

1 Background

During our studies at Hochschule Darmstadt we are learning to use Rational Developer for i V9.0. As we are just starting with RDi, we made some experiences, which might be interesting to get shared. Out of that experience we want to raise the following Request For Enhancement (RFE).

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1.1 SS2014-RFE04-WolRi-WunMa

The RFE is defined by Ricardo Wolf, Martin Wunderle

Id	Obj	Type	Description
04	CLP	Suggestion	Support Content Assist on control flow structure IF-Then-ELSE

Company: Hochschule Darmstadt

Headline: Support Content Assist on CLP control flow structure **IF-THEN-ELSE**.

Priority:

Medium - Lack of the RFE functionality is a minor road block to deployment/adoption

Brand: Rational

Product family: Design & development

Product: Developer for Power Systems

Component: RPG/COBOL Development Tools

Operating system: IBM i

PMR: -

Customer Tracking Id: SS2014-RFE04

Description: (see 1.1.1)

Use Case: (see 1.1.2)

Business Justification: (see 1.1.3)

Attachment: This document

1.1.1 Description

It would be very helpful to be able to use content assist with CTRL+SPACE for complex structures like IF-THEN-ELSE for CLP inside Rational Developer for i.

Eclipse uses this feature natively in Java and other languages. Programmers who are experienced in other IDEs are common with this feature. Porting them to Rational could reduce the general coding effort and prevent syntactical errors.

It is also an important feature which provides an easier intro for rather unexperienced users.

1.1.2 Use Case

If you are writing code, you have to type all of the statements manually and need to handle single line command completion using F4 instead of getting assistance on completion of complex blocks of code.

1.1.3 Business Justification

If you have a lot of IF-THEN-ELSE constructs in this code, you can use content assist to generate a great part of your code without the risk of errors or typos.

Since this software is based on eclipse the user-experience will be satisfied across all languages.

1.1.4 Comparison to alternative solutions

In Rational for i there is no such a feature. Using the help-function or F4 is too complex for this purpose. Eclipse uses this function as a lightweight help without opening large help-interfaces.

1.1.5 Detailed substantiation and suggestion

The following pictures show how content assist is implemented in Eclipse.

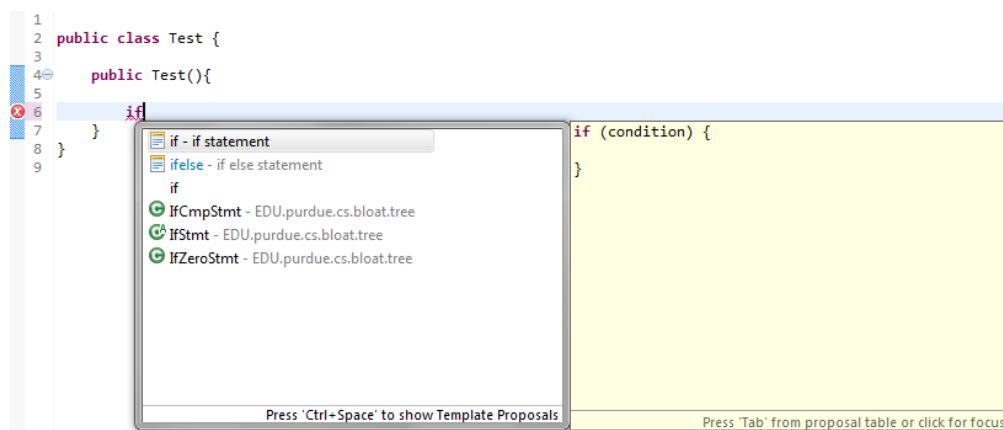


Abbildung 1: Eclipse Java1

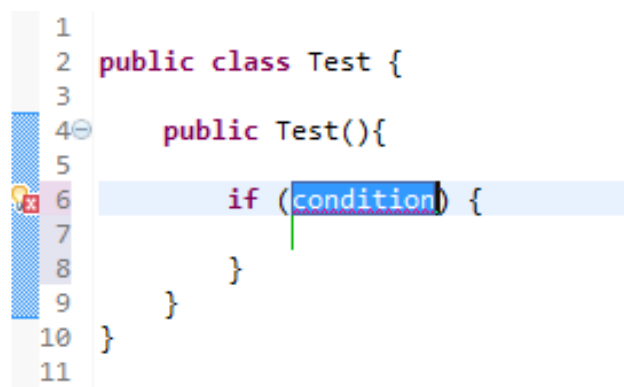


Abbildung 2: Eclipse Java2

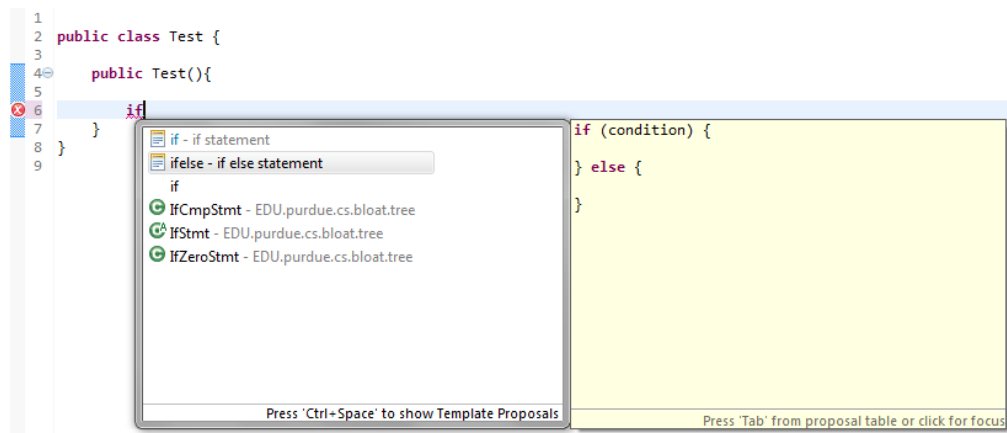


Abbildung 3: Eclipse Java3

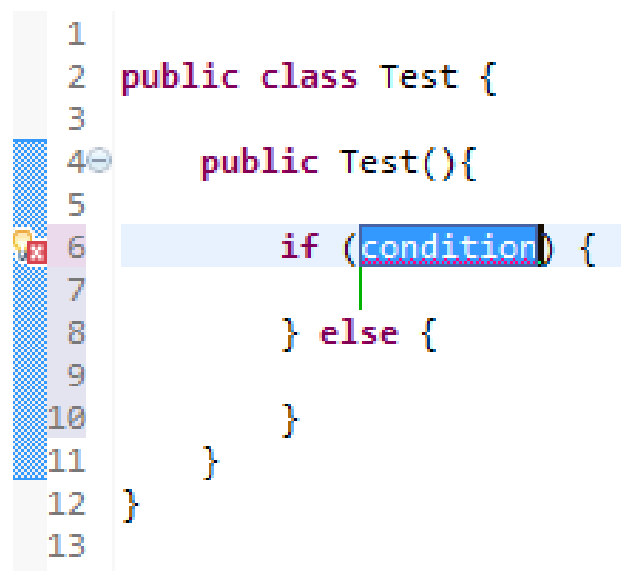


Abbildung 4: Eclipse Java4

This is how it could look in Rational after using content assist.

1	000100140710	IF	COND () THEN (DO)
2	000101140710		
3	000102140710	ENDDO	

1	000100140710	IF	COND () THEN (DO)
2	000101140710		
3	000102140710	ENDDO	
4	000103140710		
5	000104140710	ELSE	DO
6	000105140710		
7	000106140710	ENDDO	

1.1.6 Analysis of existing and related RFEs

To concentrate the focus of voting we did some brief analysis, if there are related RFE's. The following list is providing a short overview, where we provide some suggestion, if the match is good (1) or not (6).

Id	headline / match	Status	Date created
46362	Activate Content Assist on more member ty-	Under Consideration	2014-03-19 12:20 (ET)
	pes		
	4: Does not consider CLP.		

Out of that analysis we decide to attach this document to an existing RFE (1-3) or to raise a new one (4-6), if it provides a more complex approach or if there are no matching RFE's (0) so far.