

OpenText™ Business Rules Management

Enabling Consistent Organization Policies Managed by the Business

An organization's success depends upon its capacity to respond quickly to the complexity of constantly changing market conditions, regulations, and policies. For example, an organization's ability to quickly implement new pricing models, comply with new legislation, or adhere to a government policy can be a key differentiator in ensuring business success. But key business policies and regulatory compliance information are locked inside various software systems, applications, company handbooks, documents, and processes. Generally, these policies are inaccessible to the business managers, who are responsible for managing business policies and rules. A business rules management system allows policies to be held in a single repository that can be managed by the business users in close collaboration with IT.

Business Rules Management System

A business rules management system allows consistent visibility of the business rules across the organization. It also encourages greater re-use and application of these rules in other areas of the business. A rules management system clearly identifies the relationship between business rules and business policies, aiding faster deployment of these business rules and enhancing the general understanding of the policies and objectives that underpin them. It also helps determine the impact of rule changes on the overall business strategy, empowering business users to make changes to the business rules and enabling greater flexibility and agility.

BENEFITS

- *Enables faster development and easier maintenance of business rules*
- *Allows organizations to respond more rapidly to changing market conditions*
- *Standardizes operational decisions for consistent execution of business policies*
- *Ensures adherence to compliance mandates, regulations, and policies across the entire organization*
- *Allows seamless integration of business rules within business processes and business objects*

OpenText™ AppWorks for Business Rules Management

Single rule repository

The business rules are externalized from the application code and processes into a single repository defined using standards based (XPath) syntax. The business and IT teams can collaborate to define and maintain the rule repository through a single development environment, the OpenText Collaborative Workspace (CWS).

The single repository provides a consistent view of the business rules in the organization, enabling re-use and ease of change to existing rules. OpenText AppWorks' rules management system also provides a full audit trail of any changes to the rules across the organization. Using intuitive testing tools, the changes can be tested for impact and stability.

Multiple editors

OpenText AppWorks' rules management system enables business users to own and manage the business rules. It can also cater to complex rules with nested conditions, richer expressions, etc. The rules management system provides an advanced rule editor for IT users to define complex rules, rule templates, and business vocabularies. Business users can use the decision table editor to define rules based on the domain specific business vocabularies defined by IT.

Business vocabularies

Business vocabularies are domain specific terms abstracting the complex expressions defining the term. For example, in health care, the term 'diabetic' could have a complex expression, comparing various vital statistics of a patient. IT can abstract these parameters and provide a new vocabulary for business people to use the model rules.

How Does OpenText Contribute?

OpenText AppWorks' rules management system supports modeling and maintenance of business rules expressed in business language. It provides a consistent view and understanding of decision logic across applications and processes.

The rules management system ensures compliance with extensive audits, both on changes to rules and their execution. Externalizing business rules from processes and applications allows for the continuous improvement of the processes, thereby increasing efficiency. Using a single repository for all the business rules significantly reduces administration and maintenance costs.

Where Does OpenText Contribute?

OpenText AppWorks' rules management system enables faster development and easier maintenance of business rules, allowing organizations to respond more rapidly to changing market conditions. It standardizes operational decisions for consistent execution of business policies. It ensures adherence to compliance mandates, regulations, and policies across the entire organization. The rules management system brings alignment and understanding of the business rules between the two key stakeholders in an organization: business and IT, with business leading.

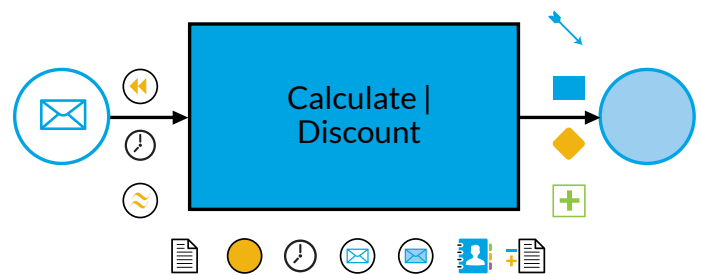


Diagram 1: Decision table in a process

Why OpenText?

Business rules management is an integral component of OpenText AppWorks. This allows seamless integration of business rules within business processes and business objects during modeling, ensuring faster execution during run time. The platform's rules management system provides multiple editors for business users and IT, with different needs and expectations on the ease of use, power and flexibility of definition.

The platform's rules management system supports extensible business vocabularies, enabling business users to own and manage the rules. OpenText AppWorks, with its single development environment for business and IT and unified meta-model, allows for quicker changes across the various process components, including stability tests before deployment.

Lastly, the deployment and execution of business rules over a robust, highly-available Service Oriented Architecture Platform enables faster performance and near non-stop business operations.

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NORTH AMERICA +800 499 6544 • UNITED STATES +1 847 267 9330 • GERMANY +49 89 4629-0
 UNITED KINGDOM +44 (0) 1189 848 000 • AUSTRALIA +61 2 9026 3400