

How to create flowcharts with correct node shapes from Excel data?

Software

Windows 10 Home. yEd Version 3.22

Attachments

[ProblemSolving_Example.yEd file](#)
[ProblemSolving_Spreadsheet](#)

Previous related questions

[How do i import the excel containing flowchart steps\(which includes rectangular boxes & diamond boxes\)](#)
[How do I specify a node's shape when I import a Node List?](#)

Intro

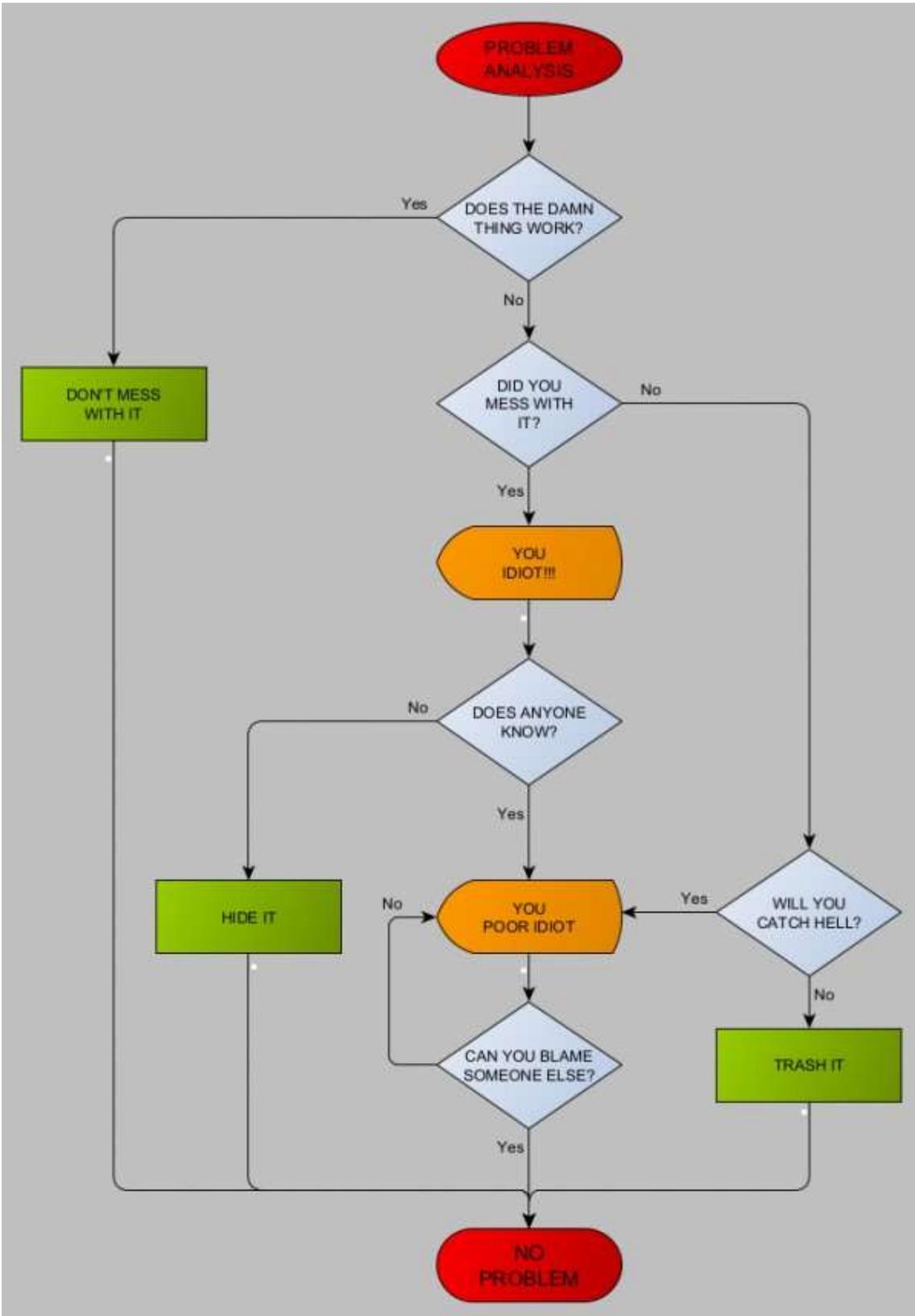
I'm a novice yEd user. I usually use the program to make simple flowcharts with a custom symbol palette that I created from the original program palette. I just changed shape appearance.

Normally, my flowcharts have a workflow with shapes as **Start>Process>Decision>Process>Terminator**. They may contain other shapes such as Display, Stored Data, Predefine Process, etc.

I create flowcharts using Excel data import. The spreadsheet has columns sources, targets and additionally, decision responses shapes (Yes or No) that are placed in edges.

A sample flowchart

I will use a sample flowchart as an example. This flowchart is from Help>Example Graph>Flowchart>ProblemSolving.graphmlz



Steps

1. I create an Excel spreadsheet.

Source	Decision Response	Target	Source Node Type	Target Node Type
PROBLEM ANALYSIS		DOES THE DAMN THING WORK?	START	DECISION
DOES THE DAMN THING WORK?	Yes	DON'T MESS WITH IT	DECISION	PROCESS
DON'T MESS WITH IT		NO PROBLEM	PROCESS	TERMINATOR
DOES THE DAMN THING WORK?	No	DID YOU MESS WITH IT?	DECISION	DECISION
DID YOU MESS WITH IT?	Yes	You Idiot!!!	DECISION	DISPLAY
You Idiot!!!		DOES ANYONE KNOW?	DISPLAY	DECISION
DOES ANYONE KNOW?	No	HIDE IT	DECISION	PROCESS
HIDE IT		NO PROBLEM	PROCESS	TERMINATOR
DID YOU MESS WITH IT?	No	WILL YOU CATCH HELL?	DECISION	DECISION
WILL YOU CATCH HELL?	Yes	You poor idiot	DECISION	DISPLAY
DOES ANYONE KNOW?	Yes	You poor idiot	DECISION	DISPLAY
WILL YOU CATCH HELL?	No	TRASH IT	DECISION	PROCESS
TRASH IT		NO PROBLEM	PROCESS	TERMINATOR
You poor idiot		CAN YOU BLAME SOMEONE ELSE?	PROCESS	DECISION
CAN YOU BLAME SOMEONE ELSE?	No	You poor idiot	DECISION	DISPLAY
CAN YOU BLAME SOMEONE ELSE?	Yes	NO PROBLEM	DECISION	TERMINATOR

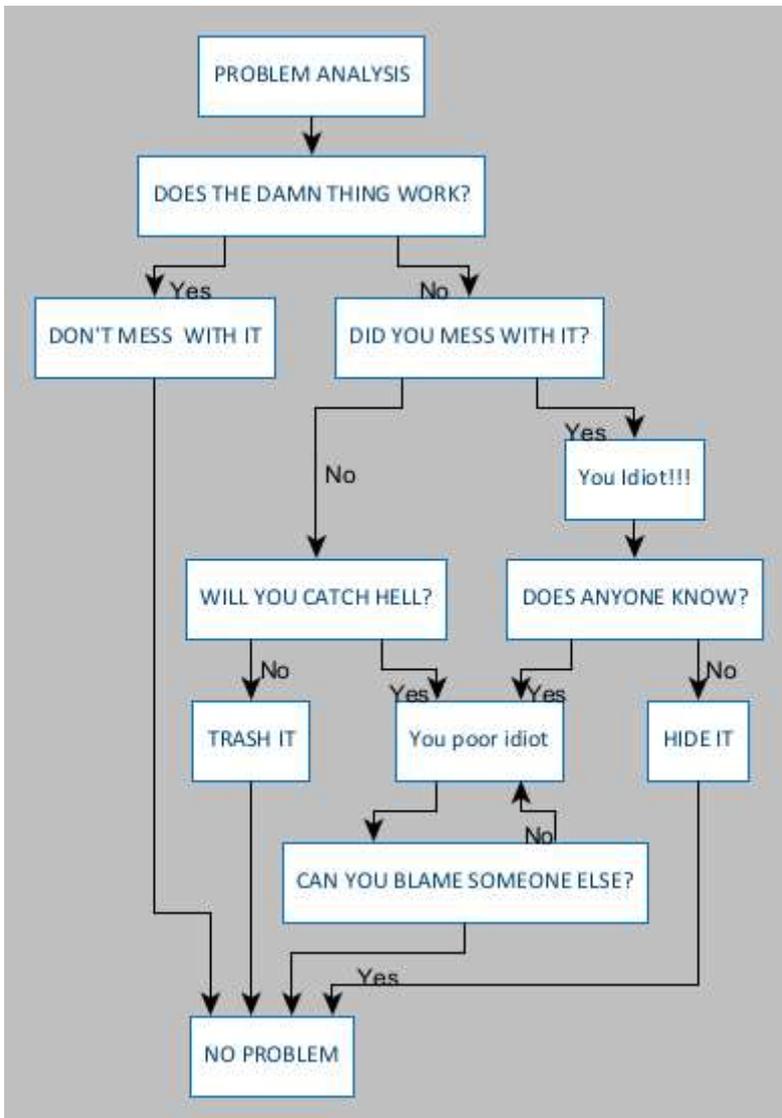
2. In MS Excel Import Wizard, I select in Data tab:

- Edge lists.
- Data range.
- Source and Target columns.

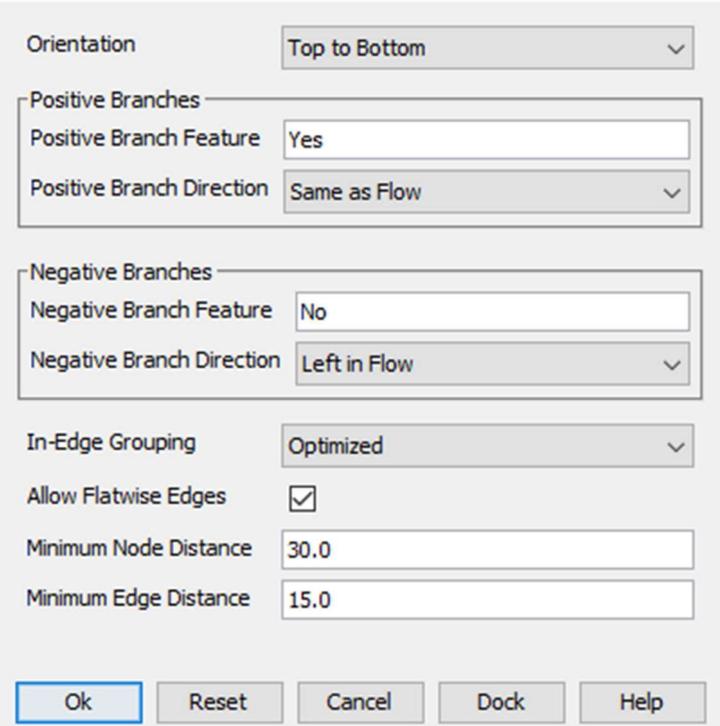
3. In MS Excel Import Wizard, I select in Presentation tab:



4. I click on Ok and this chart is created by default. As you can see the node shapes and edges are all the same because I use a selected palette template that I customized.



5. I change the layout type in **Layout>Flowchart**.

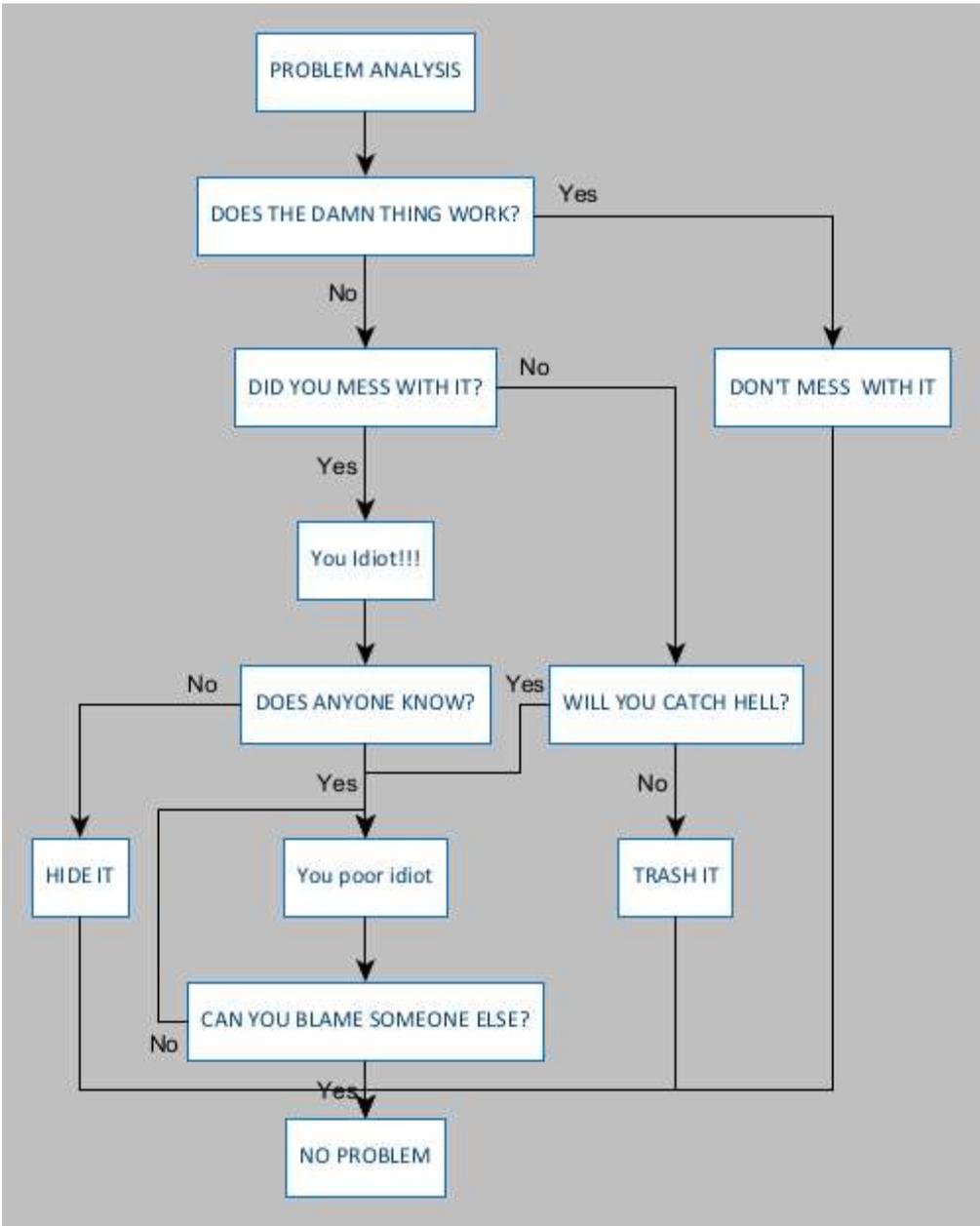


The image shows a dialog box titled "Flowchart Layout" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog contains several settings:

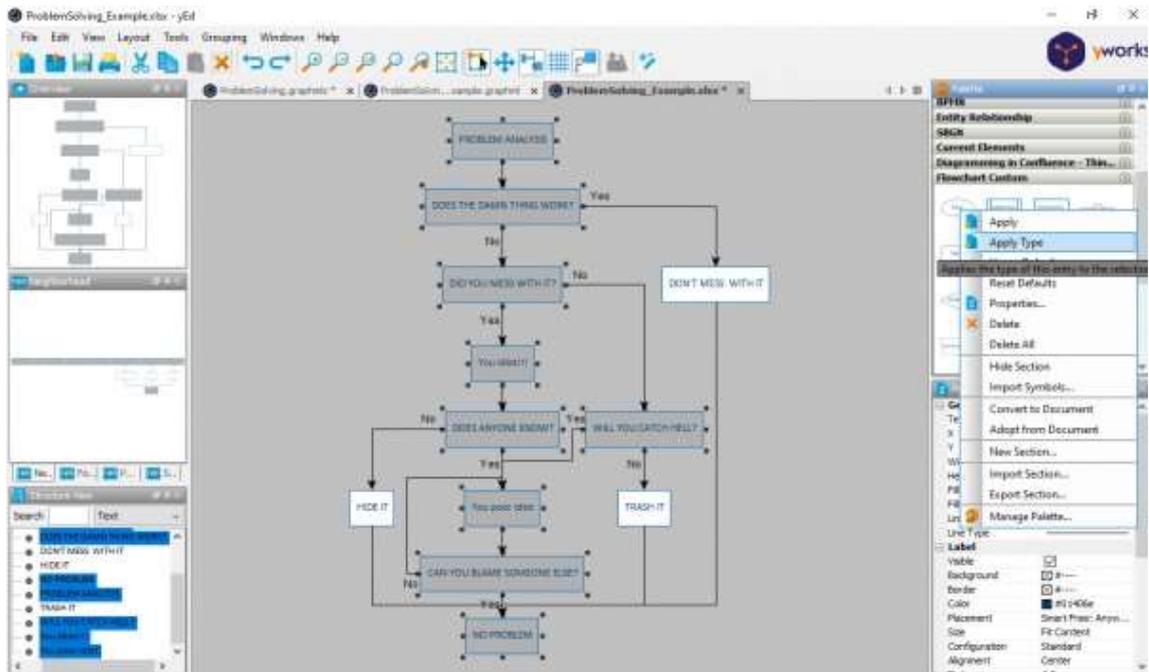
- Orientation:** A dropdown menu set to "Top to Bottom".
- Positive Branches:** A section containing:
 - Positive Branch Feature:** A text input field containing "Yes".
 - Positive Branch Direction:** A dropdown menu set to "Same as Flow".
- Negative Branches:** A section containing:
 - Negative Branch Feature:** A text input field containing "No".
 - Negative Branch Direction:** A dropdown menu set to "Left in Flow".
- In-Edge Grouping:** A dropdown menu set to "Optimized".
- Allow Flatwise Edges:** A checked checkbox.
- Minimum Node Distance:** A text input field containing "30.0".
- Minimum Edge Distance:** A text input field containing "15.0".

At the bottom of the dialog, there are five buttons: "Ok", "Reset", "Cancel", "Dock", and "Help". The "Ok" button is highlighted with a blue border.

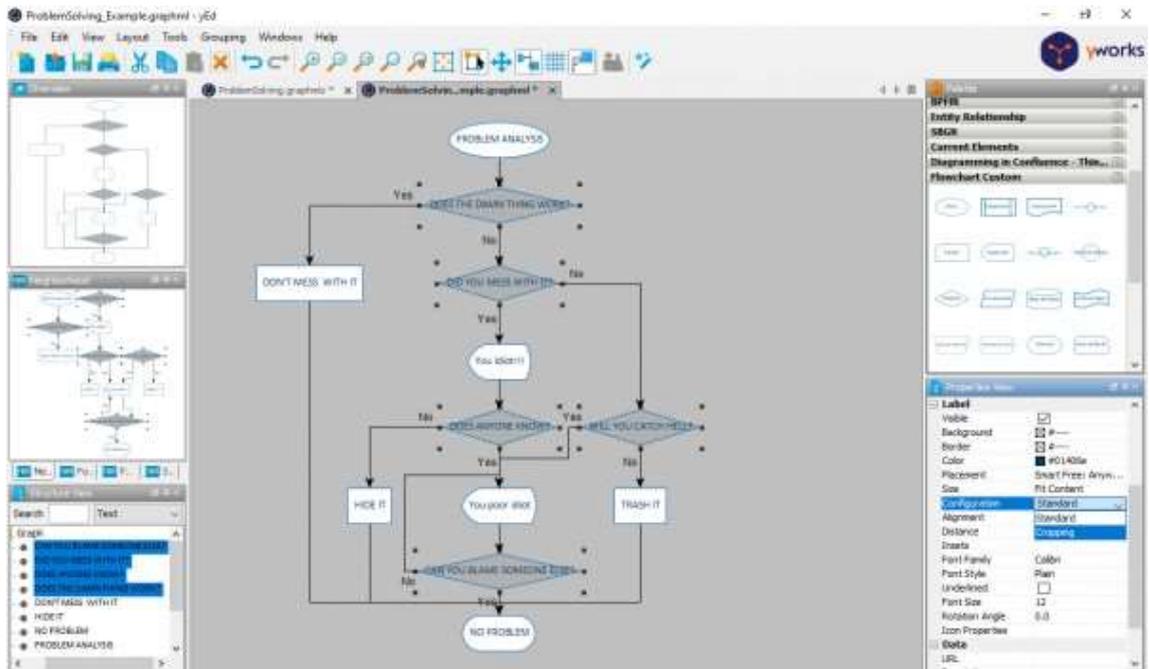
6. I click on Ok and I get the following result.



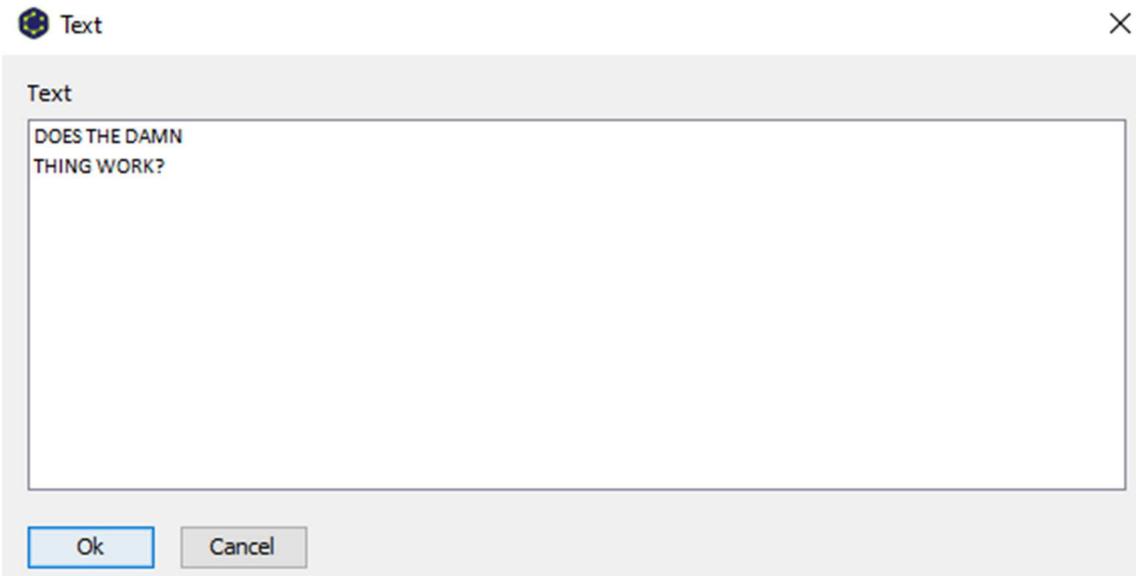
7. I select node shapes I have to change. I change Start, Decision, Display and Terminator node shapes.



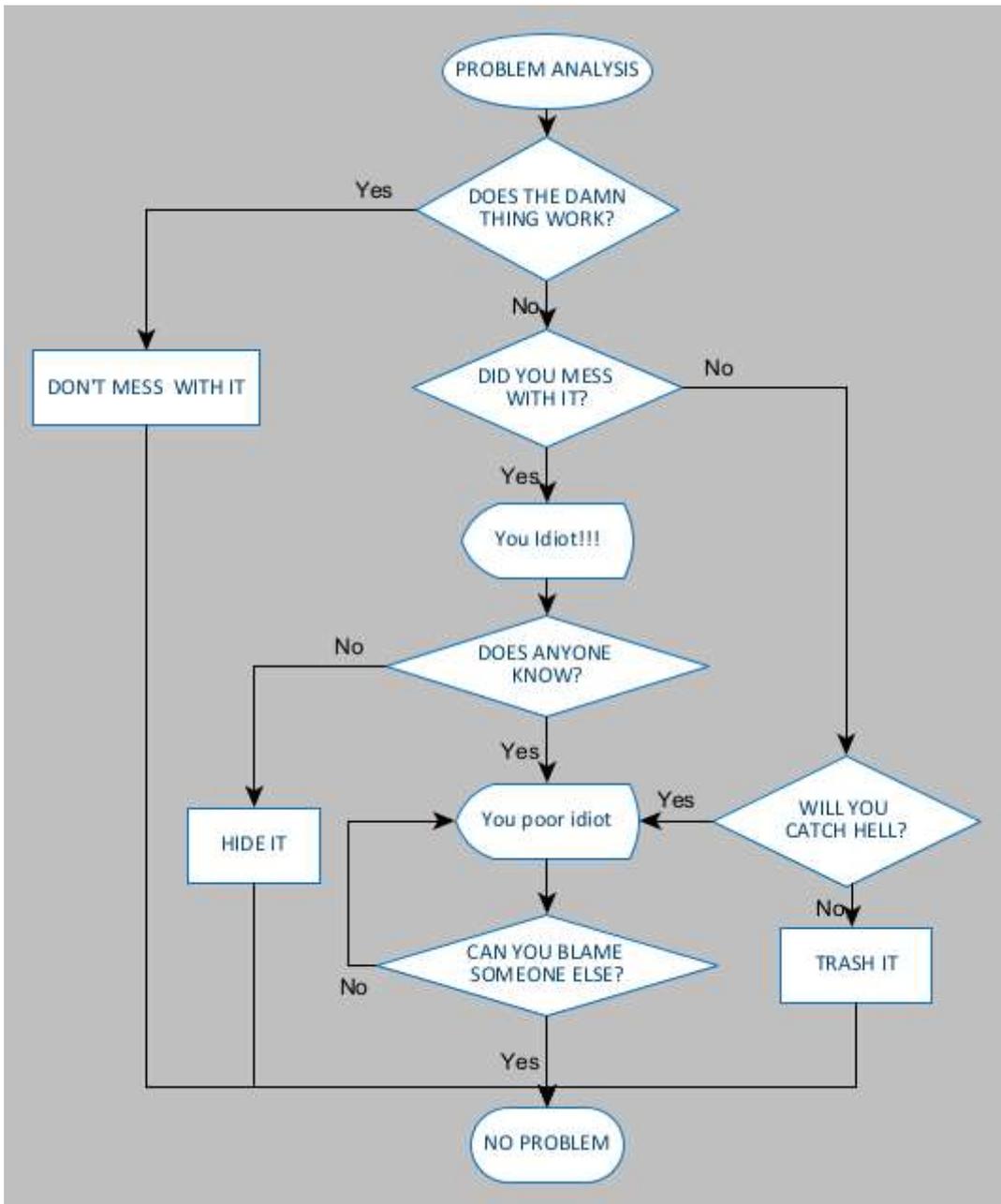
8. Sometimes, to fit node label text in node shapes I select Cropping.



9. If the previous step doesn't work, I do it manually with text editor.



10. After making changes manually I get a flowchart similar to the example.



Well, this process is a bit laborious and time-consuming because the same default node shapes are used for all nodes and I have to change them manually until I get the desired result.

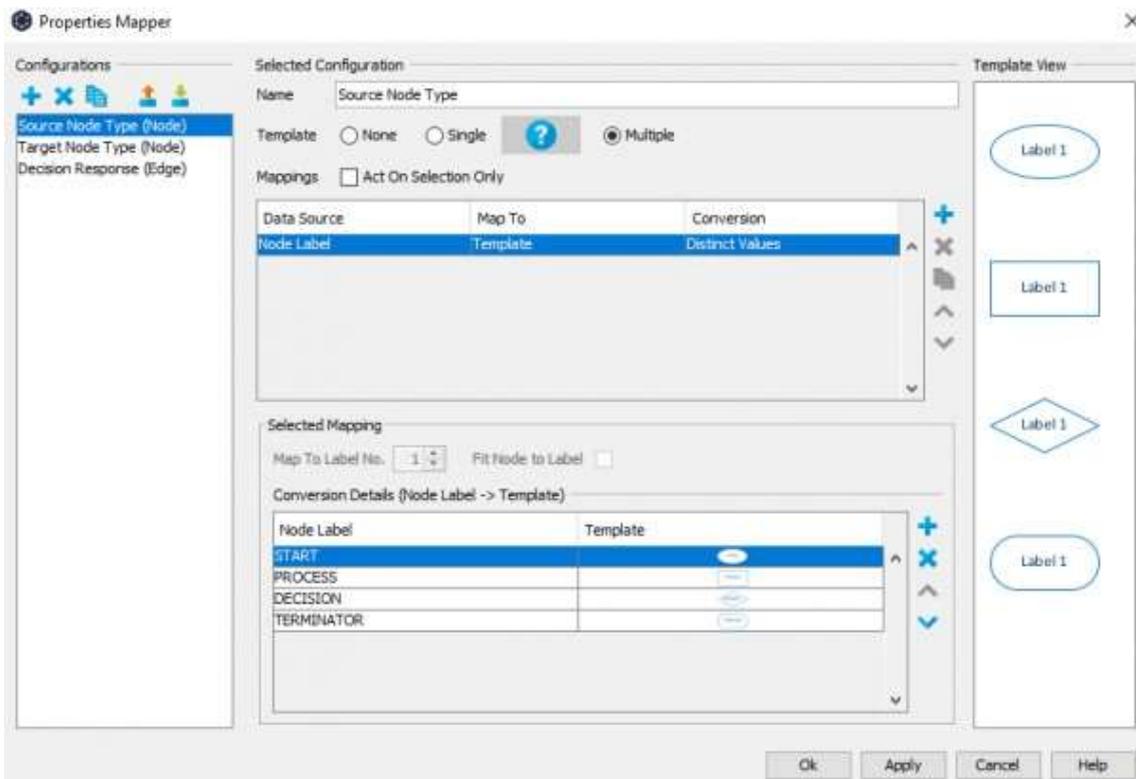
Purposes

My goal is to create flowcharts with node shapes correctly from the beginning. I have searched in the yEd manual and this forum some questions about Properties mapper that allow to change shape types. Then I created the following configuration:

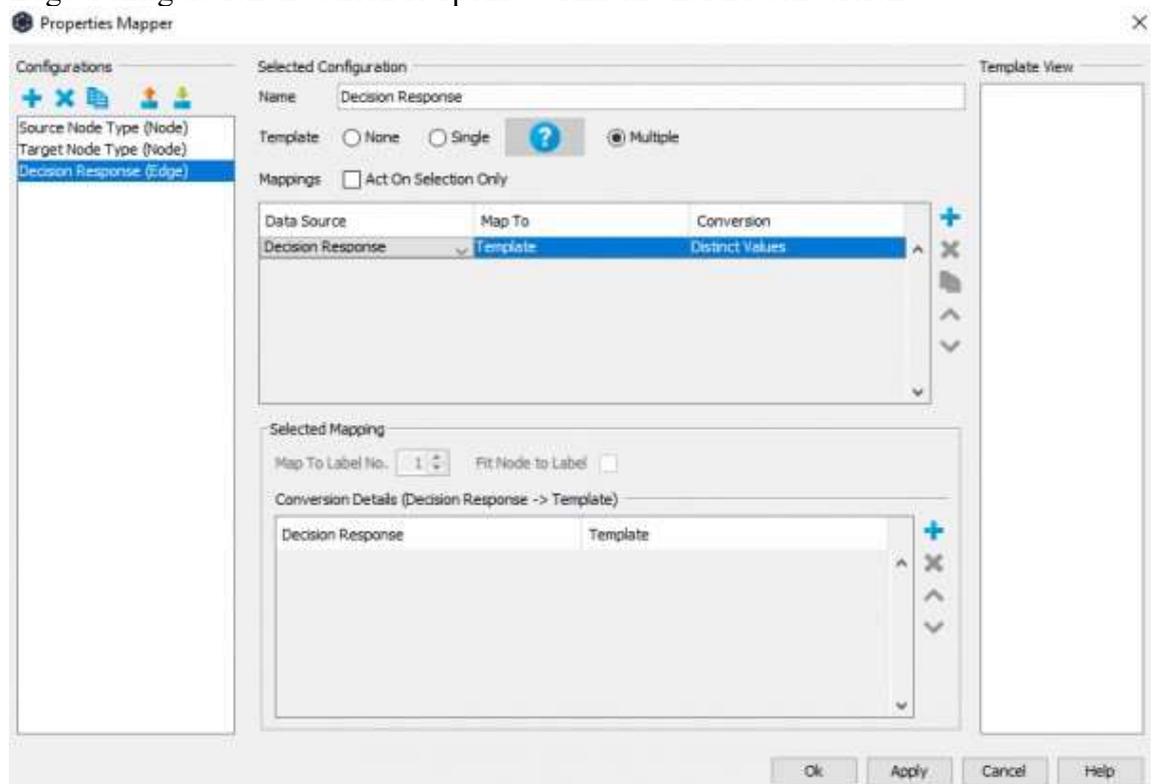
Node Configuration: Source Node Type and Target Node Type.

They are the same.

This has conversions to node shapes seen on picture.

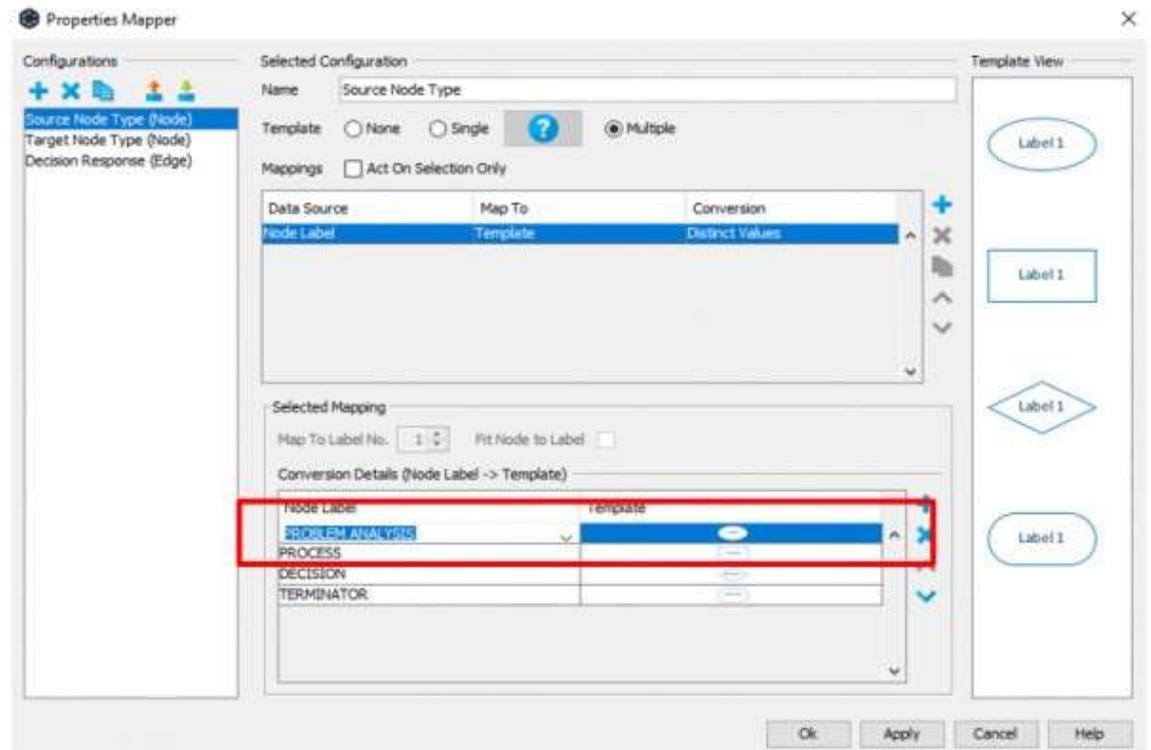


Edge Configuration: Decision Response. This one has no conversion.



After creating the configuration I tried to make the same flowchart by making changes in MS Excel Import Wizard and adding a Node list but I didn't succeed. I have seen that in Conversion Details section are node label text such as Problem Analysis and other node labels of the complete flowchart. I do not know if it is

possible to change all label text according to each node shape. However, it is not very useful because this can be done by selecting each node shape and then applying the desired shape type as in step 7.



Questions

- 1 Is there any way to make a complete flowchart and with proper node shapes from Excel data or using Properties Mapper?
- 2 Is there any way to make a flowchart at least partially using Properties Mapper?
- 3 Is there a yEd Feature Request to create flowcharts taking into account the desired correct shapes from Excel data?

Conclusion

In conclusion, I consider this program useful and powerful to make a variety of graphs. I'm not sure that it would be possible to implement what I'm proposing. I'll be waiting for some useful answers. Thanks in advance. Greetings.