

SAP ABAP SE80 Source Code Based Class Builder

26.11.2009

Summary

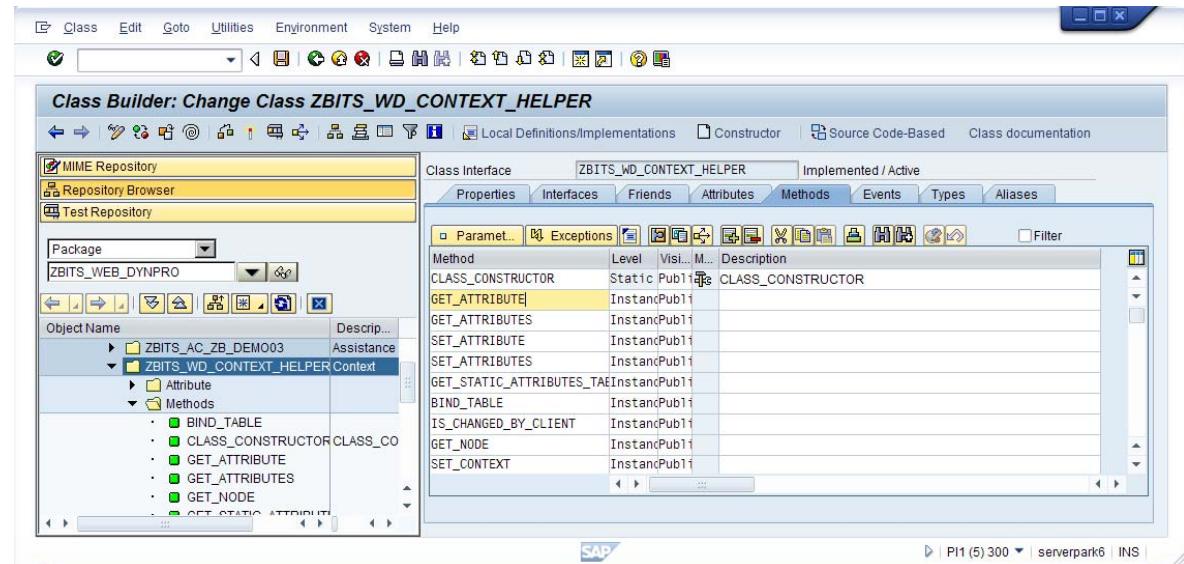
It is shown how to edit SAP ABAP classes in a more effective way. You can edit classes like in C++/Java.

Update 12.02.2010

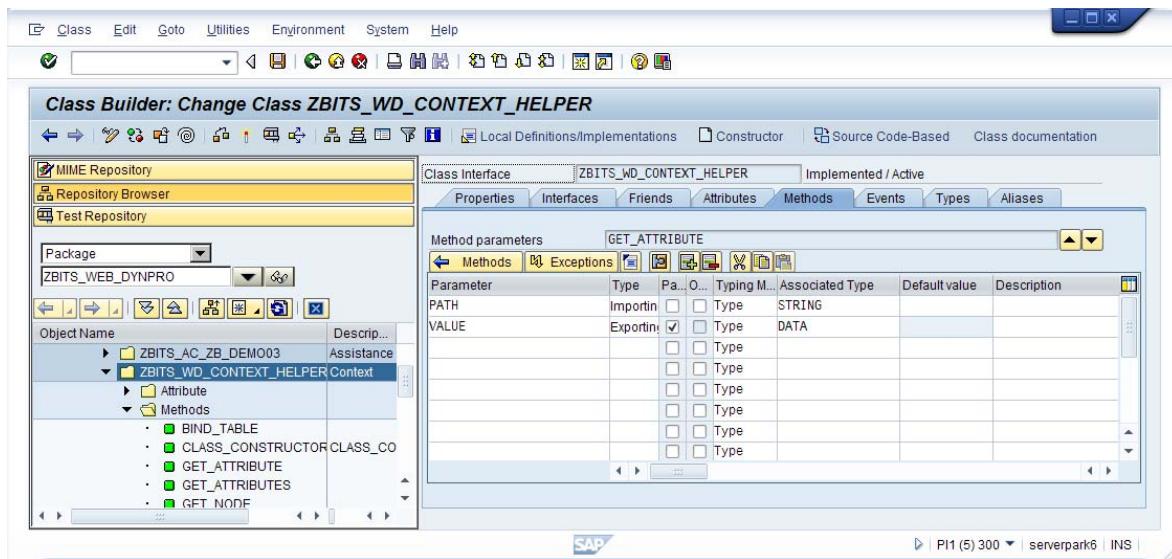
It looks, that SAP meanwhile removed this option. Instead now you have the implementation button and then the public and private sections. The essence is still valid, you can edit/export/import ABAP classes much faster using source code instead of tables and dialogs.

Problem

SAP standard class builder can be quite clumsy:



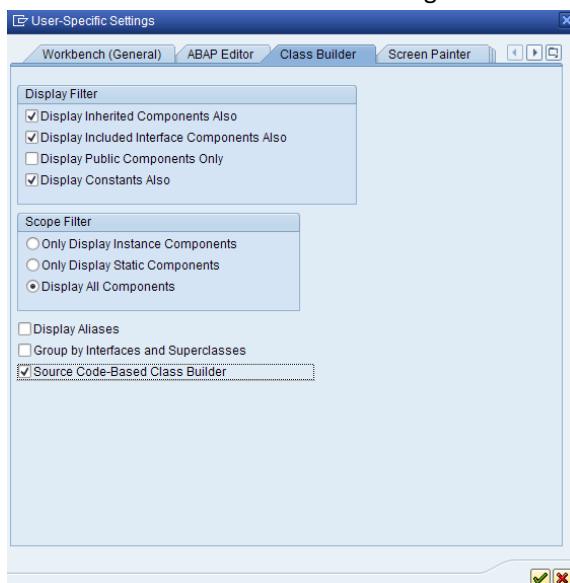
To change parameters you have to select method, then push parameters button.



Setting up one parameter can take up to 5-10 clicks.

Solution

Instead choose menu Utilities->Settings->Class Builder:



Turn on Source Code-Based Class Builder.

The screenshot shows the SAP ABAP Class Source-Based Class Builder interface. The title bar reads "Source Code-Based Class Builder Class ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER Change". The left pane displays the repository browser with the package "ZBITS_WEB_DYNPRO" selected, showing classes like ZBITS_AC_ZB_DEMO01, ZBITS_AC_ZB_DEMO03, and ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER_Context. The right pane shows the source code for the ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER class:

```
1 class zbits_wd_context_helper definition
2   public
3     create public .
4
5   public section.
6   *** public components of class ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER
7   *** do not include other source files here!!!
8   data o_context type ref to if_wd_context_node .
9
10  class-methods class_constructor .
11  methods get_attribute
12    importing
13      !path type string
14    exporting
15      value(value) type data .
16  methods get_attributes
17    importing
18      !path type string
19    exporting
20      lvalues type data .
21  methods set_attribute
22    importing
23      !path type string
```

You can then edit your classes in a different way, you can declare your methods much faster.

The screenshot shows the SAP ABAP Class Source-Based Class Builder interface. The title bar reads "Source Code-Based Class Builder Class ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER Change". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Goto", "Utilities", "Environment", "System", and "Help". The toolbar contains various icons for file operations like Open, Save, Print, and Copy.

The left sidebar displays the "Repository Browser" under "Test Repository". It shows a package named "ZBITS_WD_DYNPRO" containing a "Class Library" with "Classes" and "Methods". Under "Methods", the "get_attributes" method is selected. Other methods listed include "BIND_TABLE", "CLASS_CONSTRUCTOR", "GET_ATTRIBUTE", "GET_ATTRIBUTES", "GET_NODE", "GET_STATIC_ATTRIBUTE", "IS_CHANGED_BY_CLIENT", "RESET_CHANGED_BY_CLIENT", "SET_ATTRIBUTE", "SET_ATTRIBUTES", "SET_CHANGED_BY_CLIENT", "SET_CONTEXT", "SET_LEAD_SELECTION", "GET_ELEMENT", and "GET_ELEMENT_PATH".

The main area shows the class source code for "ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER". The selected method is "get_attributes". The code includes annotations for parameters and return types:

```
123 * / Instance Public Method ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER->GET_ATTRIBUTES
124 *
125 * | [---] PATH TYPE STRING
126 * | [---] VALUES TYPE DATA
127 *
128 method get_attributes.
129 endmethod.          "GET_ATTRIBUTES
130
131
132 * <SIGNATURE>
133 * / Instance Private Method ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER->GET_ELEMENT
134 *
135 * | [---] PATH TYPE STRING
136 * | [---] ELEMENT TYPE REF TO IF_WD_CONTEXT_ELEMENT
137 *
138 method get_element.
139 endmethod.          "GET_ELEMENT
140
141
142 * <SIGNATURE>
143 * / Instance Private Method ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER->GET_ELEMENT_PATH
144 *
145 * | [---] PATH TYPE STRING
146 * | [---] ELPATH TYPE STRING
147 * | [---] ATTRIBUTE TYPE DATA
148 *
149 method get_element_path.
150 endmethod.          "GET_ELEMENT_PATH
151
152
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Scope iCLASS ZBITS_WD_CONTEXT_HELPER/METHOD get_attributes" and "ABAP Ln 128 Col 1".

You will see all your methods in one space. Now you can even copy and paste full classes.

Keywords

SAP, ABAP, WD4A, SE80, Class Builder, parameters, change parameters, effective editing, direct class editor, tips, best practices, zbalai.com