



What is BPMN?

Part 3 of The Complete Guide to BPMN 2.0

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What is BPMN?

Business Process Modeling 'Model' and 'Notation'

Business Process

A collection of related, structured activities or tasks that produce a specific service or product for a particular customer

Model

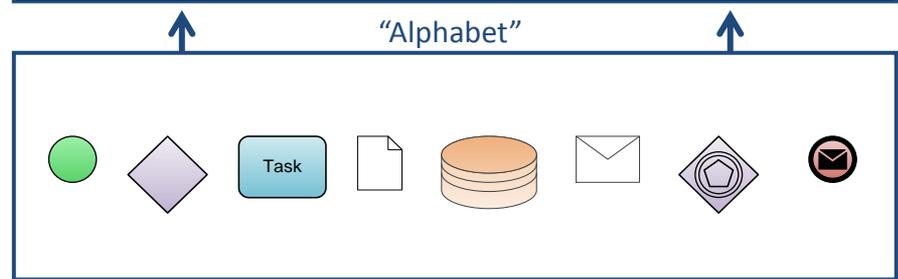
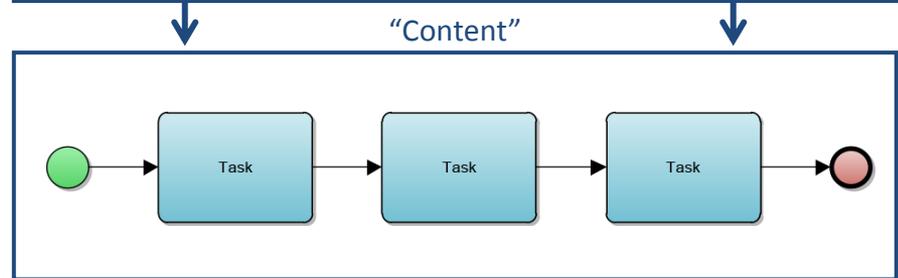
A representation of a business process

Notation

A set of elements (language) + rules used for representing a business process in a business process model (diagram)

in case of BPMN 1.x

since BPMN 2.0

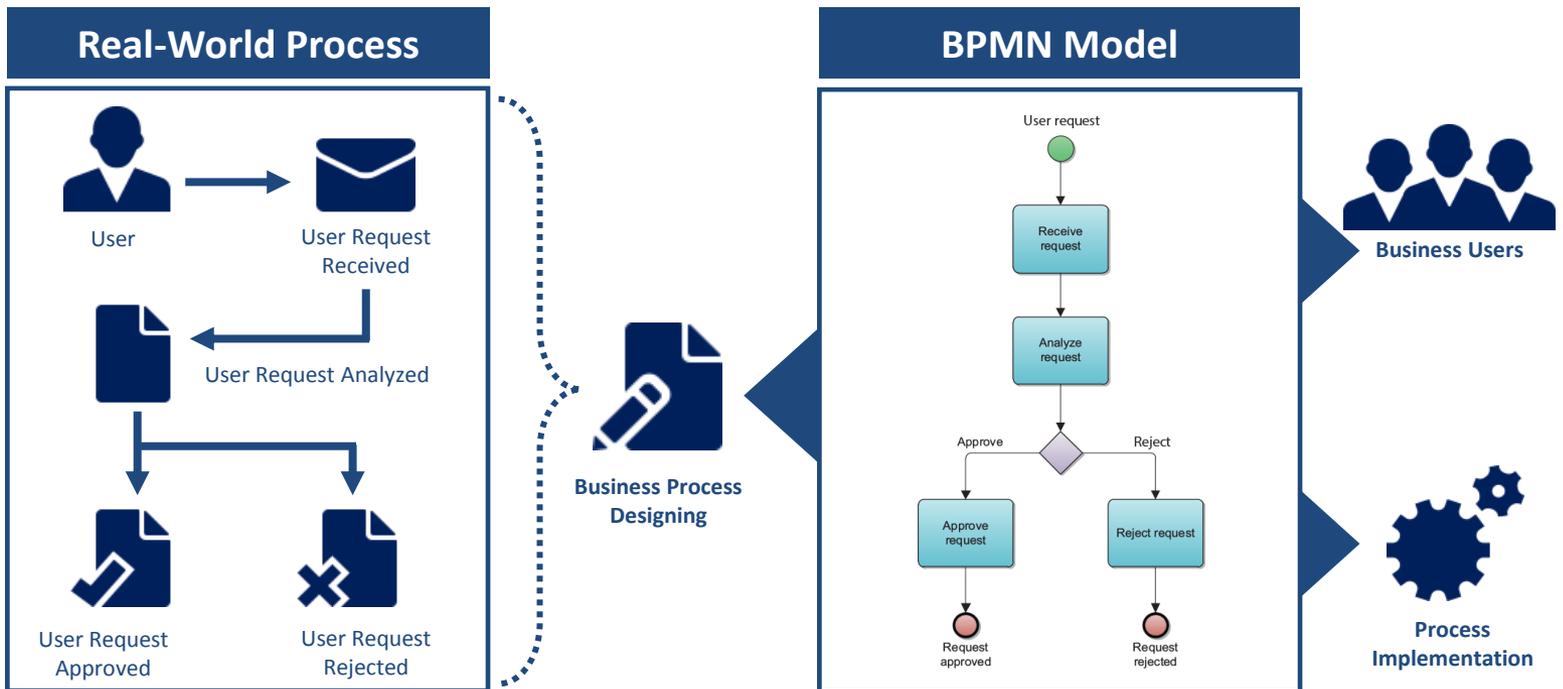


Primary Goal of BPMN

BPMN 2.0 specification, 1st chapter, 1st paragraph:



The primary goal of BPMN is to provide a notation that is readily understandable by all business users /.../. Thus, BPMN creates a standardized bridge for the gap between the business process design and process implementation.



Why BPMN?



Standardized

The de-facto standard in process modeling

Open

Created and controlled in an open and fair process

Simple & Complete

Can be used in a simple or detailed way

Learnable

Based on previous notations

Interchangeable

Capable of being interchanged between IT solutions

Executable

Capable of being automated



Standardization enables communication.



Openness enables transparency and democracy.



Simplicity and learnability enable acceptance and popularity.

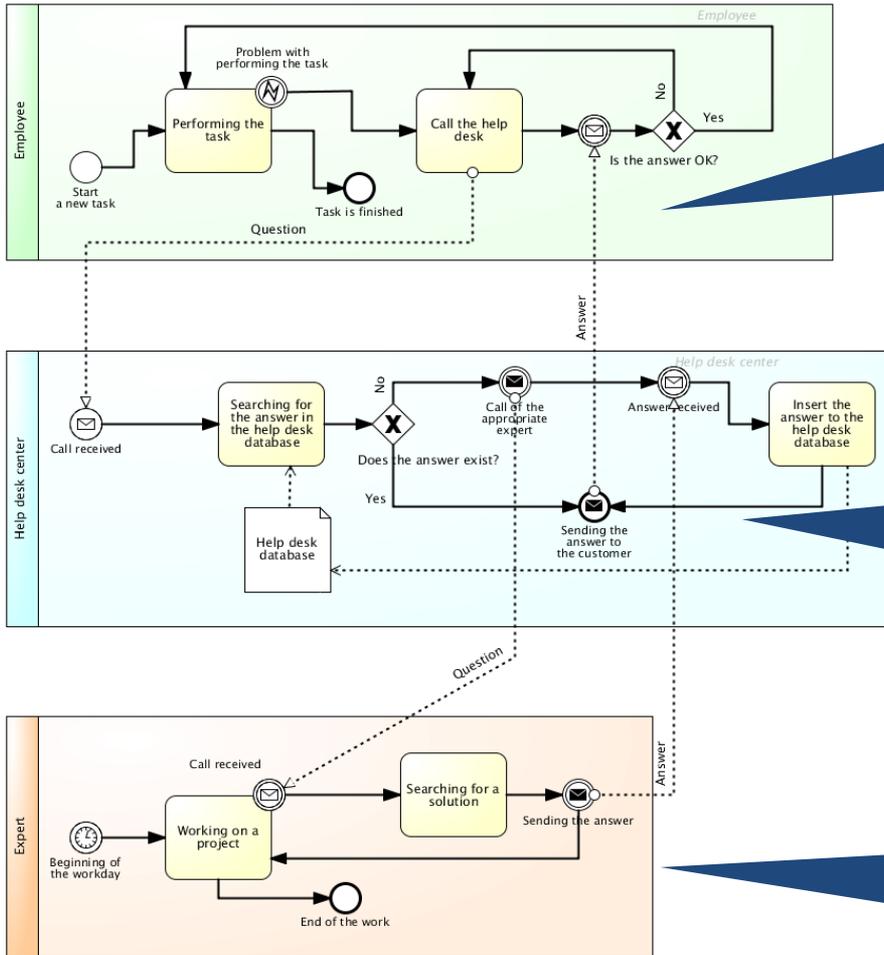


Interoperability enables humans and IT tools collaboration.



Automation improves process efficiency and consistency.

A BPMN 2.0 Model Example



A worker performs his or her work and if a problem occurs, he or she calls the help-desk center.

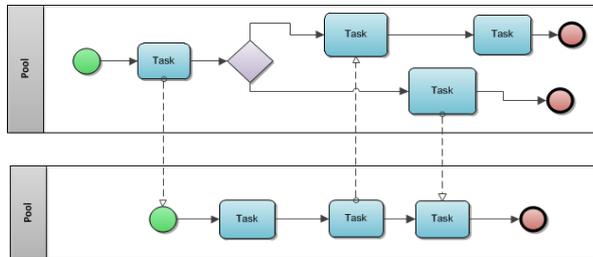
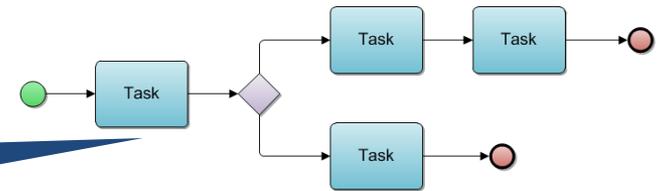
The help-desk center receives the call and tries to solve the problem. If no solution is found in the database, an expert is involved.

An expert interrupts his or her current work in order to find a solution, which is afterwards returned to the help-desk center.

Main Types of BPMN 2.0 Models

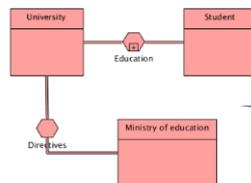
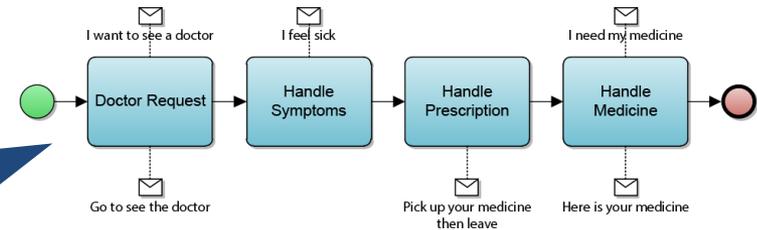


Process models - represent a specific process in an organization as a graph of Flow elements.



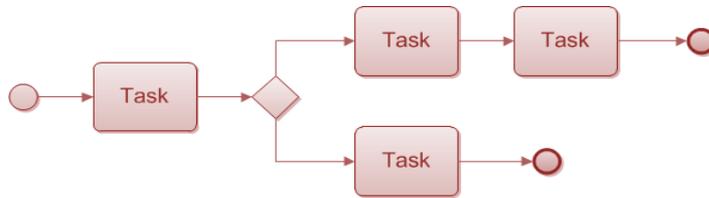
Collaboration models – represent interactions between two or more processes.

Choreography models – represent interactions between processes interactions and message flows.



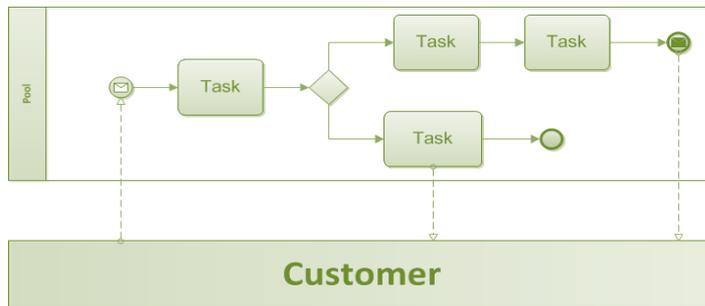
Conversation models – represents conversations between participants.

BPMN 2.0 Process and Collaboration Models



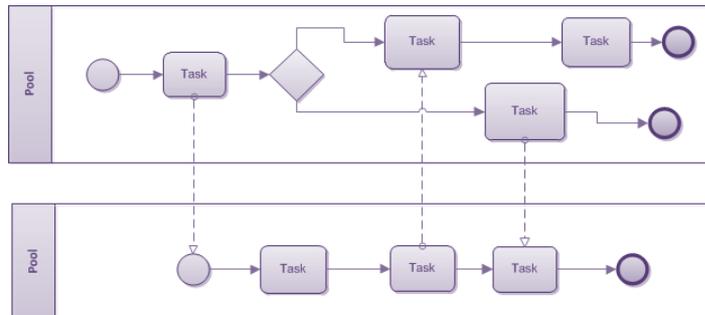
Most common in BPMN

Supported by the majority of BPMN tools



Used for modeling

- Private or internal processes
- Public processes
- Collaborative processes



Use a common set of BPMN elements on three “precision” levels

- Basic or descriptive
- Analytic
- Executable



Descriptive Set of BPMN Elements



Used to create **process models** which are readily understood by almost **any business person** and supported by almost **all BPMN tools**.



Start Event

End Event

Suited for **high-level process modeling**.



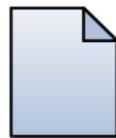
Should be comfortable for analyst that have used “flowcharts”



Data Flow



Gateway



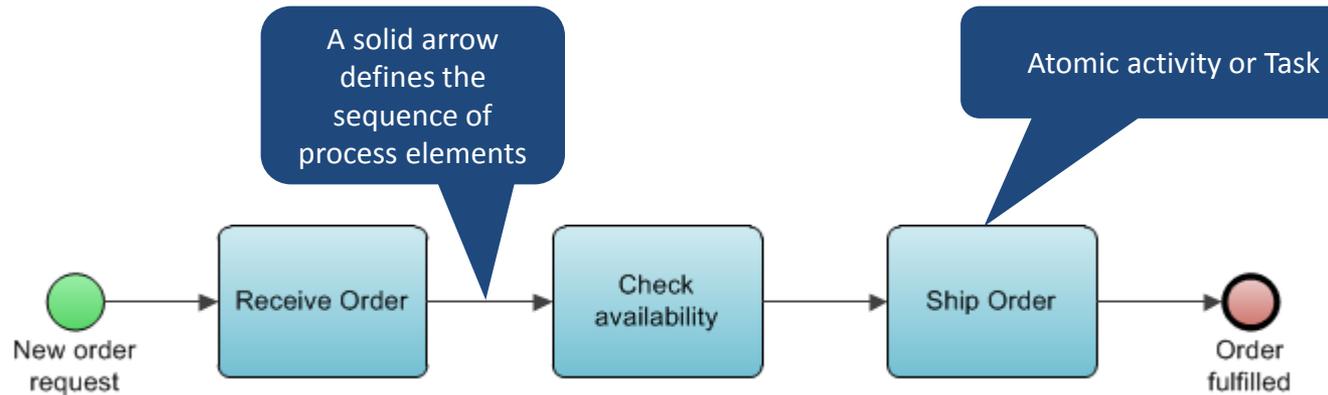
Data Object



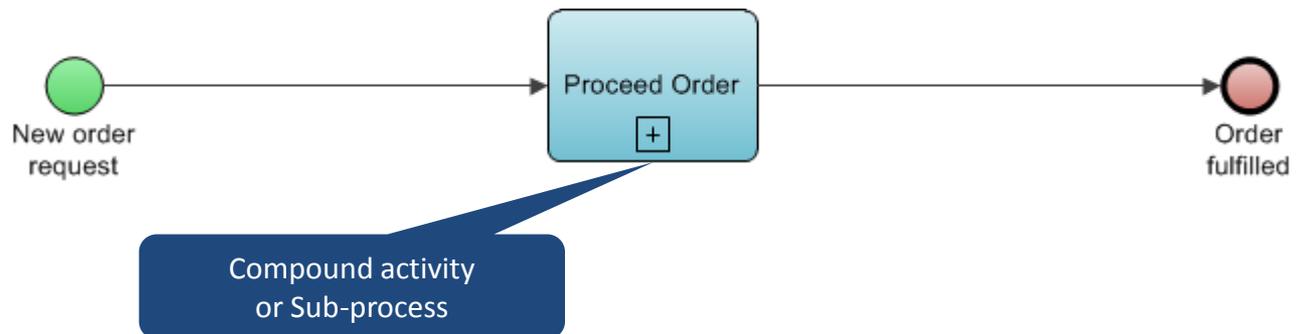
BPMN Activities by Example

An activity is a generic type of work that an individual or company performs

Atomic (task)

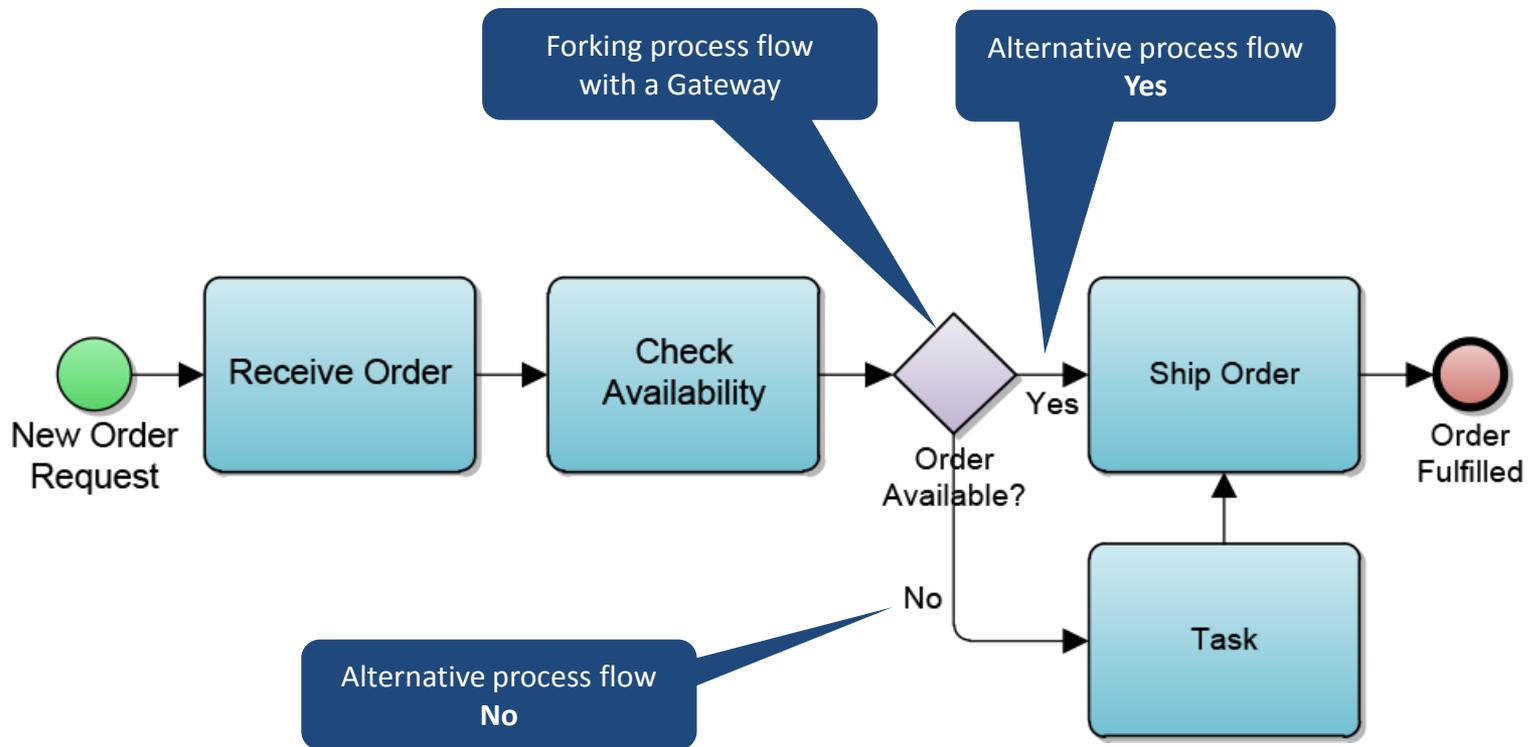


Compound (process, sub-process) uses a "+" sign



BPMN Gateways by Example

A gateway is used to split or merge multiple process flows. Thus it determines branching, forking, merging and joining of business process paths.

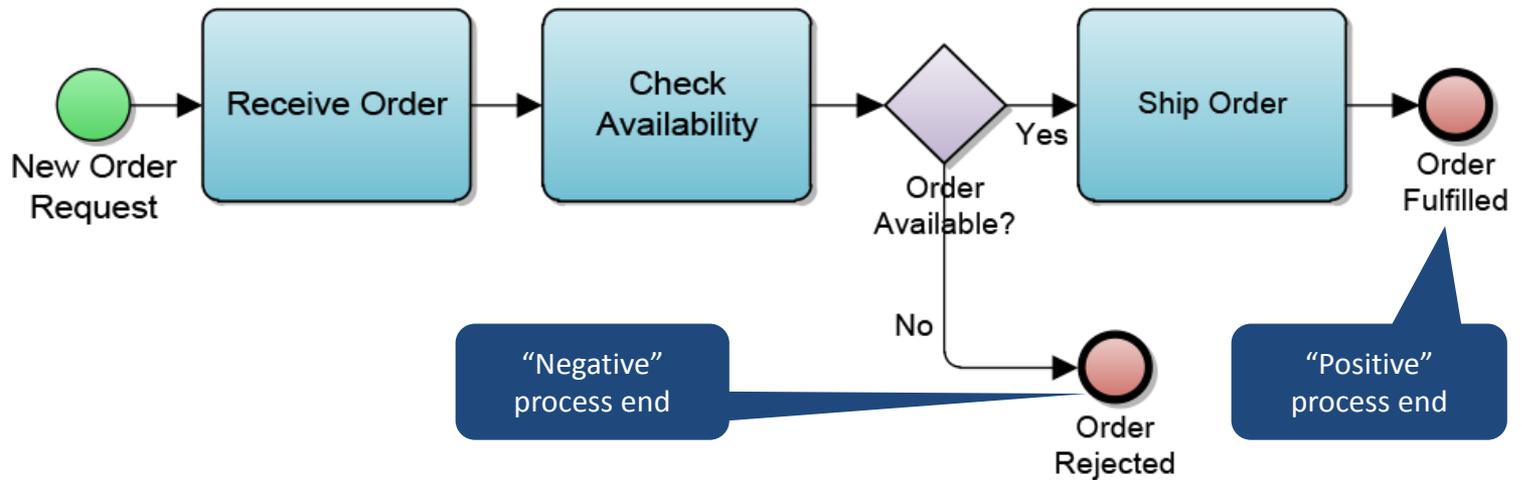


BPMN Events by Example

An event is something that “happens” in the process.

Basic (descriptive) events can start a process, and also occur at the end of a process

The complete BPMN offers a rich set of events, including intermediate events, which “happen” within a process

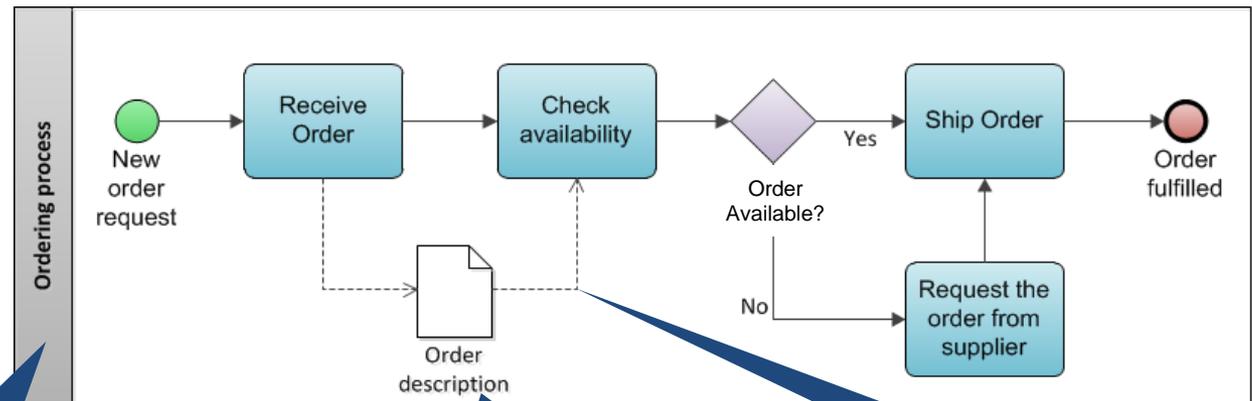


The Remaining Types of Elements

Swim lanes (e.g. a pool) are used to define and organize processes

Artifacts (e.g. a data object or document) are used to provide additional information about processes

Dotted arrows define the flow of information



A 'pool' defines boundaries of a process

A 'data object' defines information which is managed within a process, such as a process

A dotted arrow defines the information flow

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