

JBoss RULES

WHAT IS IT?

JBoss Rules is a JBoss Enterprise Framework that provides an open source and standards-based business rules engine and business rules management system (BRMS) for easy business policy access, change, and management.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

JBoss Rules makes it easy for a business analyst or auditor to view your business rules as encoded in your IT application infrastructure, to verify that the encoded rules indeed implement the documented business policies. JBoss Rules also supports a variety of language and decision table inputs, making it easy to quickly modify your business policies to respond to opportunities and competitive threats. The business rules management system provides a repository to manage different versions of business rules as the enterprise business policies evolve.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

JBoss Rules allows businesses to reduce development time to update applications, service-oriented architecture (SOA) deployments, and business processes with the latest business rules and policies. This enables enterprises to respond to business environment changes and rapidly update their IT applications to feature new products and specials, offer current and relevant upsell offerings, and respond rapidly to competitive and business challenges.

OVERVIEW

IT organizations search for greater flexibility to improve business process agility. A key IT deliverable, an agile application and services portfolio, has become one of the top focus items for businesses of all sizes. A more stringent regulatory environment drives IT transparency, enabling superior business process automation and application and business process audit readiness. Achieving greater agility and transparency leads organizations to improve the modularity and accessibility of their business policies and rules by separating these from business process and presentation logic into a business rules engine.

Choose JBoss Rules whether you require an embedded rules engine in a specific application or an enterprise-wide business rules infrastructure to support SOA deployments. With JBoss Rules, you can enable much more agile applications with rapid and easily modified business rules. JBoss Rules adds flexibility to your SOA implementation.

APPLICATION SIMPLIFICATION AND AGILITY

Rules engines simplify applications by separating business policy or rules logic from process, infrastructure, and presentation logic. This modularity enables business analysts, rules developers and auditors to develop, deploy, modify and manage a business process' rules with much greater ease and speed. When a company wants to run a one week special, for example, all they need to do is modify the pricing or offering rules associated with a particular product and service, deploy to the JBoss Rules, and the special offering is up and running. There is no need to modify code nor rebuild the application. It is that simple.

TRANSPARENCY

With the business rules separated from other business and presentation logic, it becomes far easier for business analysts and auditors to ensure that the encoded business rules indeed implement the business policies precisely and helps businesses meet the newer, more stringent regulatory environment, as driven by Sarbanes-Oxley, Basel, or HIPAA.

EFFICIENT AND SCALABLE

JBoss Rules is a great way to collect complex decision-making logic and work with data sets too large for humans to effectively use. The JBoss rule engine can make decisions based on hundreds of thousands of facts, quickly, reliably, and repeatedly. It works by decomposing large sets of rules into a very efficient network of nodes that can process and react to facts far more efficiently than can be programmed manually. JBoss Rules scales extremely well, almost linearly, with increases in the number of rules and facts.

KNOWLEDGE BASE AND TRANSFER

Rule engines facilitate knowledge-transfer to centralized repositories and helps combat issues due to the loss of key decision makers, managers, executives, specialists, and highly creative employees from "normal" turnover rates and aging populations. This loss of knowledge can cripple small businesses and organizations and seriously hamper the efforts of medium sized companies or divisions of large companies. JBoss Rules mitigates these risks by centralizing key knowledge in the rules repository.

REUSABILITY ACROSS APPLICATIONS AND SOA

Once your business rules are separated from other logic, they can be more easily reused across many applications and in service-oriented architecture environments.



JBoss Rules Features

Business Rules Engine: The JBoss Rules engine implements the full Rete algorithm with high performance indexing and optimization. The runtime supports dynamic addition and removal of rules. JBoss Rules supports temporal rules that are fired within specified time periods or constraints. A complete event model provides execution audit logging for regulatory compliance support and business event tracking and management.

Authoring: The Drools Rule Language (DRL) supports all the previously mentioned features and uses Java to express field constraints, functions, and consequences. The Drools Rule Language is extendable and provides, via mapping properties file, support for natural language. Both the standard DRL and natural language extensions are supported by JBoss Rules Workbench. DRL files can be generated from Excel and Open Office Decision Tables. The JBoss Rules Workbench IDE features include syntax coloring, basic Intellisense, an outline view, and basic rule validation and error reporting.

BRMS: JBoss Rules includes a business rules management system to help developers, administrators and other users of JBoss Rules with managing their rules within the application and SOA deployments. A business rules repository provides the basis for storing and managing business rules with the BRMS. The BRMS includes support for categories of rules to help organize business rules. Assets are rules, groups of rules, or a decision table that are to be managed as one entity. Multiple versions of Assets can be managed. Packages are like a folder of rules and offer a simple way to manage smaller groups of rules. Status management of rules allows administrators to flag rules as drafts or deployment ready both at the asset and package level.

Enterprise-Class Reliability and Scalability

Along with supporting business rules in Java applications, JBoss Rules can be deployed with JBoss Enterprise Application Platform and benefit from its proven foundation for applications that require superior performance and scalability. The high-availability services of JBoss Enterprise Application Platform provide the clustering, caching, fail-over, load balancing, and distributed deployment features expected in a best-of-breed platform. Additionally, JBoss Rules may be deployed with other application servers such as BEA WebLogic Server and IBM WebSphere Application Server.

Platform and Standards Support

Minimum system requirements

- » JDK 1.4 or higher (1.4.2 is recommended)
- » 512 MB RAM
- » 50 MB hard disk space
- » 400 MHz CPU

Supported operating systems

JBoss Rules is 100% pure Java and therefore interoperable with most operating systems capable of running a Java Virtual Machine (JVM), including Windows, UNIX, and Linux.

Supported standards

- » Java Rule Engine API (JSR-94)
- » J2EE 1.4 compliance

Supported Input Languages

- » Java
- » Rule Entry Systems/Decision Tables - e.g., Excel



JBoss ENTERPRISE FRAMEWORK SUBSCRIPTION BENEFITS

Subscriptions to JBoss Enterprise Middleware are easy to purchase and use. Sold in both 4 CPU and 32 CPU Units, all JBoss Enterprise Middleware production subscriptions include:

- » **Product access:** Source and binary code; documentation
- » **Updates:** Regular updates that provide general enhancements, new features, etc.
- » **Revisions:** Access to the latest bug fixes and security errata
- » **Upgrades:** Rights to new versions of JBoss Enterprise Middleware released during the subscription lifetime
- » **Flexibility:** Subscriptions are not version-specific, so access to, and support for previous version is included
- » **JBoss Customer Support Portal:** Connect directly to JBoss support staff, open and track support cases in real-time, customize patch or upgrade alerts, and download certified patches and updates
- » **Support:** Multiple support services providing unlimited incidents and coverage up to 24x7 with 1 hour response
- » **Long term stability:** Multi-year support and update policies for all JBoss Enterprise Middleware
- » **Legal assurance:** The Red Hat Open Source Assurance program safeguards customers who are developing and deploying open source solutions from legal harm

Subscriptions of 32 CPUs or greater include additional value-add features, including JBoss Operations Network and Developer Professional Subscriptions. For subscriptions totaling less than 32 CPUs, both JBoss Operations Network and Developer Subscriptions may be purchased separately.

For more information on the full range of JBoss Enterprise Middleware and Red Hat Developer Subscriptions, please visit www.redhat.com/JBoss or contact your Red Hat sales representative.

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