

Re: class diagram question

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Responding to Passero...

> When i have a class that uses a static method of another class, do i have to
> draw a link between those classes in my class diagram or do I only need to
> draw the link when i'm using an instance of a class in my class? Is it the
> same when i parse an object of another class as a parameter but still don't
> use it as an attribute?
>
> In java it would be something like this:
>
> `public void myFunction()`
> `{`
> `Myclass.doMethod(aClassOfMine)`
> `}`
>
> `aClassOfMine` is an instance of a self-written class and `MyClass` is another
> class.
> In `MyClass` i only use `aClassOfMine` in the method `doMethod` so do i have to
> draw a link between the class that calls `doMehod` and `MyClass` and do i also
> have to draw a link between `MyClass` and `ClassOfMine` ?

It may be obvious from the Java syntax, but I don't know Java that well so I have some questions.

- (1) Which method is the static method?
- (2) What class owns the static method?
- (3) What class owns `myFunction`?
- (4) What do you mean by a "self-written class"?

To answer your questions in general... One needs a line in the Interaction Diagram for any behavioral collaboration between different objects. That includes objects that are passed as method arguments if the method invokes a behavior of the passed reference. (Passing an object reference is just one way to instantiate a relationship.)

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It really doesn't matter whether the method being invoked is static or not. (Whether it is static only affects the way the message is addressed.) If one is really concerned about static vs. member methods, one can direct the arrow to an object swimlane that is not qualified with specific identifier while directing member method calls to swimlanes with a specific object identifier. (Though people very rarely draw Interaction Diagrams with swimlanes qualified by identifiers because of the clutter it tends to add to the diagram.)

There is nothing wrong with me that could not be cured by a capful of Drano.

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