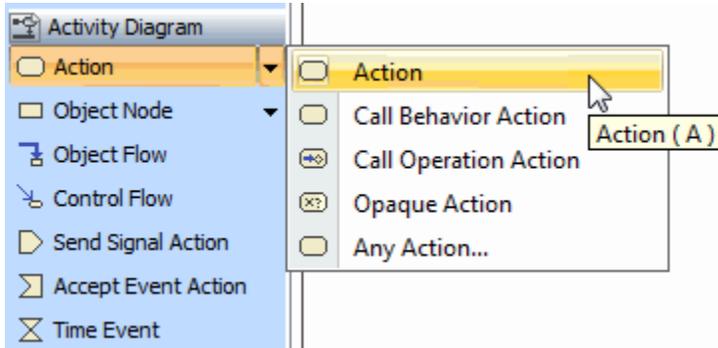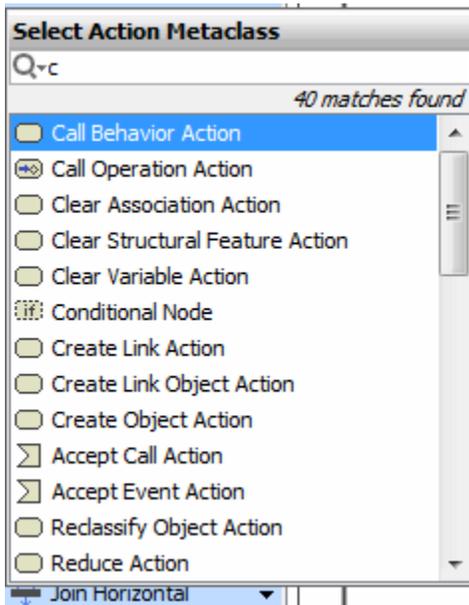# Working with Actions

To create any action quickly

1. In the Activity diagram toolbar, right-click or expand the **Action** button. The menu opens.

2. Select the **Any Action** command. The **Select Action Metaclass** dialog opens.

3. Select an Action metaclass from the list, or type the first letter of the metaclass in the Quick filter box. Click **OK**. The Action is created.
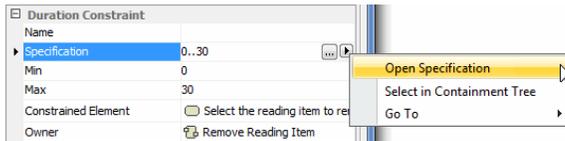4. Click the diagram pane. An action symbol is drawn.

Applying duration constraint on the Action

You can create and apply a duration constraint on an Action that states that the output must occur after delay from the input.
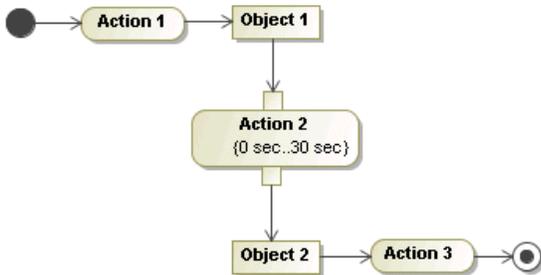
To create and apply a duration constraint

1. Select an Action and create the input and output Pins to specify the Events.
2. Create a duration constraint for the Action using one of the following way:
   - From the diagram palette:
     a. In the diagram palette, under the Common category, expand the **Constraint** command, and select the Duration Constraint, Time Constraint, or Constraint button, and create it directly on the action shape.

- In the Specification window:
  - a. In the Call Behavior Action Specification window, click the **Constraints** group.
  - b. Click the **Apply** button. The **Select Constraint** dialog opens.
  - c. Select the constraint storage place, and click the **Create** button. In the opened menu, select the **Duration Constraint** command. The **Duration Constraint** Specification window opens.
3. Specify a duration interval. Type the minimum and maximum duration to hold the Activity in the **Min** and **Max** property specification cells, e.g., 0 sec and 30 sec.
4. Assign the Events for the input and output pins:
   a. In the opened **Duration Constraint** Specification window, click the **Specification** property specification cell, and click the Show Shortcut Menu button . The following shortcut menu opens:

   b. Select the **Open Specification** command. The **Duration Interval** Specification window opens.
   c. Click the **Min** property specification cell, and and click the Show Shortcut Menu button . In the shortcut menu, select the **Open Specification** command. The **Duration** Specification window opens.
   d. In the Event field, click the "..." button. The **Select Element** dialog opens. Select the activity input pin.
   e. Repeat steps c and d for the Max property - select the action output pin as an event.
5. Apply the created duration constraint on the action.

The following sample depicts a fragment of the Activity diagram with a duration constraint applied on the Action.

Related pages

- Model Elements
- Behavior
- Action
- Activity diagram