Cincom® ObjectStudio® New Native GUI Implementation Preview:

A Technical Overview

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Cincinnati, Ohio

ObjectStudio®

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Overview

- Intention and Goals
- Some Windows™ Definitions
- Architectural Overview
- Announcements
- Sample Code

Intention and Goals

- Modernize the UI Controls / Widgets
- Eliminate Primitives and use DLLCC
- Easy to Maintain and Extend

“A user interface is well-designed when the program behaves exactly how the user thought it would.”

Some Windows™ Definitions

- Window Classes
- Window Procedure
- Window Messages

Window Classes

A window class is a set of attributes that the system uses as a template to create a window. Every window is a member of a window class. All window classes are process specific.

Window Procedure

Every window class has an associated window procedure — a function that processes all messages sent or posted to all windows of the class.

All aspects of a window's appearance and behavior depend on the window procedure's response to these messages.

Window Messages

Each window has a function, called a window procedure, that the system calls whenever it has input for the window.

Windows do not make explicit function calls to obtain input. Instead, they wait for the system to pass input to them.

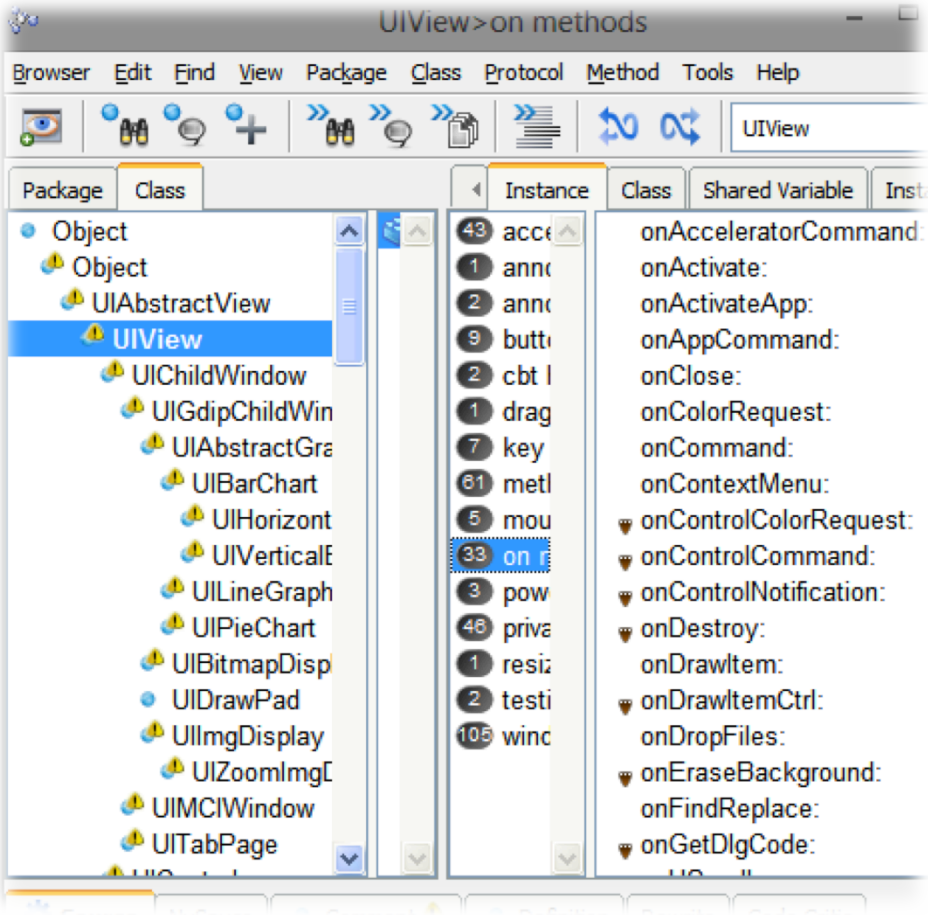
The system passes all input for an application to the various windows in the application.

Architectural Overview

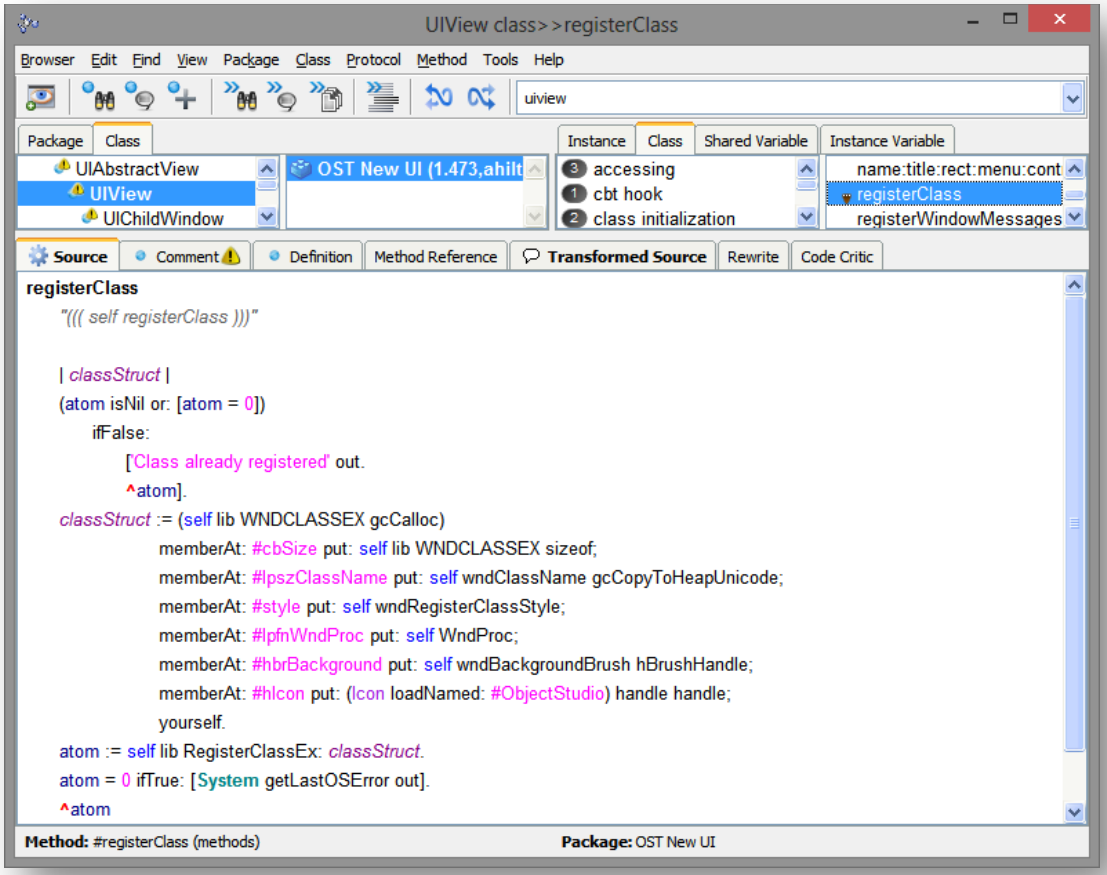
- UIView
  - UITransparentWindow
  - UIChildWindow
  - UIControl
- Windows GDI
- GDI+

UIView

- UIView class
  - registerClass
  - WndProc
  - MessageMap
  - Message Handling
- UIView
  - privateCreate



UIView class>>registerClass



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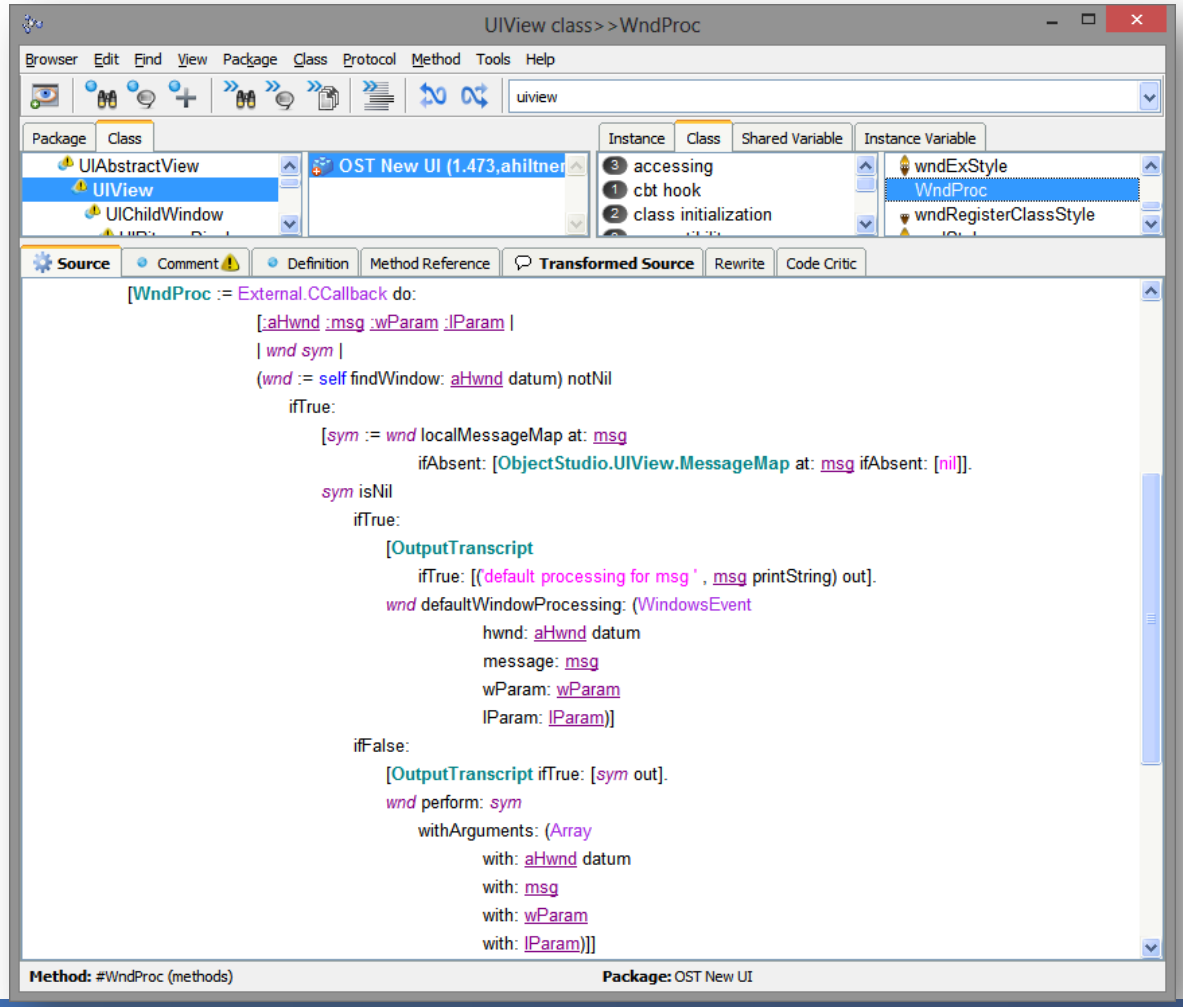
UIView class>>WndProc



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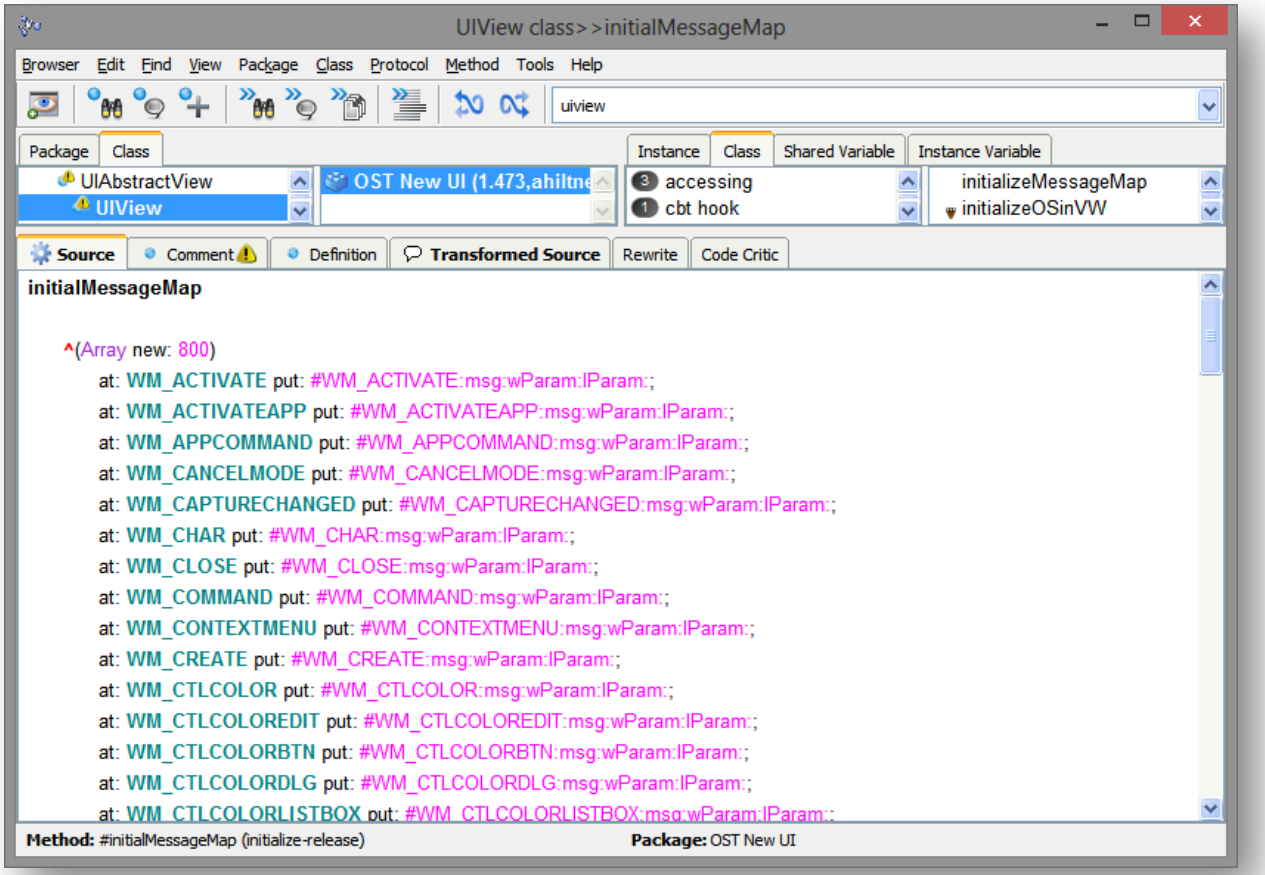
UIView class>>MessageMap



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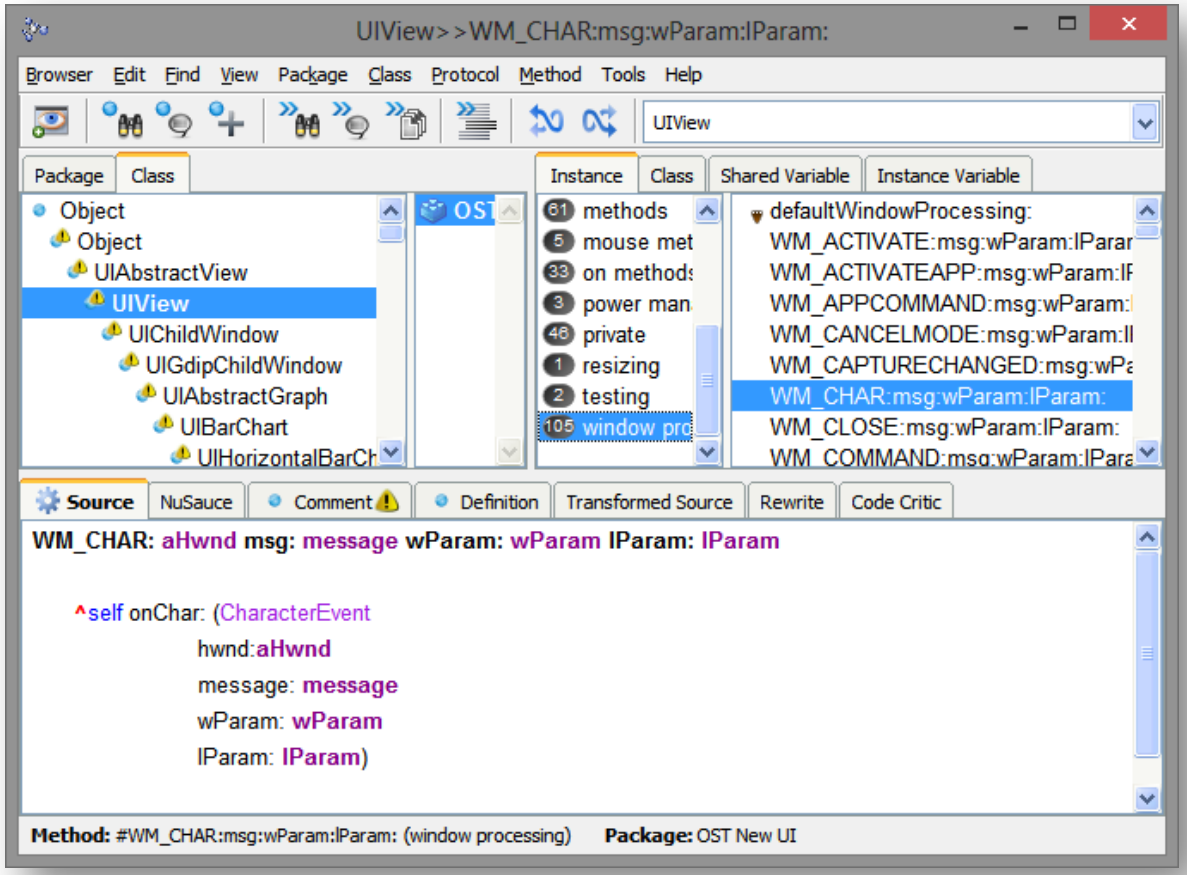
UIView>>WM_CHAR:msg:wParam:lParam



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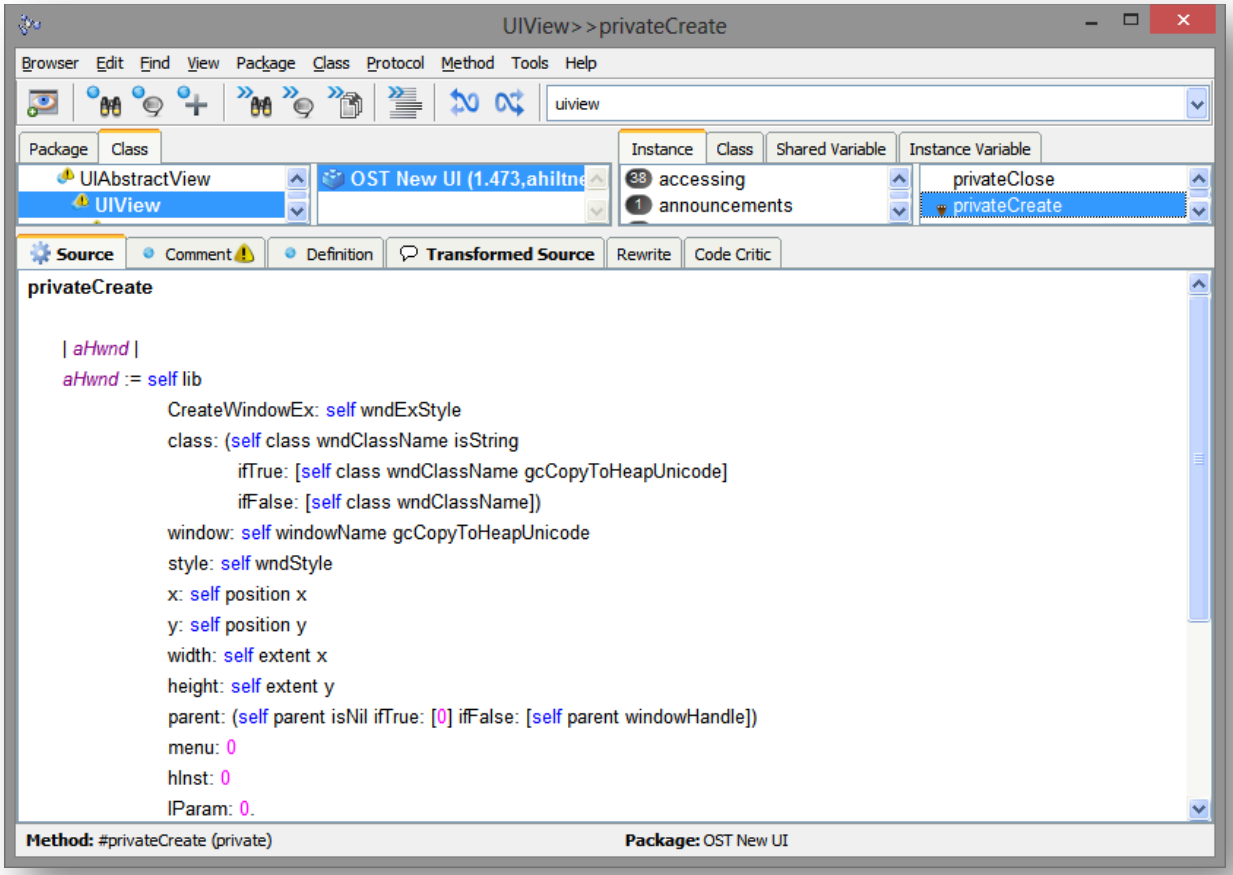
UIView>>privateCreate



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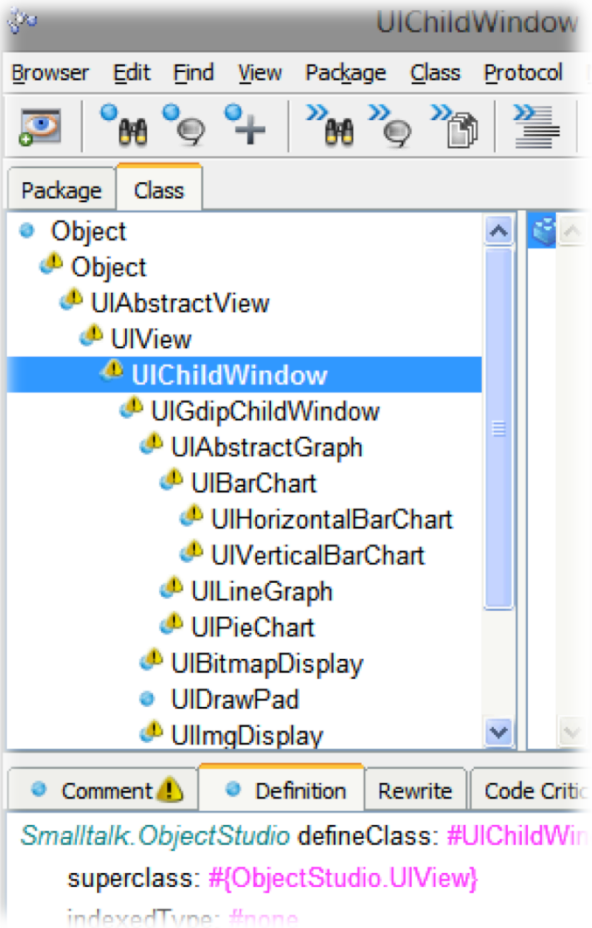
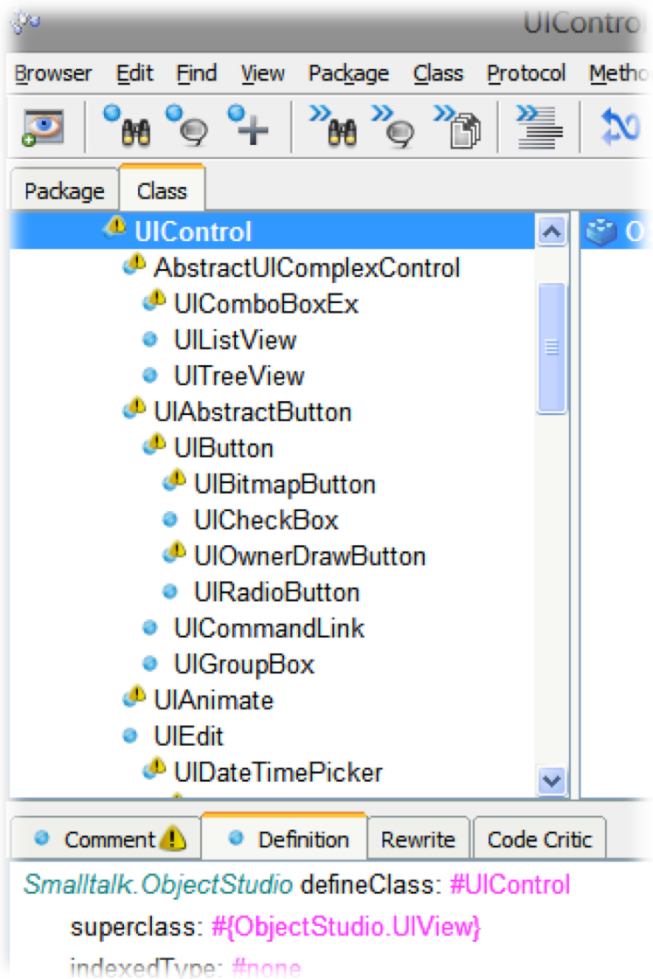
UIChildWindow

- Superclass for all child windows
- Subclasses are window classes like
  - UITabPage
  - UIDrawPad
  - UIImgDisplay
  - (…)



UIControl

- Superclass for all Controls / Widgets
- Subclasses are Controls / Widgets like
  - UITreeView
  - UIListView
  - UIEdit
    - UIMultilineEdit
    - UIRichEdit
  - (…)



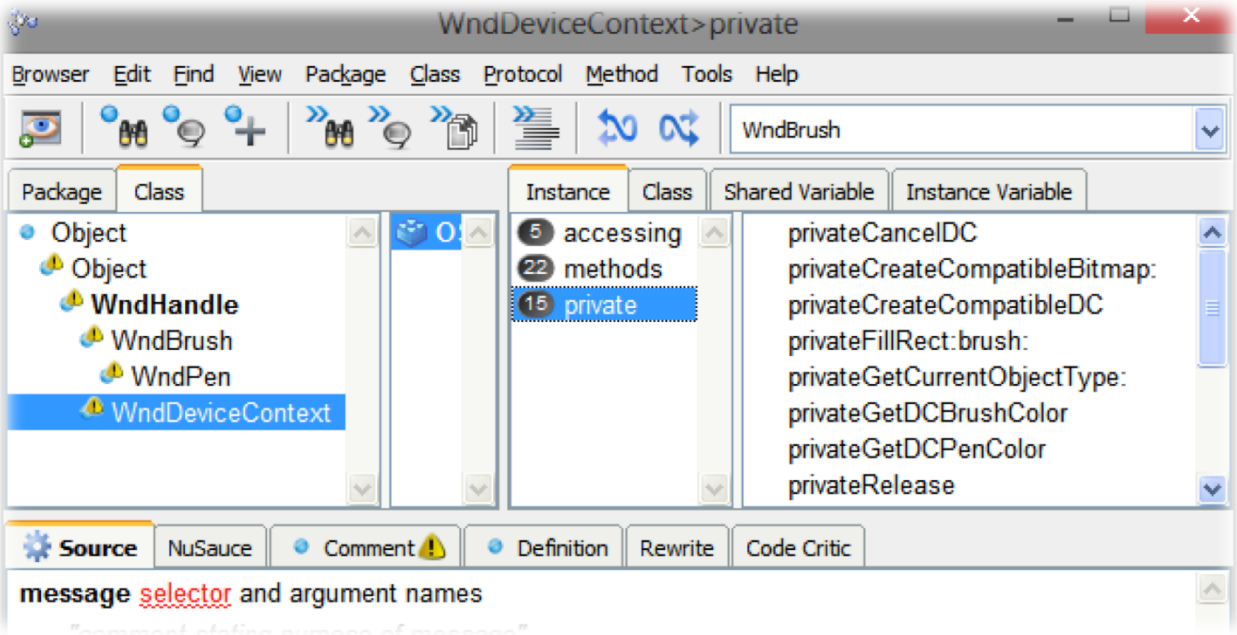
Windows GDI

The Microsoft Windows graphics device interface (GDI) enables applications to use graphics and formatted text on both the video display and the printer.

- Negatives
  - No support for modern image formats (JPG/PNG)
  - No anti-aliasing
- Positive
  - fast

Windows GDI

With the introduction of Windows XP, GDI was deprecated in favor of its successor, the C++ based GDI + subsystem.



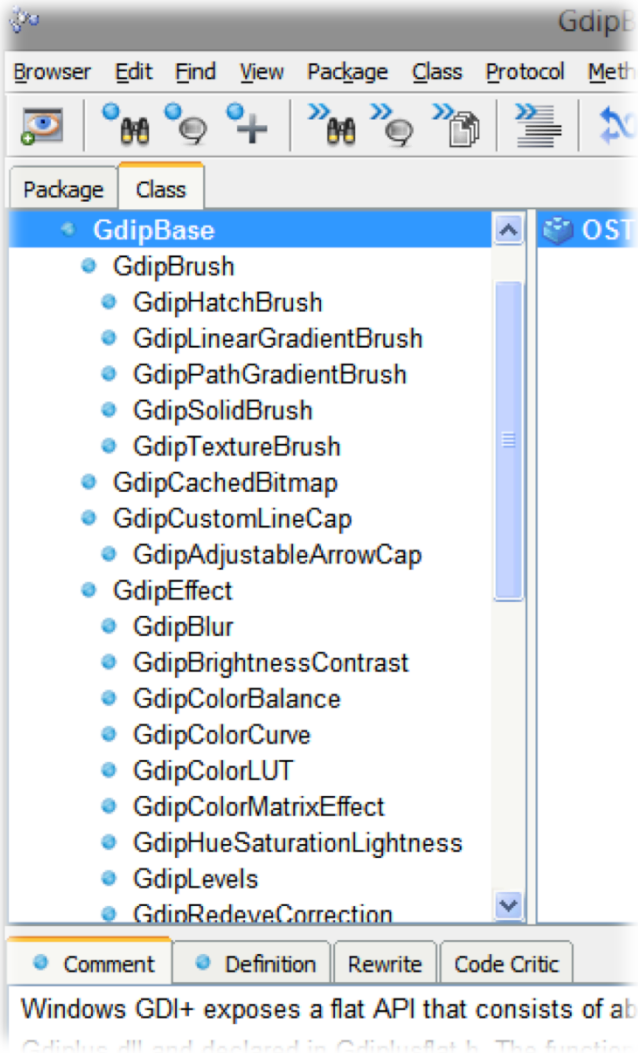
GDI+

“GDI+ adds anti-aliased 2D graphics, floating point coordinates, gradient shading, more complex path management, intrinsic support for modern graphics-file formats like JPEG and PNG, and support for composition of affine transformations in the 2D view pipeline.”

GDI+

Windows GDI+ exposes a flat API that consists of about 600 functions

The functions are mapped into Smalltalk classes, that reflect the C++ hierarchy

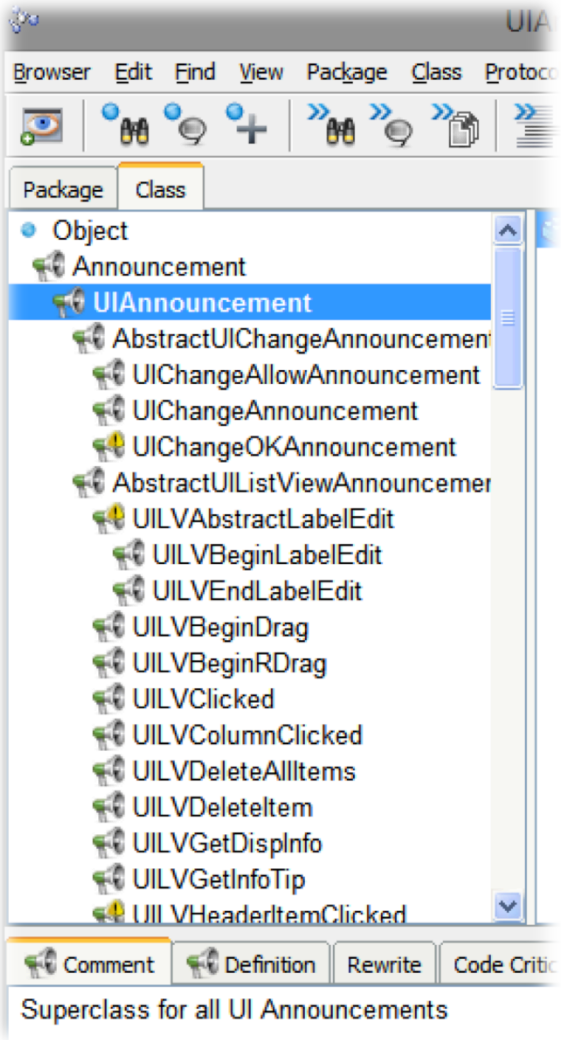


Used In

- UIBitmapDisplay
- UIImgDisplay
- UIDrawPad
- UIChart
  - UILineGraph
  - UIBarChart
  - UIPieChart

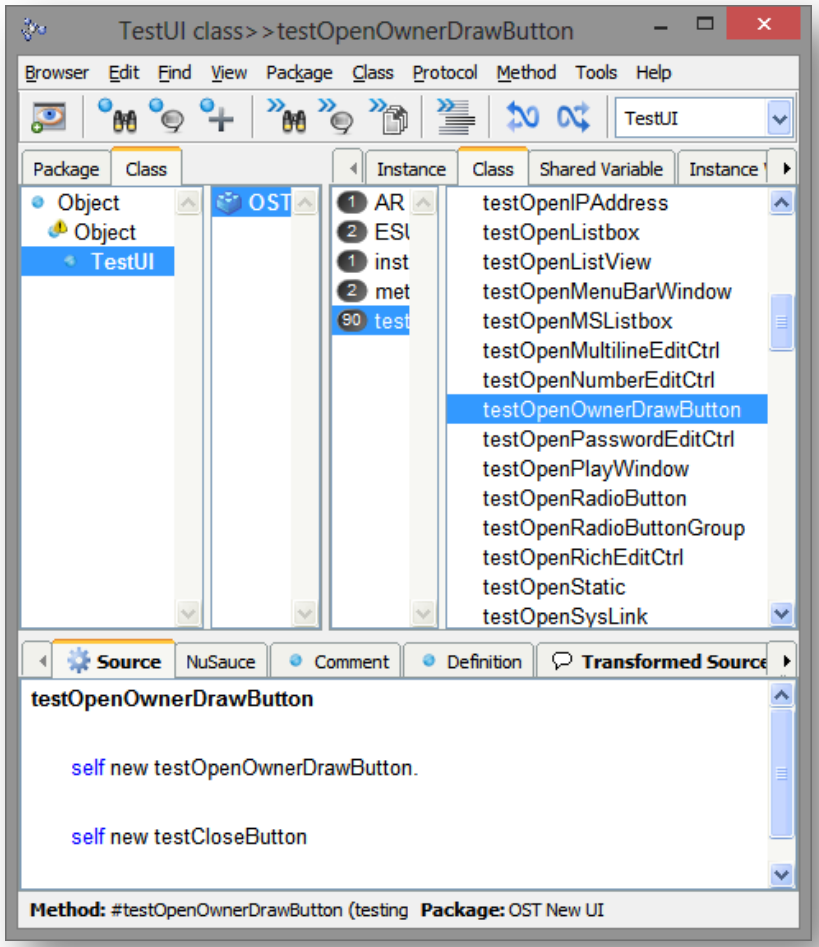
Announcements

Announcement is the core of class-based event notification framework superseding the older symbol-based trigger-event framework and the changed/ update mechanism.



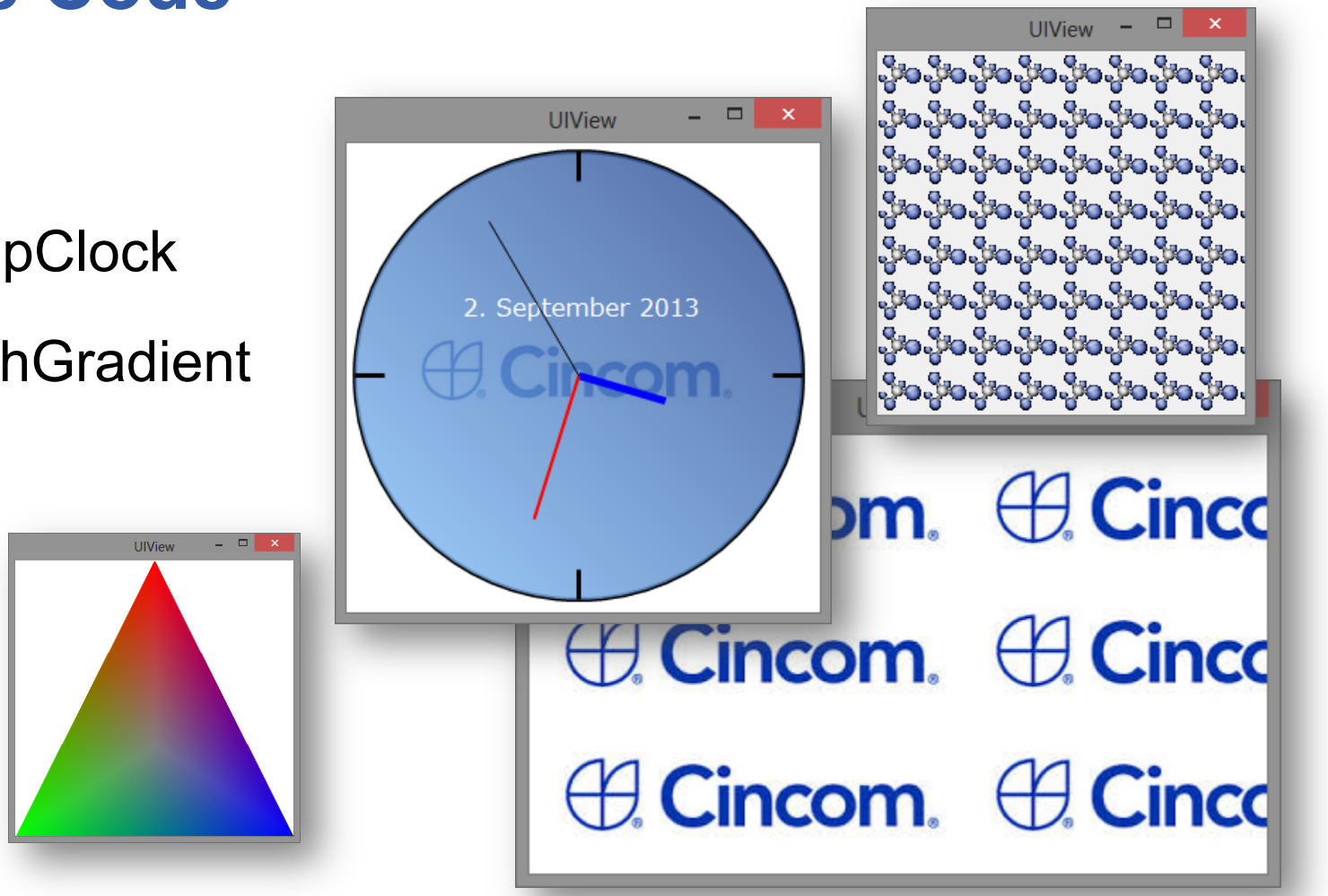
Class TestUI

- Singleton
- Implements a test for every UI class implemented
- Controlled by class side methods
  - Each line in the class method contain a single operation
  - Execute line by line to see the effect



Sample Code

- TestUI
- TestGdipClock
- TestPathGradient
- (…)



Some Controls / Widgets

If you want to know more, get your hands on the code and tell us what you think, please register for our OST-DEV program.

See our Product Manager Arden Thomas (athomas@cincom.com) for more information

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Thanks for listening