Process Architect is a powerful graphic modeler that works as a design and communications tool as well as a development tool. Complete with a built-in portfolio of reusable tasks, Process Architect enables rapid mapping, simulation and automation of re-engineered business processes.

Build workflows quickly.

With Process Architect, you define business processes visually in workflow maps. These maps show the structured sequences of tasks and routing information necessary to automate business processes using connected workflow icons that represent the tasks. A Process Architect map is an easy way to crystallize and communicate the flow of work in a business process.

Process Architect enables the rapid application design and development of mission-critical, line-of-business workflow applications by allowing you to:

- drag task icons from a Process Architect portfolio, dropping them on a workflow map, and connecting them to represent the order in which the tasks occur
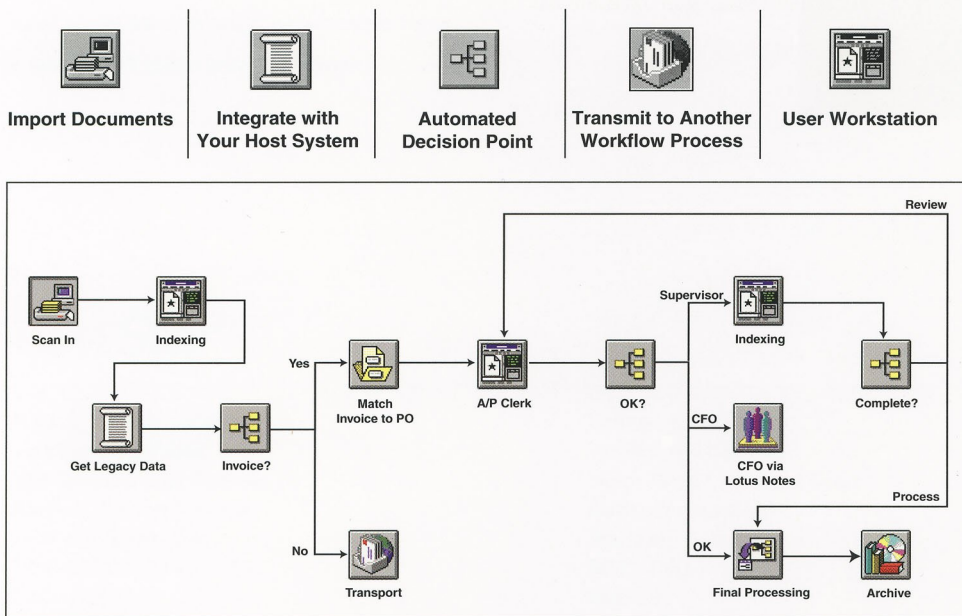
- configure tasks without programming, via double-clicking on task icons
- predict bottlenecks and see "what-if" analyses of workflow throughput via Process Architect's animated simulation feature
- validate the map to ensure that it flows logically and is complete
- actually build the workflow by a simple click on the Process Architect toolbar

The workflow is then ready to run. Unless there are customization requirements, no intermediate code-generation step between a workflow map and a running workflow application is required. Reduction of programming means faster application development times, faster return on investment, less maintenance burden and more ease of reuse.

Reuse functions for efficiency.

Process Architect includes a comprehensive set of 36 pre-built task types. These tasks, based on ViewStar's experience implementing hundreds of workflow applications, are the basic building blocks you use to create workflows. They fall into
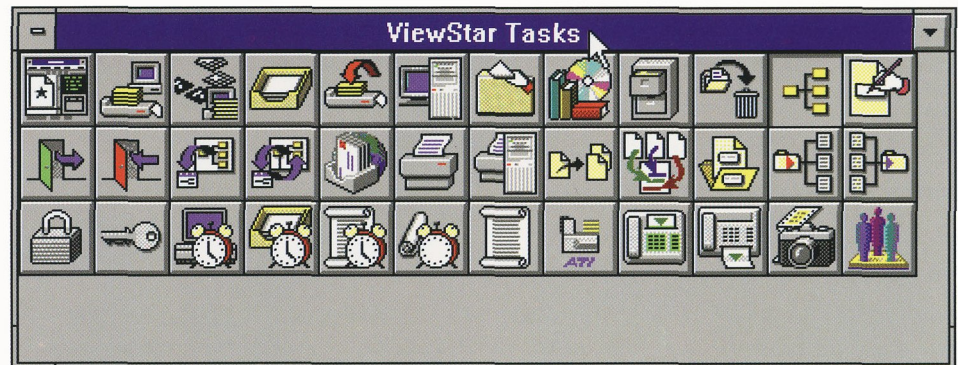
Import Documents	Integrate with Your Host System	Automated Decision Point	Transmit to Another Workflow Process	User Workstation

Simplified Accounts Payable workflow map.

three general categories:

- collection of information
- aggregation or manipulation of information once it's in the workflow
- delivery of information to people and mainframe- or client/server-based transaction systems

The illustration at right shows task icons in a Process Architect task portfolio.

ViewStar task portfolio.

Match To Folder Task. Using ViewStar's off-the-shelf tasks, you can implement catch-up routing–a ViewStar exclusive– where a document joins its related folder (matched, for example, by social security number or loan number) at any point in the workflow. Also unique to ViewStar is rendezvous routing, where changes made to document copies can be added to the original document at any point in the workflow. To ensure control and information integrity, you can prevent folder matching and document updates in segments of the workflow that fall between the lock and unlock tasks.

Decision Task. Process Architect incorporates business process logic in ViewStar's decision-modeling task, where you can set up the process rules that determine the next step in the workflow. Documents are routed based on these rules in conjunction with document information or other data, such as that obtained from a host system. Process Architect makes it simple to send documents for parallel routing or review.

Lotus Notes Task. With Process Architect, you can enable document sharing between a ViewStar workflow and Lotus Notes database. Notes users can enter information on ViewStar documents and folders that

are forwarded to the Lotus Notes task. A simplified mapping feature lets you transfer data from the Lotus Notes database to the ViewStar workflow, and vice-versa.

Script Task. Because custom code is traditionally difficult to model and hard to maintain, Process Architect includes a workflow task specifically designed to run custom workflow functions. The custom code is automatically tracked like any other workflow task and becomes part of the document's audit trail. So, the custom code is both explicitly modeled and reusable, and the system is easier to maintain.

Transport Task. Another market first for ViewStar, true enterprise workflow support is enabled via leveraged utilization of already available infrastructure services. Compatible with Microsoft Mail and Exchange, the Transport task uses standard MAPI messaging and replication services to send work items over wide areas. You place a Transport task in Process Architect

maps for both the transferring and receiving sites. The task at the transferring site automatically encapsulates ViewStar documents in MAPI messages and uses the store-and-forward capabilities of the mail system to move the items to the receiving task at the destination site.

Uniquely tailored task portfolios.

You can add to the workflow task portfolios that Process Architect provides using the ViewStar task architecture, which is described below. And, you can save customized and preconfigured tasks in new task portfolios for reuse in any number of process maps. You can also save and reuse process maps and submaps, or sections of them.

Integrate components via an open system.

In an environment dominated by change, only an open system provides the ability to adapt. For this reason, the *ViewStar Task Architecture* (VTA) lets you extend the ViewStar product, adding extra capabilities

"ViewStar's Process Architect has the power to handle the most complex workflows, but with an integrated user interface non-programmers can easily use."

– Bruce Silver Associates

in the form of reusable OLE components. VTA enables integration of custom functions such as optical character recognition (OCR) and host integration into business process automation applications by means of third-party OCXs. These capabilities are represented by specialized third-party task icons, which can be modeled in Process Architect maps as soon as they are registered with Windows and the ViewStar system.

Create objects and configure logic seamlessly.

With Process Architect, you configure workflow logic using a point-and-click interface, without any programming. Other products offer a much different approach—they provide icons that are only place holders for code you must write.

Not just a pretty front end that requires hand-off to programmers to turn its maps into something real, Process Architect offers seamless, intelligent access to other ViewStar development tools. Clicking task-setup buttons in Process Architect opens most of the tools you need to create or modify objects that form a workflow's underlying structure.

Develop enterprise systems in a modular fashion.

If a workflow becomes too complex, you can divide it into submaps for visual simplicity. Process Architect maps can be interconnected, based on logical levels of work.

Submaps also support a modular development process. To support team development, Process Architect maps can be developed separately—either serially or all at once. Parallel development of submaps by different teams within an organization allows each team to independently model its own business process. Then you can define a high-level view of the entire process by linking the submaps together.

Modify elements quickly.

Process Architect maps are powerful tools for continuous business process improvement as well as workflow maintenance. Using Process Architect maps, you can rapidly prototype applications, test them, revise them, then quickly retest the new design. Because workflow design is a creative and iterative process, Process Architect offers unlimited undo and redo.

Because ViewStar has always been an object-oriented system, Process Architect effects object configuration, not code generation. Workflows created using code generators must be updated at the code level. Process Architect offers reusability, extensibility and ease of maintenance that procedural code and function calls can't.

> *"We are re-engineering every department of Texas Commerce Bank to add value to our customers, increase market share, reduce expenses and increase our levels of employee satisfaction. ViewStar is helping turn our visions into reality."*
>
> – Senior Vice President, Texas Commerce Bank

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