



Soar IDE Update

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What is the Soar IDE?

The screenshot displays the Soar IDE within the Eclipse SDK. The main editor shows a Soar script with the following code:

```
# visual range is in metric where each square is d=1 from its e
# this distance is the larger of the two absolute values |dx| a
proc rhs-visual-range { dx dy } {
  return "(max (abs $dx) (abs $dy))"
}

sp "hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move*visual-range
  (state <s> ^<< air-hunter-coords ground-hunter-coords >> <h-
  (<h-coords> ^after-move <am>)
  (<am> ^dx <dx>
  ^dy <dy>)

-->
  (<am> ^visual-range [rhs-visual-range <dx> <dy>])
"

sp {hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move*zero-displacement
  (state <s> ^<< air-hunter-coords ground-hunter-coords >> <h-
  ^directions.value <dir>)

-->
  (<bogus> ^q 5)
  (<h-coords> ^after-move <h-coords>)
  (<h-coords> ^command wait
  ^direction <dir>)
}
```

The Soar Datamap window shows the following structure:

Attribute	Values
air-hunter-coords (?)	
after-move (?)	
command (+)	move
direction (+)	
dx (?)	
dy (?)	
travel-range (+)	
visual-range (+)	
command (+)	wait
direction (+)	
dx (+)	

The Outline window lists the following nodes:

- top-state*elaborate*air-hunter-coor
- top-state*elaborate*ground-hunter-<
- hunter-coords*elaborate*displaceme
- hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move
- rhs-travel-range
- hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move
- rhs-visual-range
- hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move
- hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move

The Problems window shows an error: "Variable <bogus> is not connected to state".

The Soar Agent Console shows the following output:

```
/AirHunters/agents/evasive-quarry/elaborations.soar hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move*visual-range
sp {hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move*visual-range
  (state <s> ^<< air-hunter-coords ground-hunter-coords >> <h-coords>)
  (<h-coords> ^after-move <am>)
  (<am> ^dx <dx>
  ^dy <dy>)

-->
  (<am> ^visual-range (max (abs
```

An editor for the Soar language

- Advanced parsing & error checking as you type
- Dynamically generated datamap as you type
- Support for embedded TCL

Plugin to Eclipse development environment

Release History

- 0.9.1 (July 2007) – External BETA Release
- 1.0.0 (Nov 2007) – Public Release
 - Improved performance and memory usage
 - Support for "Agent" concept (vs. file-only)
 - Datamap-based code completion
 - Automatic code formatting
 - Numerous bug fixes & usability improvements
- 1.0.2 (Nov 2007)
 - Bug fixes
- 1.1.0 (Jun 2008?)
 - Improve TCL error reporting
 - Simple refactoring support
 - Filterable datamap display
- 1.2 (Fall 2008?)
 - Integrate Soar Java Debugger?



REVIEW OF CORE FEATURES

Soar Perspective

The screenshot displays the Eclipse IDE in the Soar Perspective. The main editor shows a Soar production rule with Tcl-like syntax. The left sidebar contains the Package Explorer and Soar Explorer. The bottom-left pane shows the Soar Datamap, and the bottom-right pane shows the Outline View. A tooltip indicates a variable is not connected to a state.

```

# visual range is in metric where each square is d=1 from its e
# this distance is the larger of the two absolute values |dx| a
proc rhs-visual-range { dx dy } {
    return "(max (abs $dx) (abs $dy))"
}

sp "hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move*visual-range
  (state <s> ^<< air-hunter-coords ground-hunter-coords >> <h-
  (<h-coords> ^after-move <am>)
  (<am> ^dx <dx>
    ^dy <dy>)
-->
  (<am> ^visual-range [rhs-visual-range <dx> <dy>])
"

sp {hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move*zero-displacement
  (state <s> ^<< air-hunter-coords ground-hunter-coords >> <h-
    ^directions.value <dir>)
-->
  (<bogus> ^q 5)
  (<h-coords> ^after-move <h-coords>)
  (<h-coords> ^command wait
    ^direction <dir>)
}

```

Variable <bogus> is not connected to state

- Java Package Explorer
 - Browse all files in the project; see iconic indications of errors, warnings, to-do's, file and directory types
 - Compare files to each other, to Subversion repository, or to local histories
- Soar Explorer
 - Browse Soar files or productions in project
 - Iconic indications of errors, warnings, etc
- Outline View
 - Contents of active editor
 - Productions
 - Tcl procedures and variables
 - Import ("source") statements
- Problem reporting
 - Full-featured code editor, Soar Source Viewer & Datamap (continued...)

Soar Editor

The screenshot displays the Soar Editor interface within the Eclipse SDK. The main window is titled "Soar Perspective - elaborations.soar - Eclipse SDK". The interface is divided into several panes:

- Package Explorer:** Shows a tree view of the project structure, including folders like "AirHunters", "source", "agents", and "operators".
- Code Editor:** Displays Soar code with syntax coloring. The code includes a procedure for calculating visual range and a state transition rule. A tooltip indicates a syntax error: "Variable <bogus> is not connected to state".
- Outline:** Shows a list of state transitions and procedures, such as "top-state*elaborate*air-hunter-coor" and "hunter-coords*elaborate*displaceme".
- Soar Datamap:** A table showing the current state of the datamap. It lists attributes like "air-hunter-coords", "after-move", "command", "direction", "dx", "dy", "travel-range", and "visual-range" with their corresponding values.
- Problems View:** Shows a list of errors and warnings, including the one mentioned in the tooltip.

- **Syntax checking**
 - Highlights syntax errors while you type
 - Errors collected in Problems View
 - Catches some non-syntactic errors as well (scoping, etc.)
 - Syntax coloring
- **Line-by-line edit histories**
- **"Hover help" for Soar and Tcl commands**
- **Soar templates (sp) and keywords (excise, waitsnc, ...)**
- **Tcl expansion (see slide)**
- **Dynamic datamap (see slide)**

Soar Explorer

The screenshot displays the Eclipse IDE with the Soar Explorer plugin. The Package Explorer on the left shows a tree of productions, with a filter set to 'elaborate'. The main editor shows the source code for a production. The Soar Datamap window at the bottom left shows a table of attributes and values. The Problems window at the bottom right shows a list of errors and warnings.

```
## if there's a member of a subgroup...
(<g1> ^subgroup <g2>
  ^member-set <ms1>)
(<g2> ^member-set.member <member>)
(<member> ^callsign <cs>)

## that isn't already an original member
- {
  (<ms1> ^member <existing-member>)
  (<existing-member> ^callsign <cs>
    ^copied-from-member)
}
-->

## then make it a member of this group.
(<ms1> ^member <new-member>)
(<new-member> ^copied-from-member <member>)

"

sp "any-group*elaborate*copied-member*attribute
  (state <s> ^command.group.member-set.member <mem>)
  (<mem> ^copied-from-member <omem>)
  (<omem> ^<name> <value>)
-->
  (<mem> ^<name> <value>)
"
```

Attribute	Values
callsign (?+)	
change-direction (?+)	
comm (?+)	
command (?+)	
contacts (?+)	
crashing (?+)	
...	
activate-primary-group*apply	
any-group*elaborate*all-members-active	
any-group*elaborate*copied-member*attribute	
any-group*elaborate*leader	
any-group*elaborate*member*contact	
any-group*elaborate*member*from-subgroup	
any-group*elaborate*other-member	
any-group*elaborate*subgroup	

- Filterable, sortable list of productions
- Iconic error and warning indicators
- Double-click to open in editor
- Selection is displayed in Soar Source Viewer (see slide)

Soar Source Viewer

Soar Perspective - elaborations.soar - Eclipse SDK

Package Explorer | Soar Explorer | load.soar | preamble.soar | output.soar

File Edit Navigate Search Project Run Window Help

Package Explorer: AirHunters, source, JRE System Library [re1.6.0], sml.jar, swt.jar, agents, common, communicative-air-hunter, communicative-ground-hunter, evasive-quarry, operators, elaborations.soar, hide.soar, load.soar, travel-and-hide.soar, travel.soar, monday-ground-hunter, simple-air-hunter, simple-ground-hunter, simple-quarry, tuesday-air-hunter

Soar Datamap: Attribute, Values, AirHunters, air-hunter-coords (?), after-move (?+), command (+), direction (+), dx (?+), dy (?+), travel-range (+), visual-range (+), command (+), direction (+), dx (+)

Problems: Soar Source Viewer, Soar Agent Console, /AirHunters/agents/evasive-quarry/elaborations.soar hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move*visual-range

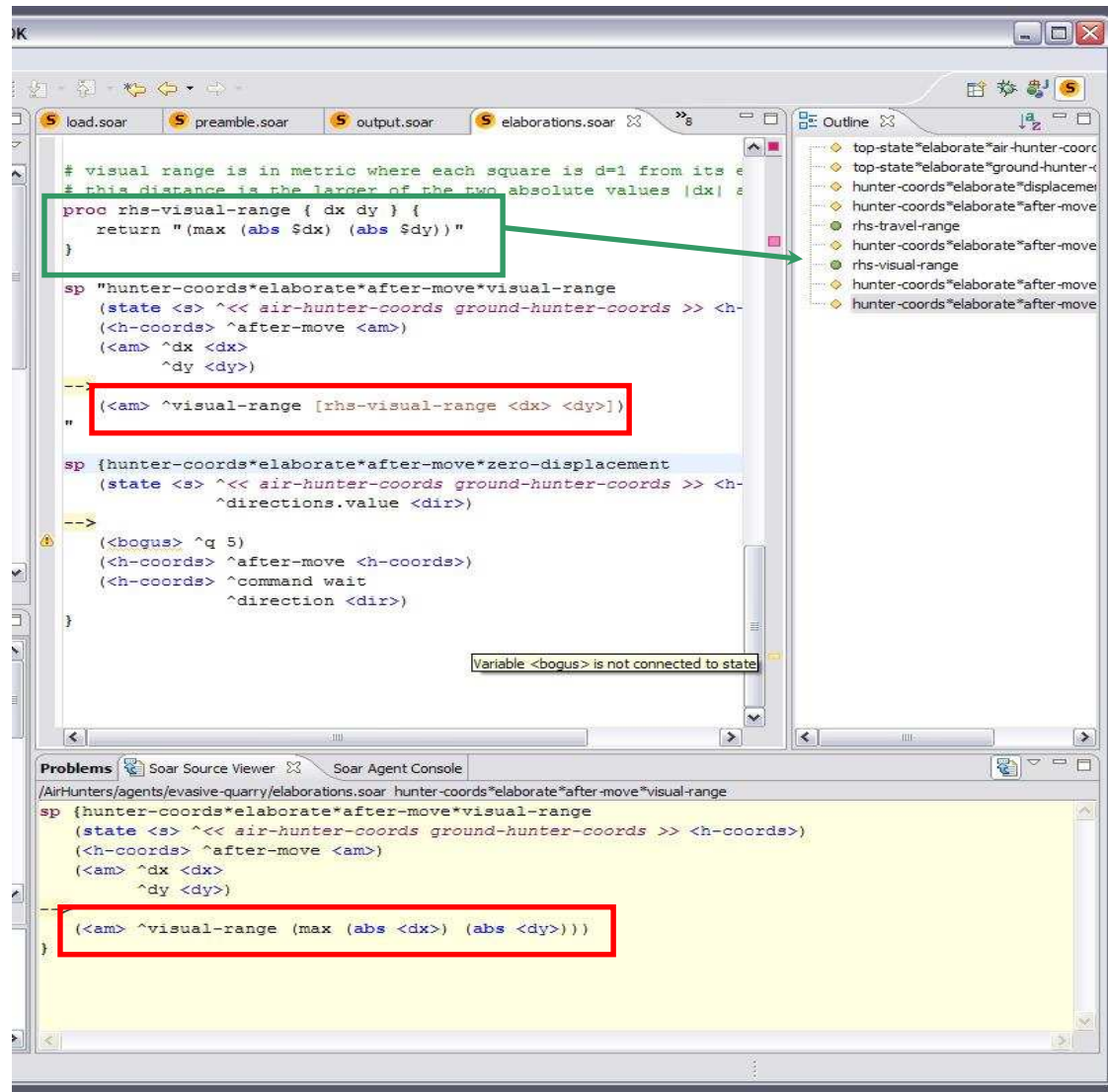
```
sp {hunter-coords*elaborate*after-move*visual-range
(state <s> ^<< air-hunter-coords ground-hunter-coords >> <h-coords>)
<h-coords> ^after-move <am>)
<am> ^dx <dx>
^dy <dy>)
-->
(<am> ^visual-range (max (abs <dx>) (abs <dy>)))
}
```

Variable <bogus> is not connected to state

- Displays source code of current selection of active view (Package Explorer, Soar Explorer, Editor, etc)
 - Soar files
 - Productions
 - Tcl Procedures
- Shows expanded Tcl (see slide)
- Useful for quickly browsing without opening several editors

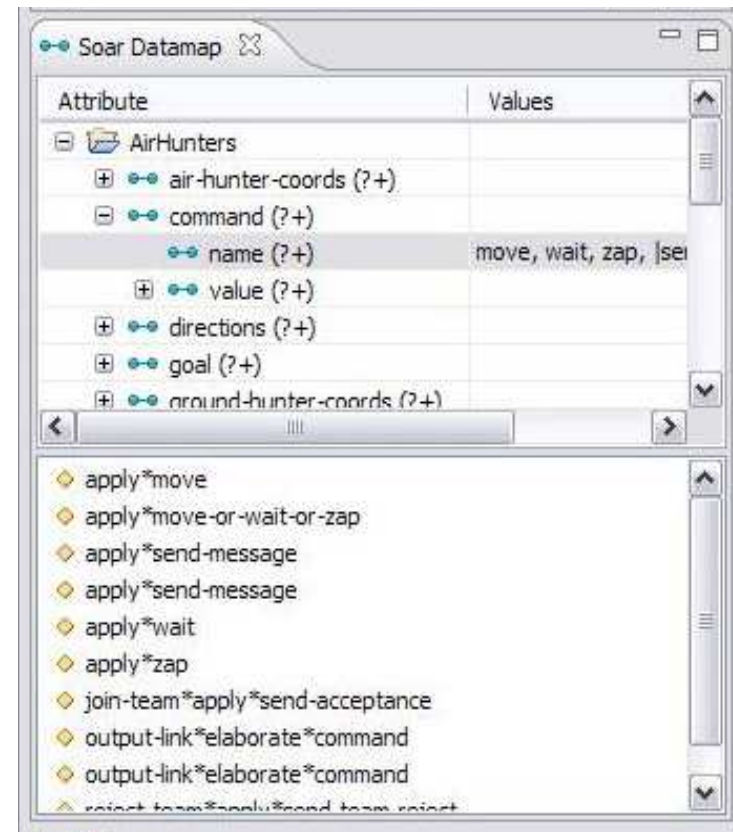
Tcl Expansion

- View original and Tcl-expanded source simultaneously
- Live updating of Tcl macro and variable definitions
- Tcl procedures appear in outline view



Dynamic Datamap

- Shows tests (?), assignments (+), and values of attributes
 - Context-sensitive, e.g., operator and goal 'name' attributes are distinct
 - Hierarchy reflects the structure of working memory
- Updates along with code changes
- Linked to original productions
 - Easily locate code that reads individual portions of input link, or that writes specific output-link commands



The screenshot shows a window titled "Soar Datamap" with a tree view of attributes and their values. The tree is organized as follows:

- AirHunters
 - air-hunter-coords (?+)
 - command (?+)
 - name (?+) — move, wait, zap, |sel
 - value (?+)
 - directions (?+)
 - goal (?+)
 - ground-hunter-coords (?+)

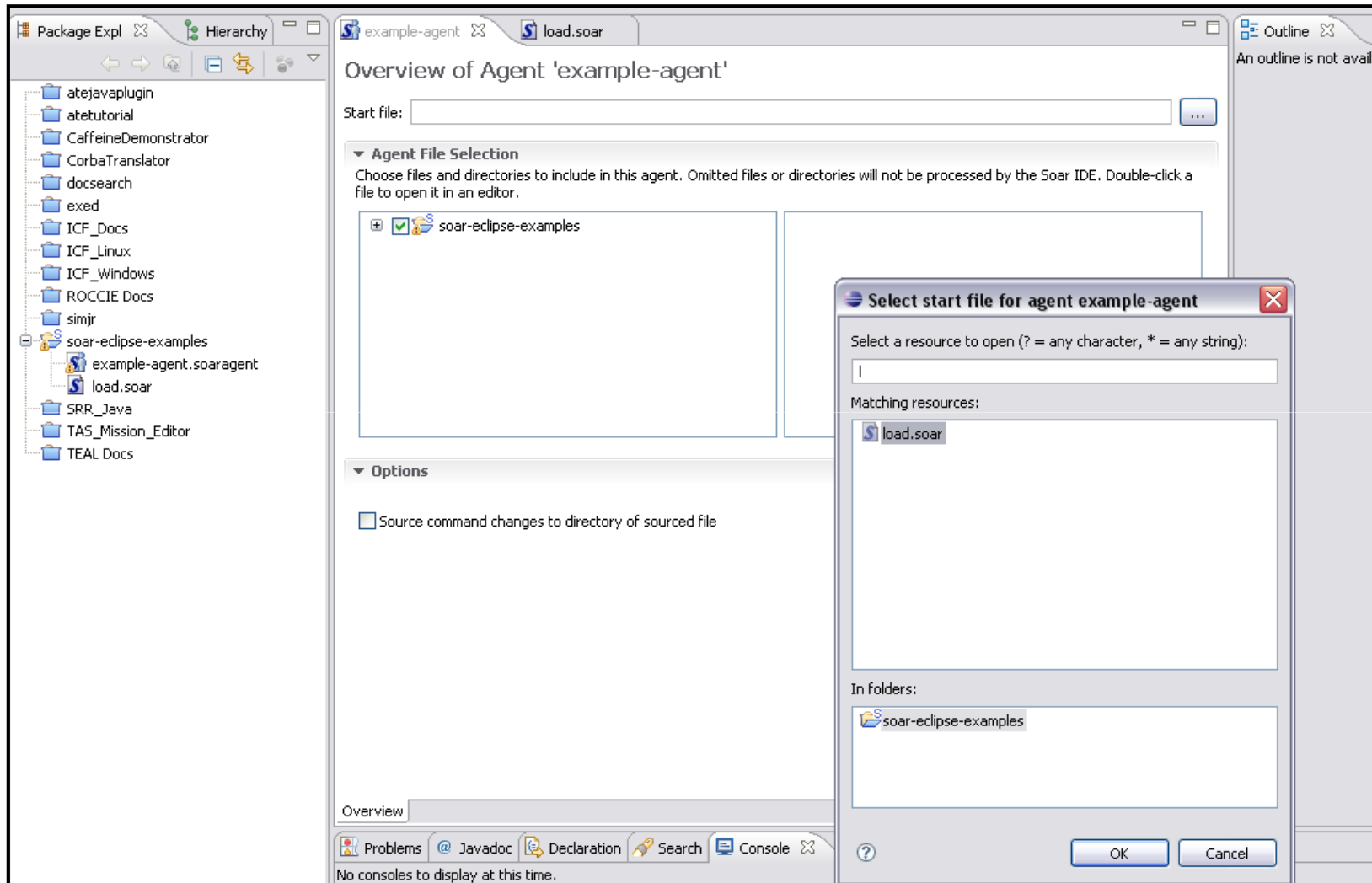
Below the tree, a list of productions is shown, each with a yellow diamond icon:

- apply*move
- apply*move-or-wait-or-zap
- apply*send-message
- apply*send-message
- apply*wait
- apply*zap
- join-team*apply*send-acceptance
- output-link*elaborate*command
- output-link*elaborate*command
- reject-team*apply*send-team-reject



VERSION 1.0 FEATURES

Feature: IDE Agents



Feature: Code Completion

```
26
27 sp "contacts*add-contacts*add-not-previously-known-contact*exemplar
28 :o-support
29 (state <s> ^superstate nil
30   ^io.input-link.sim-info.contacts.contact <con>
31   ^known-contacts.contact.)
32 (<con> ^id <con-id> )
33 (<kc-struct> -^contact.id <con-id>
34 -->
35 (<kc-struct> ^contact <c> )
36 (<c> ^id <con-id>
37   ^update 0 )
38
39 "
40
41 sp "contacts*elaborate-contact-with-in
42 (state <s> ^superstate nil
43   ^io.input-link.sim-info.contacts.contact <con>
```

<ul style="list-style-type: none">cleared-existing-contact-infodeontic-featuredeontic-relationshipgoalidinput-link-contactlast-known-contact-infotransformupdate	<p>cleared-existing-contact-info : state.known-contacts.contact.cleared-existing-contact</p> <p>Previous values: *yes*</p> <p>Used in: contacts*last-known-contact-update*mark-removal-of</p>
--	--

Feature: Code Formatting

```
Member of: [IE (.)]
1 # Copyright (c) 2006 Soar Technology, all rights reserved.
2
3
4 sp "contacts*create-known-contacts-structure
5 :o-support
6 (state <s> ^superstate nil
7     ^known-contacts )
8 -->
9     (<s> ^known-contacts <kc-struct> )
10 (<kc-struct> ^target-reports <tr-struct> )
11 "
12
13 sp "contacts*add-contacts*add-not-previously-known-contact
14 :o-support
15 (state <s> ^superstate nil
16     ^io.input-link.sim-info.contacts.contact <con>
17     ^known-contacts <kc-struct> )
18 (<con> ^id <con-id> )
19 (<kc-struct> ^contact.id <con-id> )
20 -->
21     (<kc-struct> ^contact <c> )
22 (<c> ^id <con-id>
23     ^update 0 )
24
25 "
26
27 sp "contacts*elaborate-contact-with-input-link-contact-link
28 (state <s> ^superstate nil
29     ^io.input-link.sim-info.contacts.contact <con>
30     ^known-contacts.contact <k-contact> )
31 (<con> ^id <con-id> )
32 (<k-contact> ^id <con-id> )
33 -->
34     (<k-contact> ^input-link-contact <con>
35     ^last-known-contact-info <a-struct> )
36
37 "
38 ;#excise contacts*elaborate-contact-with-input-link-contact-link
39 sp "contacts*clear-contact-info-for-new-info*propose
40 (state <s> ^known-contacts.contact <k-con> )
41 (<k-con> ^input-link-contact <i-con>
42     ^last-known-contact-info <kc-info> )
43 (<i-con> ^mobility <mob>
44     ^id <c-id> )
45 (<mob> ^location <loc> )
46 -->
```

Undo Typing	Ctrl+Z
Revert File	
Save	
Show In	Alt+Shift+W
Cut	Ctrl+X
Copy	Ctrl+C
Paste	Ctrl+V
Shift Right	
Shift Left	
Add to Snippets...	
Open Referencing Files	Ctrl+G
Format Soar Document	Ctrl+Shift+F
Run As	
Debug As	
Profile As	
Validate	
Team	
Compare With	
Replace With	
Preferences...	
Remove from Context	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+Down

```
Member of: [IE (.)]
1 # Copyright (c) 2006 Soar Technology, all rights reserved.
2
3
4 sp "contacts*create-known-contacts-structure
5 :o-support
6 (state <s> ^superstate nil
7     ^known-contacts )
8 -->
9     (<s> ^known-contacts <kc-struct> )
10 (<kc-struct> ^target-reports <tr-struct> )
11 "
12
13 sp "contacts*add-contacts*add-not-previously-known-contact
14 :o-support
15 (state <s> ^superstate nil
16     ^io.input-link.sim-info.contacts.contact <con>
17     ^known-contacts <kc-struct> )
18 (<con> ^id <con-id> )
19 (<kc-struct> ^contact.id <con-id> )
20 -->
21     (<kc-struct> ^contact <c> )
22 (<c> ^id <con-id>
23     ^update 0 )
24
25 "
26
27 sp "contacts*elaborate-contact-with-input-link-contact-link
28 (state <s> ^superstate nil
29     ^io.input-link.sim-info.contacts.contact <con>
30     ^known-contacts.contact <k-contact> )
31 (<con> ^id <con-id> )
32 (<k-contact> ^id <con-id> )
33 -->
34     (<k-contact> ^input-link-contact <con>
35     ^last-known-contact-info <a-struct> )
36
37 "
38 ;#excise contacts*elaborate-contact-with-input-link-contact-link
39 sp "contacts*clear-contact-info-for-new-info*propose
40 (state <s> ^known-contacts.contact <k-con> )
41 (<k-con> ^input-link-contact <i-con>
42     ^last-known-contact-info <kc-info> )
43 (<i-con> ^mobility <mob>
44     ^id <c-id> )
45 (<mob> ^location <loc> )
```

Feature: Code Folding (and regions!)

```
5 sp "contacts*create-known-contacts-structure
6 :o-support
7   (state <s> ^superstate nil
8     -^known-contacts )
9 -->
10  (<s> ^known-contacts <kc-struct> )
11  (<kc-struct> ^target-reports <tr-struct> )
12  "
13
14 sp "contacts*add-contacts*add-not-previously-known-contact
15 :o-support
16   (state <s> ^superstate nil
17     ^io.input-link.sim-info.contacts.contact <con>
18     ^known-contacts <kc-struct> )
19   (<con> ^id <con-id> )
20   (<kc-struct> -^contact.id <con-id> )
21 -->
22   (<kc-struct> ^contact <c> )
23   (<c> ^id <con-id>
24     ^update 0 )
25
26 "
```

```
307
308 #region Contact Math
309
310 #region Bearing Calculations
466
467 #region Calculating enemy angle off bow
#####
##### calculating relative angle based on Heading and bearing #####
#####
e-off-angle-for-last-known-contacts
s> ^known-contacts.contact.last-known-contact-info <lk-ci>
  ^io.input-link.sim-info.mobility <mob> )
heading <my-heading> ) ;# East/West
  ^current-bearing <c-bear> )
  ^angle-off-bow (- <c-bear> <my-heading> ) )
ing contacts in zones
ulating range
658
659 #endregion
```

```
5 sp "contacts*create-known-contacts-structure
13
14 sp "contacts*add-contacts*add-not-previously-known-contact
27
```

```
307
308 #region Contact Math
309
307
308 #region Contact Math
660
307
308 #region Contact Math
660
307
308 #region Contact Math
660
307
308 #region Contact Math
660
307
308 #region Contact Math
660
307
308 #region Contact Math
660
307
308 #region Contact Math
660
307
308 #region Contact Math
660
```

Code Feature: Error Detection

The screenshot displays three instances of the Soar Workshop interface, illustrating error detection in code. Each instance shows a code editor with Tcl-like code and a Problems view below it.

Top Instance: The code editor shows a procedure starting at line 473. Line 479 has a red error icon. The Problems view shows "1 error, 54 warnings, 0 infos" and a description: "Encountered '<EOF>'. Expected one of: ')', '^', <INTEGER_CONST>, <SYMBOL'".

```
469 #####
470 ###      Calculating relative angle based on Heading and bearing      ###
471 #####
472
473 sp "calculate-off-angle-for-last-known-contacts
474     (state <s> ^known-contacts.contact.last-known-contact-info <lk-ci>
475         ^io.input-link.sim-info.mobility <mob> )
476     (<mob> ^heading <my-heading> ) ;# East/West
477     (<lk-ci> ^current-bearing <c-bear> )
478     -->
479     (<lk-ci> ^angle-off-bow (- <c-bear> <my-heading> )
480 "
481 "
```

Middle Instance: The code editor shows a procedure starting at line 663. Line 667 has a red error icon. The Problems view shows "1 error, 54 warnings, 0 infos" and a description: "Tcl error: can't read 'NONEXISTENT_VARIABLE': no such variable".

```
663 sp "unbound-tcl-variable
664     (state <s> ^superstate nil
665         ^$NONEXISTENT_VARIABLE <barfoo> )
666     -->
667     (write (crLf) |We have the crazy variable!| )
```

Bottom Instance: The code editor shows a procedure starting at line 663. Line 666 has a red error icon. The Problems view shows "1 error, 54 warnings, 0 infos" and a description: "Production has no positive conditions".

```
663 sp "no-positive-example
664     (state <s> -^known-contacts.contact.last-known-
665     -->
666     (write (crLf) |We have no known contacts!| )
667     "
```




VERSION 1.1 FEATURES

Improved Tcl error reporting

```
sp " test-good
  [lhs]
-->
  (interrupt)
"

sp " test-bad
  [lhs-with-error]
-->
  (interrupt)
"
```

Problems Soar Source Viewer Console Synchronize Error Log

```
/soaride-regression-tests/tcl-error-reporting/productions.soar test-good
sp { test-good
  (state <s> ^superstate nil)
-->
  (interrupt)
}
```

```
sp " test-bad
  [lhs-with-error]
-->
  (interrupt)
"
```

Problems Soar Source Viewer Console Synchronize Error Log

```
/soaride-regression-tests/tcl-error-reporting/productions.soar test-bad
can't read "error": no such variable
  while executing
"return "(state <s> ^superstate $error)""
  (procedure "recurse" line 2)
  invoked from within
"recurse"
  invoked from within
"return [recurse]"
  (procedure "lhs-with-error" line 2)
  invoked from within
"lhs-with-error"
  invoked from within
"return " test-bad
  [lhs-with-error]
-->
  (interrupt)
""
  (in namespace eval "::" script line 1)
  invoked from within
"namespace eval :: {return " test-bad
  [lhs-with-error]
```

Simple refactoring support – duplication support

The image shows a screenshot of the Soar Workshop IDE. A context menu is open over a production rule, with the 'Duplicate Production' option selected. The menu includes options like Undo, Revert File, Save, Show In, Cut, Copy, Paste, Shift Right, Shift Left, Duplicate Production (Ctrl+Shift+D), Open Referencing Files (Ctrl+G), Format Soar Document (Ctrl+Shift+F), Run As, Debug As, Team, Compare With, Replace With, and Preferences... The background code shows a production rule named 'test-good' with a left-hand side '[lhs]' and a right-hand side containing '(interrupt)'. A callout box in the bottom right shows the result of the duplication: a new production rule named 'copy*of*test-good' is created, identical to the original, with a comment '# Copy of test-good' above it.

```
sp " test-good
  [lhs]
-->
(in

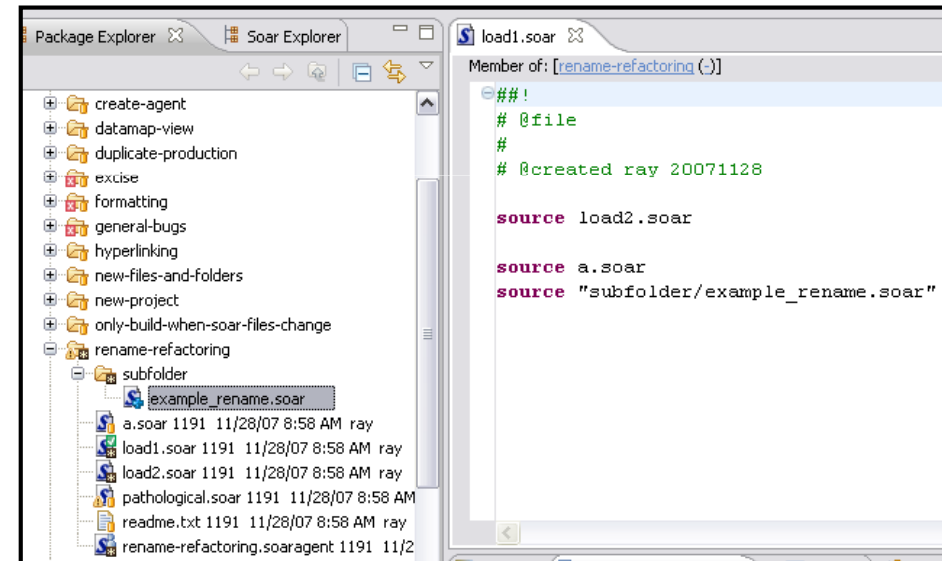
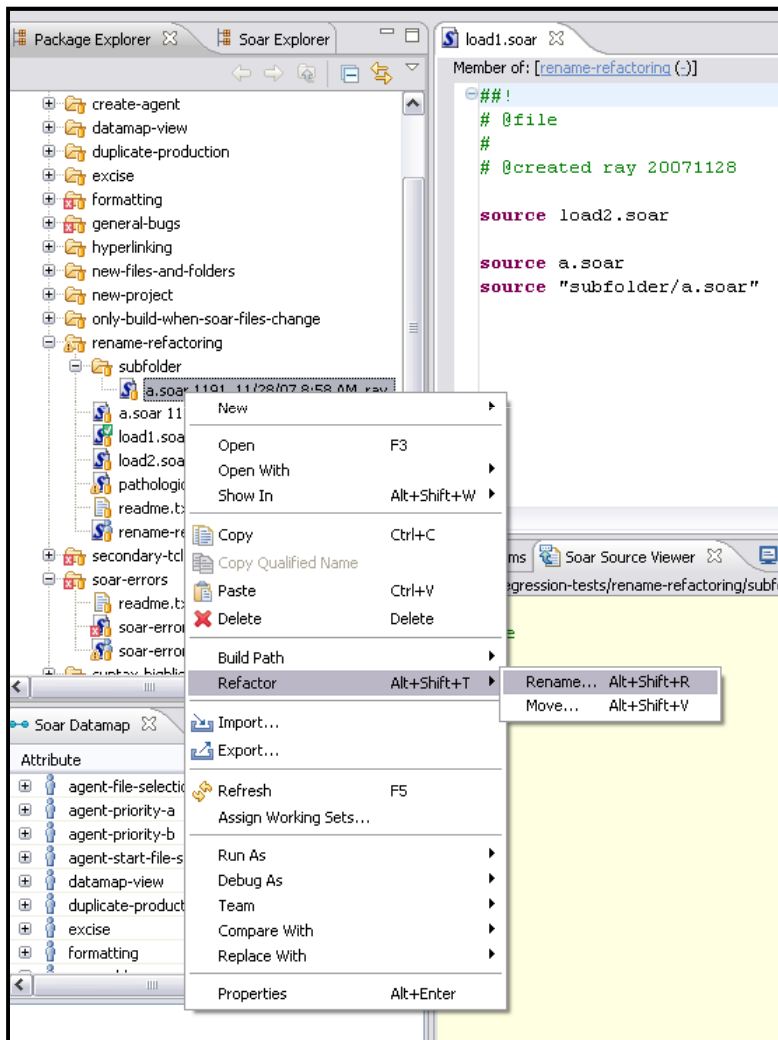
sp " te
  [lh
-->
(in

Problems
/soaride-regressio
sp { test-g
  (state
-->
  (interr
}

Duplicate Production Ctrl+Shift+D
Open Referencing Files Ctrl+G
Format Soar Document Ctrl+Shift+F
Run As
Debug As
Team
Compare With
Replace With
Preferences...

sp " test-good
  [lhs]
-->
  (interrupt)
"
##!
# Copy of test-good
sp " copy*of*test-good
  [lhs]
-->
  (interrupt)
"
```

Simple refactoring support – automatic renaming



Filterable datamap display

The image shows a screenshot of the Soar Workshop interface. On the left, a 'Soar Datamap' window displays a table with columns 'Attribute' and 'Values'. The 'Attribute' column lists various objects like 'contacts (?)', 'agent-start-file-selection', 'datamap-view', 'io (?)', 'state (?)', 'superstate (?)', 'duplicate-production', and 'excise'. The 'Values' column shows 'EXAMPLE, nil' for the 'superstate (?)' attribute. Below the table, a list of productions is shown, including 'test-attribute-intersection1', 'test-attribute-intersection2', 'test-attribute-intersection3', and 'test-with-variablized-attribute'. A context menu is open over the 'superstate (?)' attribute, with options: 'Go Home', 'Go Back', 'Go Into', 'Generate Monitor Production', and 'Filter for productions that test...'. The 'Filter for productions that test...' option is selected, and a sub-menu is open showing the results of the filter: 'Attribute datamap-view: ^superstate', 'Value datamap-view: ^superstate nil', and 'Value datamap-view: ^superstate EXAMPLE'. On the right, a 'Soar Source Viewer' window shows the source code for 'test-attribute-intersection2' and 'test-attribute-intersection3'. The code for 'test-attribute-intersection2' is:


```

    sp { test-attribute-intersection2
      (state <=> ^superstate nil ^io.input-link <il>)
      (<il> ^contacts.contact <c>)
      -->
      (interrupt)
    }
    
```

 The code for 'test-attribute-intersection3' is:


```

    sp { test-attribute-intersection3
      (state <=> ^superstate EXAMPLE ^io.input-link <il>)
      (<il> ^contacts.contact <c>)
      (<c> ^location <l>)
      -->
      (interrupt)
    }
    
```

 The 'Problems' window at the bottom right shows 'No selection.'

QUESTIONS?

For more information...

- Webpage: <http://www.soartech.com/downloads.soar-ide.php>
- Listserv: <http://webmail.soartech.com/mailman/listinfo/soar-ide>
soar-ide@soartech.com
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BACKUP SLIDES

Soar Editors and Development Environments

- A (very incomplete) list of development support tools for Soar ...

TAQL (5?) CMU, 1989	High-level language and toolset for Soar development	Operator templates
Soar Development Environment (6) UM, 1995	Emacs-based editor & debugger	Integrated editing and debugging; leveraged power of Emacs
TSI (7, 8) UM, 1998	Tcl/Tk-based debugging	Command macros; GUI-based commands
viSoar (7, 8?) Portsmouth, 1999	GUI-based editing environment	Early approach to datamap; explicit support for teamwork/STEAM
Visual Soar (8) UM, 2000	Full-featured editor * Prototype integration with Eclipse	Explicit support for ONC hierarchy idiom; datamap
HLBRL (8) PSU	High-level language and toolset for generation/creation of Soar programs	Explicit support for explanation,
Soar IDE (8) Soar Tech	Eclipse-based editor (Future debugging environment)	THIS TALK ☺

"Building application domains creates a community with a large investment in ease of use, and hence with a willingness to expend the effort to make the tools to make [supporting and invigorating a theory] happen."
[Newell, UTC]

How is Soar IDE different from Visual Soar?

- Soar IDE benefits from being an Eclipse plugin
 - Increasingly seems to be a significant advantage
 - 100s of features in Eclipse base
 - 1000s of features easily adopted from other Eclipse language plugins
- In-place TCL code expansion
 - Killer feature from SoarTech's perspective, but does anyone else use TCL for Soar anymore?
- No constraints on directory structure
 - Really useful for pulling in legacy code
- No constraints on UofM operator style
 - But also no benefits
- Dynamic datamap generated as you type
 - But...not partitioned by operator/problem space
 - Just a big representation of working memory. Still useful, but may be extended in the future to handle filtering by operator

Technical Hurdles

- Tcl parsing
 - Tcl is an extremely flexible language, difficult to find errors with just a basic parse.
 - A random block of Java code is probably valid Tcl :)
- Tcl expansion on the fly and how to present it to the user
 - Previous experience with integrating Tcl with SML made this less painful.
- Creating a parser that gives useful error information
 - File/line/column style error reports are ok for command-line tools
 - Eclipse works much better when given character ranges. Allows for nice underlying of bugs.
- Significant modifications to Visual Soar parser
 - Errors reported as ranges rather than line/column
 - Parse production bodies individually. Essential for parsing results of Tcl expansion.
- Performance
 - Cache parse information and other metadata (necessary for large projects like TacAirSoar)

First Impressions from Soar Programmers

- Eclipse learning curve is steep
 - ... Because the environment is so rich. File histories, integrated CVS/Subversion access, visual diffs, maintenance of warnings and to-do's, make it worth learning. And many people use Eclipse already.
- Soar IDE editing features are *outstanding*
 - Especially useful for larger projects,
 - Tcl-heavy projects, Integration projects (e.g., Java & Soar), and
 - projects with multiple developers (due to browsing features and integration w/ version control)
- Just starting to benefit from Dynamic Datamap
 - Soar developers really like it
 - Still learning how to best take advantage of it
 - Rich source of feature requests
- Could use tighter integration with Java Soar Debugger
 - Doug?