

ORACLE BUSINESS RULES DATA SHEET

BENEFITS AND FEATURES

BENEFITS

- Agility - Quickly react to new market opportunities or regulatory changes
- Transparency – business policy can be easily determined by viewing code
- Field customization - is enabled for non-programmers

FEATURES

- High performance and small footprint Java Rules Engine
- Rule Author Development Tools suitable for use by programmers and business analysts
- Rules SDK enables Rules customizations to be embedded within applications.
- Outstanding integration with Java, XML, and BPEL Process Manager

Business Rules are increasingly used in the development of applications due to business agility and transparency requirements. Applications are considered agile if substantial modifications and customizations can be delivered to production in a very short time, with no programming. Benefits can be substantial, often resulting in time to production reductions of an order of magnitude or more with a corresponding reduction in development costs.

An application is considered transparent if an auditor or business analyst can view its code and easily determine that the application precisely implements a business's policies. Health care, insurance, human resources, financial services and other regulated industries have strong transparency requirements. Oracle Business Rules meets all these requirements and provides a fast and efficient infrastructure for development and deployment of Business Rules.

Oracle Business Rules Product Overview

Oracle Business Rules provides the infrastructure for the efficient development and deployment of Business Rules. Its focus is the implementation of business policies that govern activities within organizations, between organizations and between organizations and individuals. Examples would include risk dependent interest rate calculations, contract acceptance policies or insurance claim rejection policies.

Oracle Business Rules consist of a Rule Authoring Tool for defining rules, an SDK that provides Rules access and update for embedded programs and a Rules engine where Rules are executed. These components provide both fast and efficient Rules processing as well as an infrastructure whose use results in quick and low cost production delivery of application changes.

Oracle Business Rules Architecture

When business application architectures were redesigned for the Internet, application logic was separated into display and business logic to accommodate browser technology. Rules pushes this evolution to the next level. In a Rules enabled application, policy logic is separated from other business logic and is written as Business Rules in an English-like declarative form. Thus, business policy is implemented as a set of Rules executed by a Rules Engine while the remainder of the business logic is implemented in languages such as Java.

KEY BENEFITS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

KEY BENEFITS:

Business Rules are important for applications that require agility when reacting to regulatory changes, market opportunities or competitive threats. For such applications, Oracle Business Rules provides an outstanding Business Rules development and deployment infrastructure.

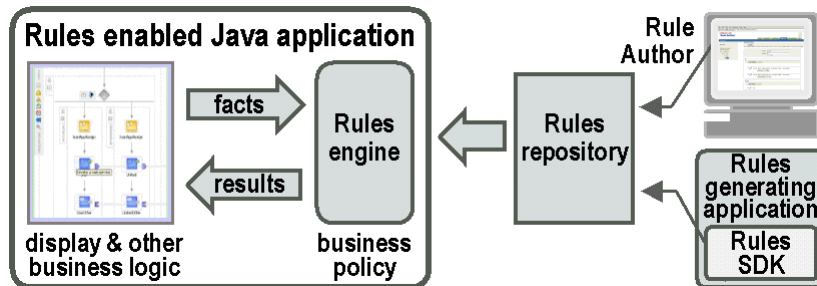
RELATED PRODUCTS:

Oracle Business Rules is a core feature that will be embedded in many Oracle products. Its use is particularly attractive for J2EE applications supported by OC4J and Web service applications supported by the BPEL Process Manager.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information regarding Oracle Business Rules can be found at <http://otn.oracle.com/> in the Application Server Product Center

With this architecture, business policy and other business logic are developed separately, with policy/Rules implemented by business analysts and the remainder of the logic implemented by Java-type programmers. The graphic below shows the architecture of Oracle Business Rules. As shown, business policy is executed in the Rules engine where Facts are analyzed and Results returned. Rules for the Rules engine originate from repositories where they were created by the Rule Author GUI or by Rules generating applications using the Rules SDK.



Oracle Business Rules Components

The Oracle Business Rules components consist of a Rules engine; a Rules SDK, and a Rule Author Tool. The Oracle Rules Engine is written in Java. It is fast and efficient and well integrated with both Java and XML.

The Authoring tool presents an English-like paradigm for declaring Rules. It can be used by both programmers and business analysts. Programmers Rule-enable applications by defining Facts, used for Rules analysis, and the Actions/Results invoked as a result of such analysis. Business analysts can then define rules in terms of Facts and Actions.

The Authoring tool generates the Oracle Rules language in a repository for use by the Rules engine. This language provides outstanding integration with Java programs, Web services, and XML documents. The Oracle Rules language can be coded directly by programmers but is normally generated by high-level tools.

A third component is a Rules SDK. The SDK allows Rules repository access and update by Rules generating programs. The SDK is attractive for applications that define policies via their own special graphic interfaces.

Summary

Business Rules are increasingly used to improve the agility and transparency of business applications. This allows organizations to quickly modify their applications in response to regulatory changes, market opportunities, or competitive threat. Oracle Business Rules provides an excellent infrastructure for development and deployment of Business Rules for both the business analyst developing the Rules and the programmer integrating Rules into business applications.