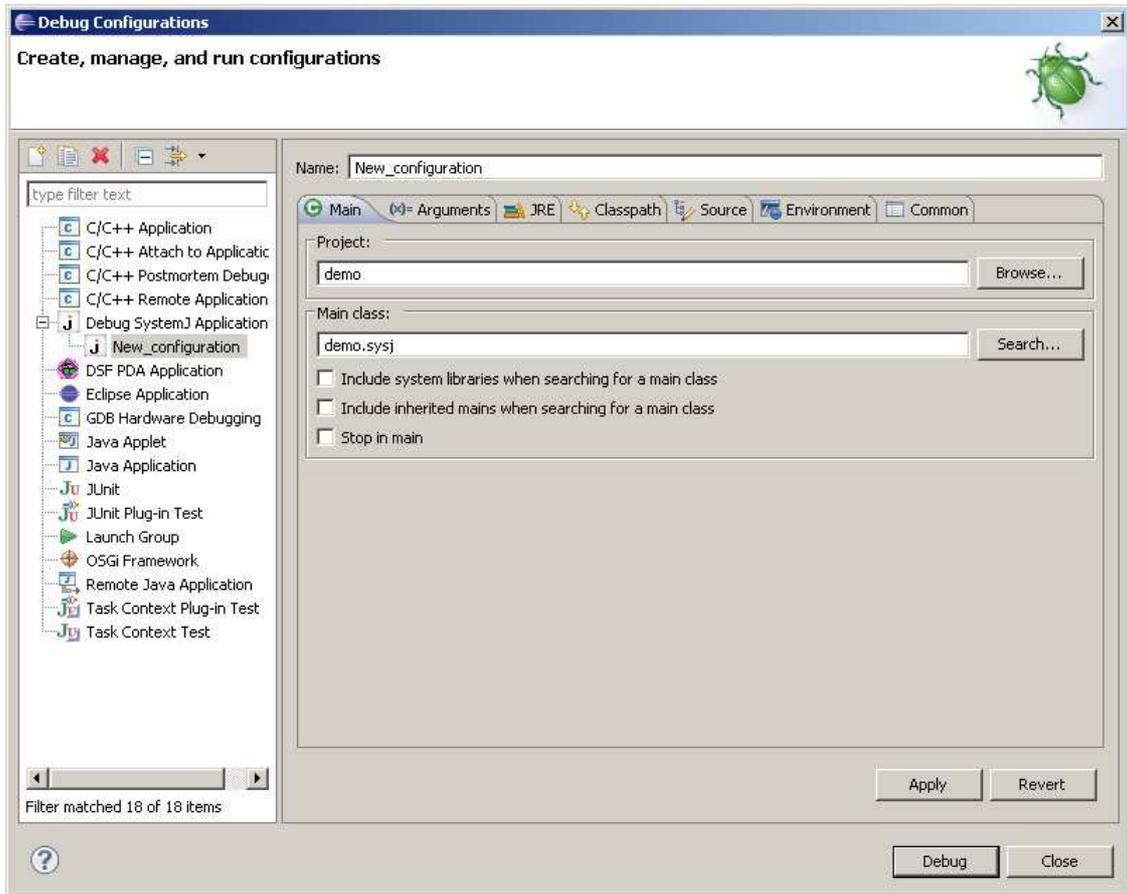


Figure 6: Debug Delegate

SystemJ can also be used for programming networked systems. The project setup for network programming differs slightly compared to the aforementioned project setup. To explain network setup we revisit the setup from the start. Figure 10 shows the three initial dialog boxes that are used to setup the main project components. The first two dialog boxes set the name of the project and the libraries as previously seen in Figure 2. Essentially the difference lies in the third dialog box as, compared to the one in Figure 2, the designer needs to tick the ‘Generate a .xml file’ option along with the .sysj file option. SystemJ uses an external XML (Extension Markup Language) file to bind the channels and interface signals with the underlying physical layer.

Figure 11 shows an example SystemJ program with two clock-domains acting as a server and client communicating with each other via channels bound to the underlying physical network layer. The top left screen shows the SystemJ program code, the top right shows the corresponding XML file, the bottom left highlights the TransferId output channel binding for clock-domain UserNode and the bottom right highlights the TransferId input channel binding for clock-domain OsNode.

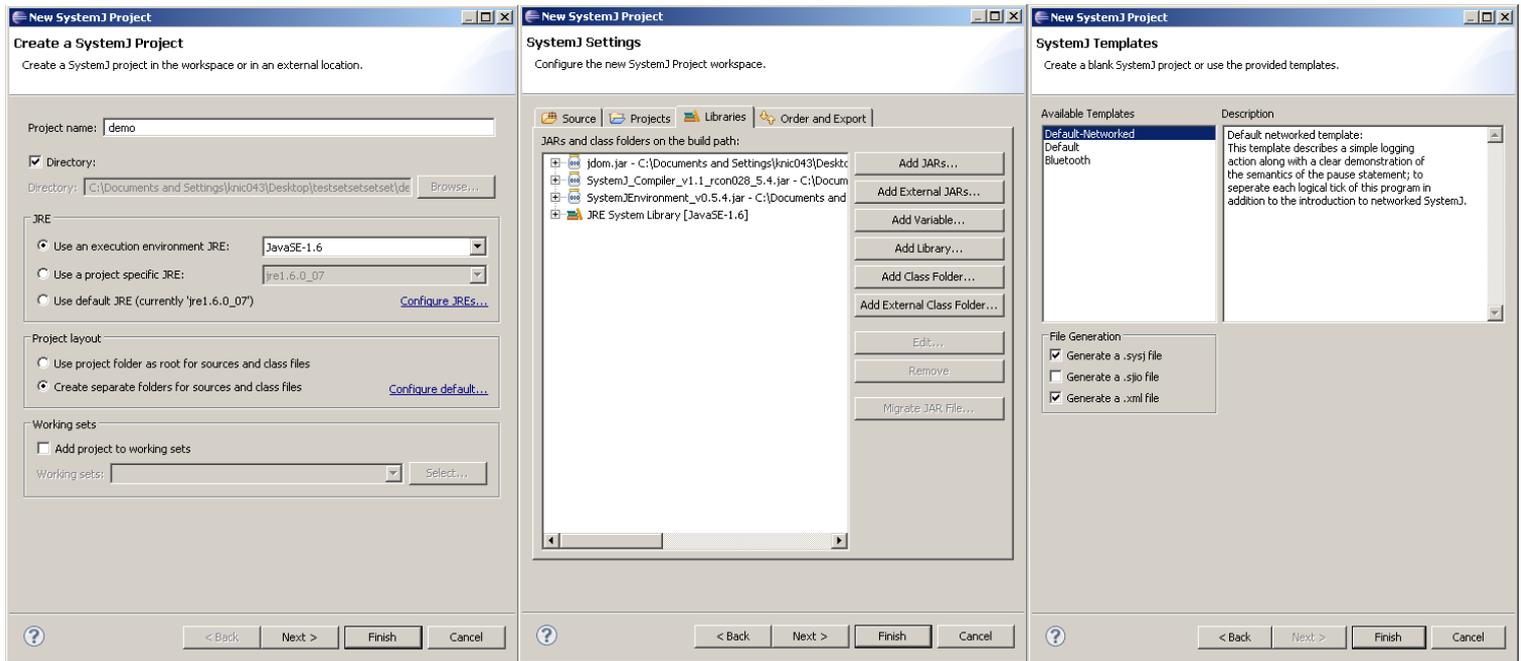


Figure 10: Setting up a SystemJ project for programming networked systems

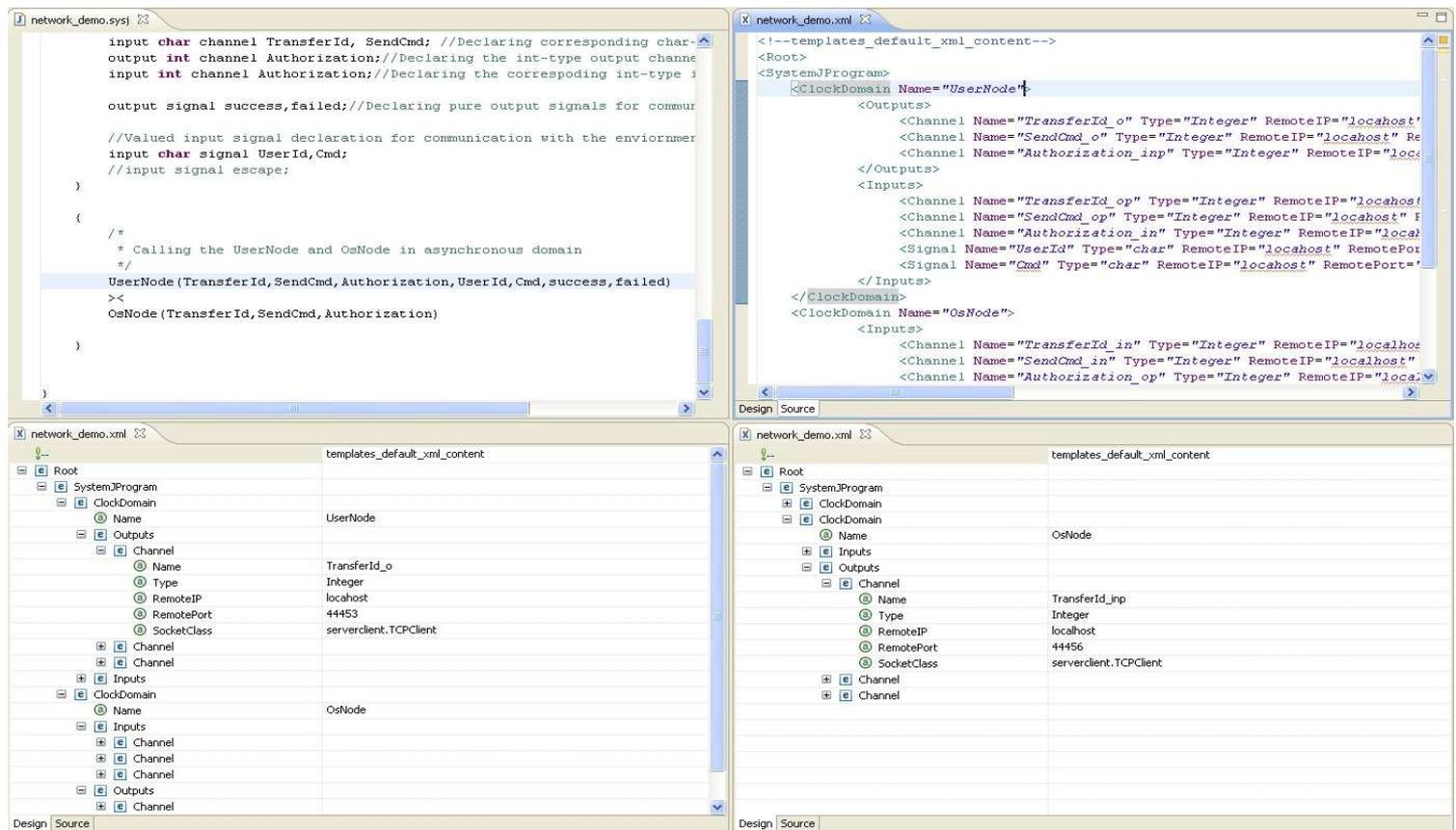


Figure 11: An Eclipse session split into four windows.