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Why It's Important to Get Middleware Right: Accenture's Real-World Experience with Red Hat

Clay Olbon & Steven Fisher Accenture 4 May 2011







THE NEW REDHAT.COM: POWERED BY JBOSS EPP/SP

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Agenda



Background

Solution

Key Challenges

Internationalization

Workflow





Background



- In our experience, we see many sites that have grown organically over a long period of time. These sites have many common concerns including:
 - Mashup of technologies SSI, static HTML, PHP, Perl, Java, etc ...
 - Navigation and user experience become less than optimal
 - Content is managed through multiple disparate systems/approaches
 - Content becomes "siloed" and hard to find
- Red Hat understands that their current site exemplifies some of these concerns – and initiated a program to address them
- This presentation provides insight into that program, and a glimpse into the future of redhat.com





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Solution



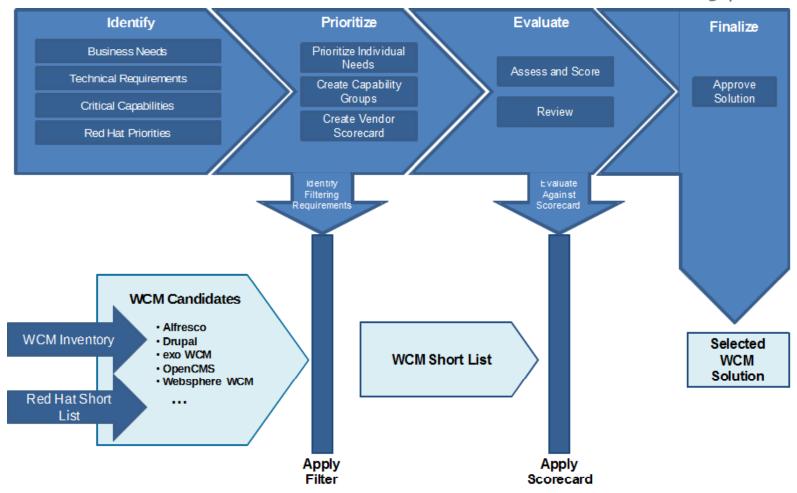
- Red Hat partnered with Accenture in a multi-phase program to:
 - Move to a modern, open-source technology stack, powered by Red Hat technology
 - Deliver control of content to end users
 - Provide a greatly enhanced user experience
 - Build a platform for future growth
- We leveraged the best of Accenture, providing a multi-disciplinary team to deliver a cutting edge solution that meets Red Hat's business needs:
 - Technology Architecture
 - Portals and Content Management
 - Accenture Innovation Center for Open Source





Technology Selection





Accenture applied a rigorous methodology to evaluate and select the right technology platform for redhat.com





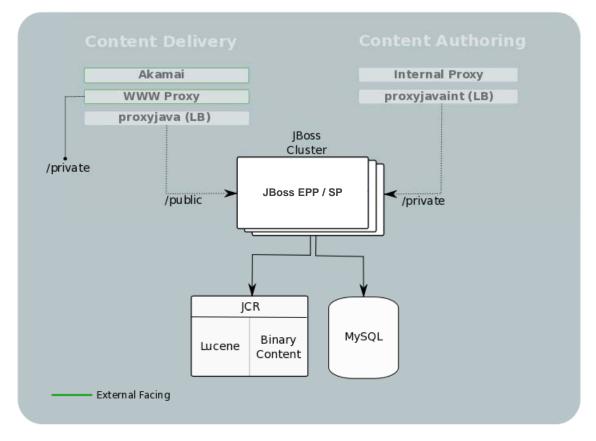
Technology Solution



JBoss Enterprise Portal Platform + Site Publisher

100% Open Source Technology StackWeb ServerApacheWeb Content ManagementJBoss Site Publisher 2.1Portal ServerJBoss EPP 5.1Application ServerJBoss EAPDatabaseMySQLOperating SystemRed Hat Enterprise LinuxDevelopment EnvironmentRed Hat Enterprise

Virtualization



6 node JBoss cluster:

3 node content delivery

3 node content authoring





Key Features for JBoss Enterprise Portal Platform 5.1



Powerful Presentation Tooling

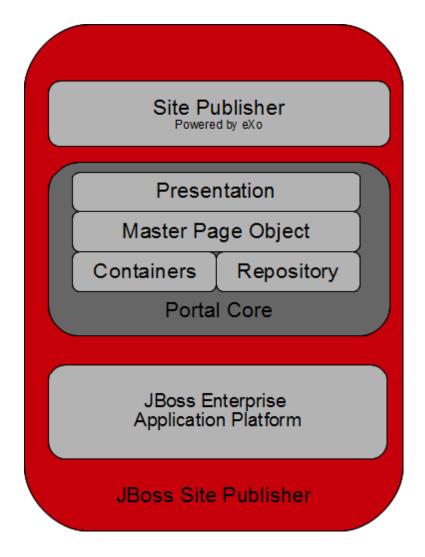
- •In context editing & edit mode
- Content & list templates
- Forms editor
- Embedded search

Advanced Content Management

- Multi-site support
- Version control, staging, & regression
- Support for internationalization

Solid Core Infrastructure

- Advanced security model
- Embedded portlet & gadget support

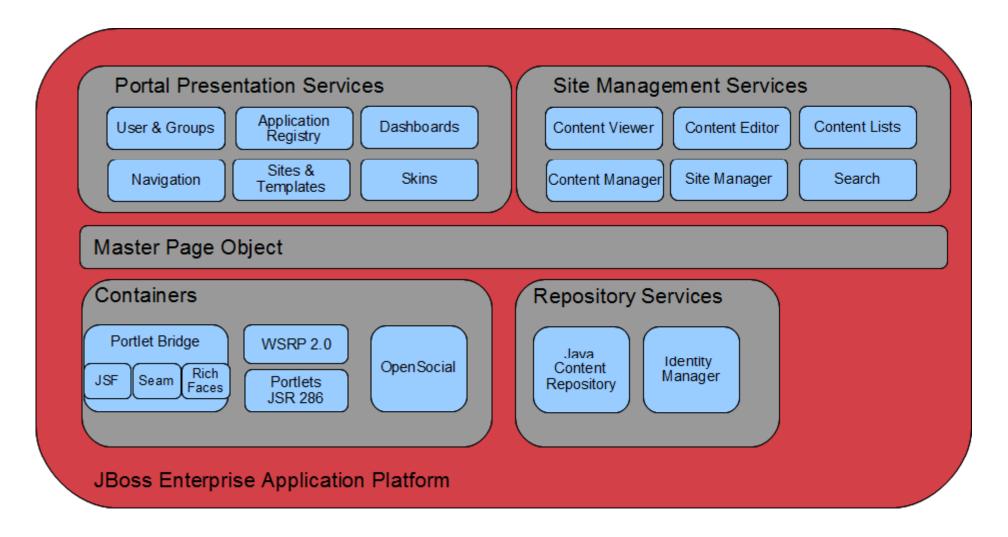






JBoss Site Publisher 5.1 Architecture accenture





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Key Challenges



Complexity:

- 3500+ detailed requirements
- Global scope: more than 40 stakeholders and over 175 users managing content within the system
- SOLUTION:
 - Leveraged proven Accenture Delivery Methodologies for Portal and Content Management implementations
 - Worked closely with Red Hat to tailor and align our methodology to their needs and requirements

Migrating from Unstructured to Structured Content

- SOLUTION:
 - Developed a detailed content inventory using Accenture's Digital Diagnostic Engine
 - Migrated content using COTS software tools, engaging the users to update and validate

Product development in parallel with project design/build/test

- Typical in the open-source world but less common for large SI firms
- SOLUTION:
 - Leveraged our extensive experience from our Innovation Center for Open Source
 - Built and maintained close relationships with the product development team





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Internationalization



Key Challenges

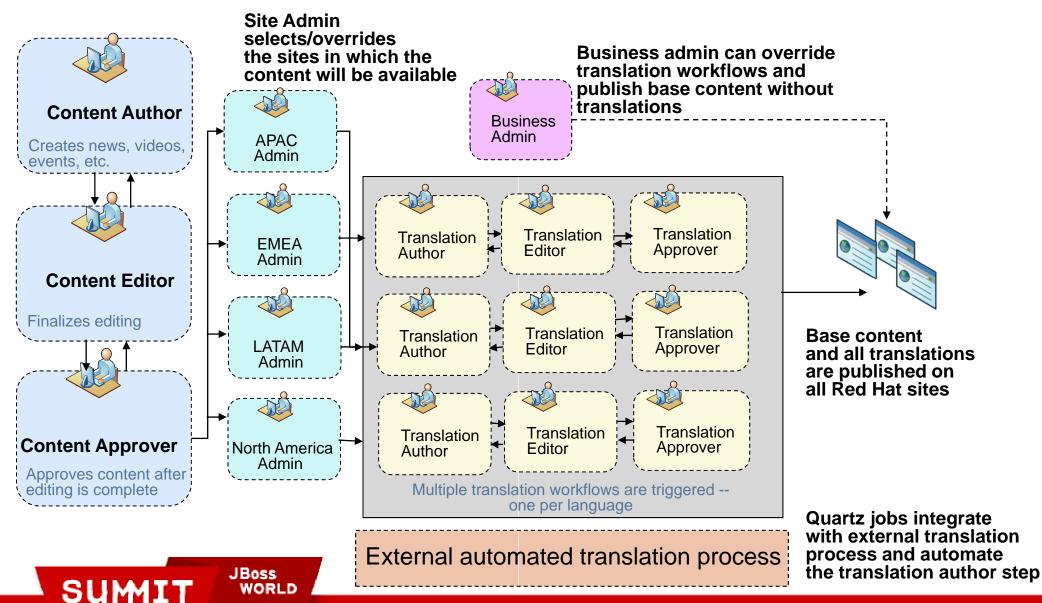
- Deliver a unified view to users across the world
 - 51 country sites
 - 10 languages
- 90% Common content but 10% unique
- Coordinate with internal stakeholders in multiple geographies
- Translation content seamlessly and integrate with a Translation Management System (TMS)





Translation Workflow / TMS Integration





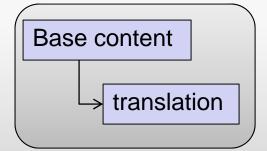


Jointly Designed i18n Process



- As shown on the prior slide our requirements dictated a loose coupling between base content and translated content
- Because of this and using our experience with content delivery for other i18n sites –
 we worked with JBoss/eXo to design a system within Site Publisher that is flexible and
 scalable -- and is now the default approach within SP

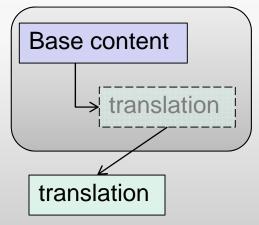
Previous Approach



Translations and base content are tightly coupled

Due to tight coupling the content and it's translations can not have different lifecycle states

Current Approach



Symbolic links to the translation node are used for managing the relationship

translation node exists separately and can have a different lifecycle

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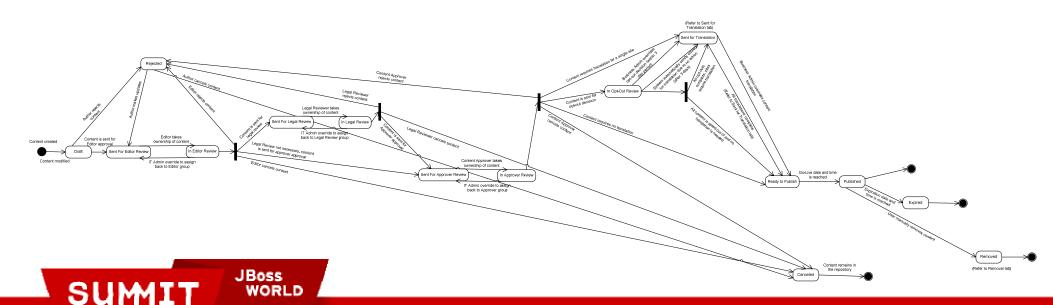


Workflow



The workflow shown on the prior slide is a much simplified version of our actual workflow

- Additional reviewers and security requirements
- Override capabilities for key users
- "Return to Pool" for group tasks
- Time-boxed steps with auto-approval





JBPM Integration



- Out of the box, Site Publisher provides a simplified workflow for publishing content that works well for many users. Our requirements were more complex however.
- We chose to implement eXo's JBPM extension package. This allowed us to:
 - Implement the custom publishing and translation workflows
 - Create and manage group tasks
 - Implement "Return to Pool" functionality for returning the acquired tasks back to the group
 - Create a user "dashboard" tied back to workflow tasks

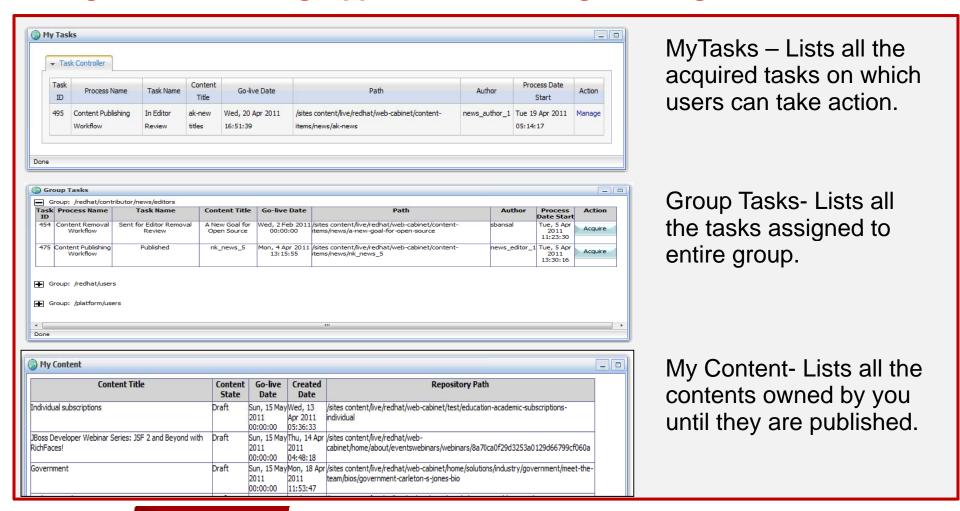




Dashboard



Manage content editing, approval and routing in a single user interface.



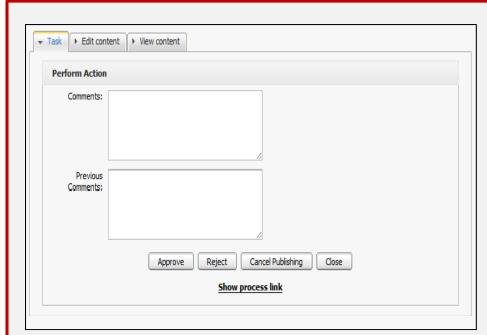
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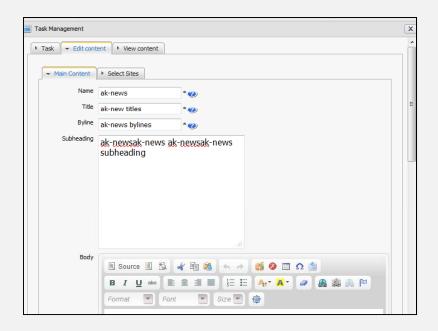


Dashboard



Manage content editing, approval and routing in a single user interface.





Once a user has acquired a task – they can:

- Immediately approve or reject, providing comments that are retained with the content throughout the lifecycle
- Review the displayed version of the content
- Edit the content using the same template as the content creator





Overrides

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- As with any workflow system there are times when the default workflow must be overridden. In our system, two key considerations were:
 - The need to publish quickly, without waiting for regional "optout" or translation
 - Content is acquired by a user but that user is unavailable or has left the firm
- To resolve these scenarios we created UI actions within the Site Publisher interface
 - The easy customization of the Site Publisher UI allowed us to do this simply – and in a user-friendly manner





INSURANCE CLIENT WEB SITE CASE STUDY: POWERED BY JBOSS BRMS

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Context



- Accenture has been working with an Insurance client to deliver a new strategic architecture to support Quote, Purchase and Mid Term Adjustments through Direct Web, Call Centre and Aggregator Channels.
- A key business requirement is agility and supporting the business to initiate change without requiring any IT involvement.
- After a client-led RFP and selection process Red Hat's BRMS was procured by the client as the underlying rules technology.
- The introduction of a Rules Engine to process Decision Tables (aka spreadsheets) to change business functionality was delivered as part of Release 2.1 (scheduled for go-live Q2 2011).
- Accenture worked with Red Hat to integrate the Drools Engine into the Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) component of the architecture.
- Red Hat has also been involved in supporting the transition of the rules capability from the delivery programme to the client's business as usual processes.





Business Benefits



Rapid Response To Changing Market

- Analytics and MI support for customer facing web sites provide insights which drive changes to the Customer Journey and Experience.
- The Business requires the ability to change key aspects of the web site without needing to schedule the work to fit in with IT release schedules.

Agility
No Code
Deployment
Required

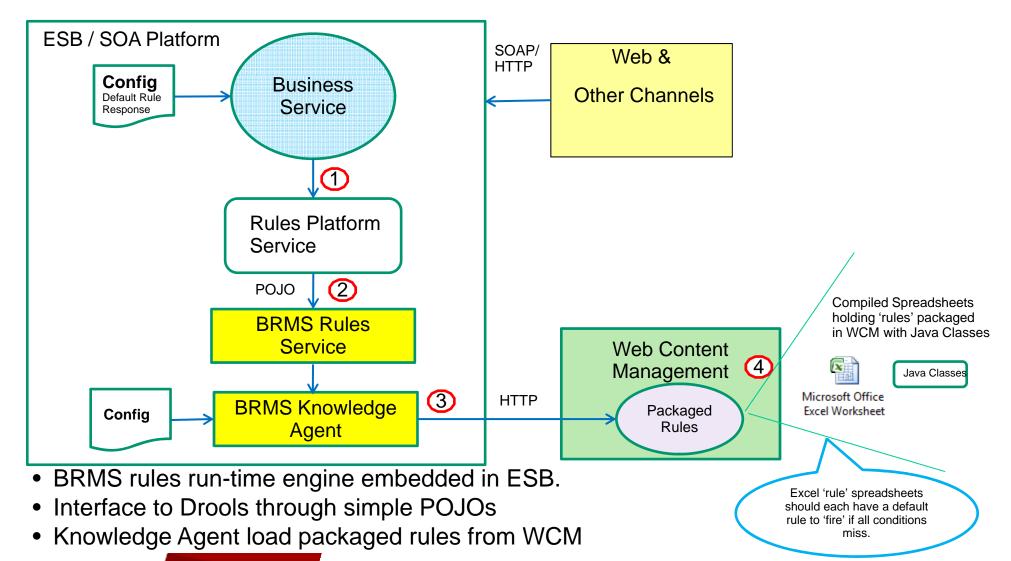
- Changing the business rules by manipulating the values in the spreadsheets. Each row acts as individual When X THEN Y statements, but in a business friendly way.
- Adding / removing rules for an existing decision tables providing this means adding / removing more conditions / rows in the decisions
- Removing decision criteria (inputs) from an existing Decision Table

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High Level (simplified) Rules Integration Architecture







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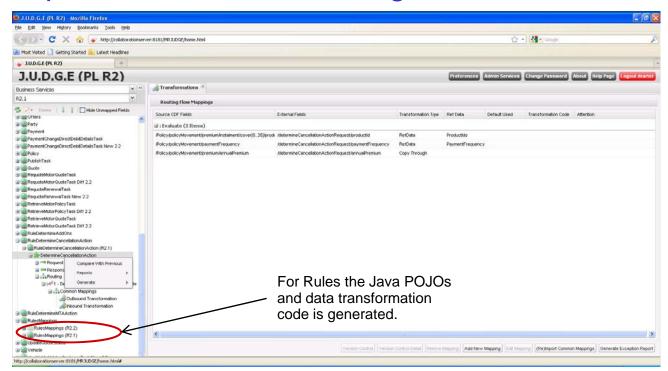
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Design Tooling supports Build



Accenture's Strategic Industrialisation in action:

Sophisticated Tool for Design and Build:



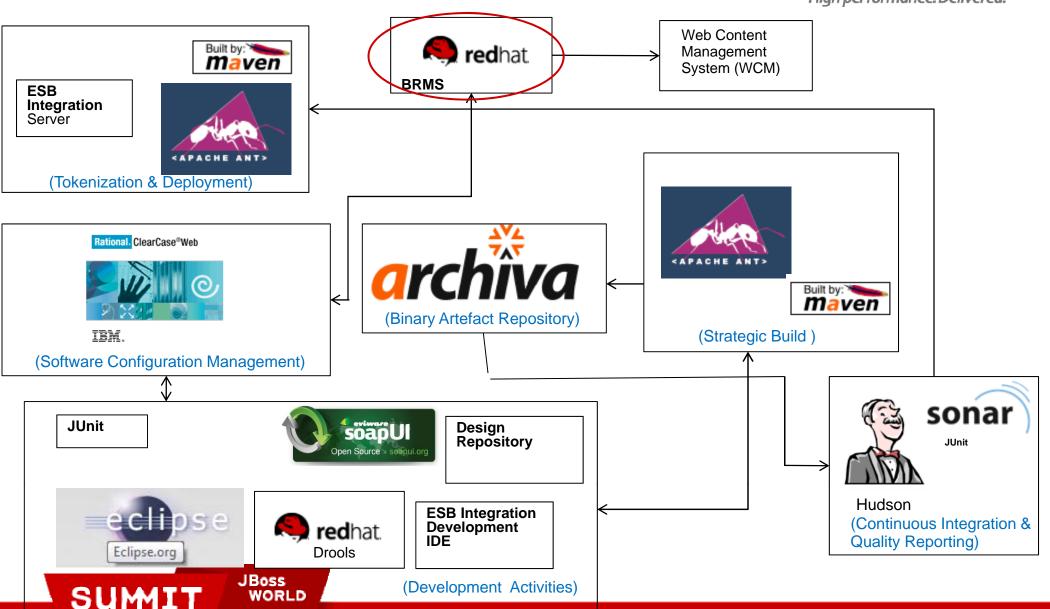
The design tooling enables services & rules to be defined, data to be mapped (to a Canonical Data Model) and generates build artefacts.



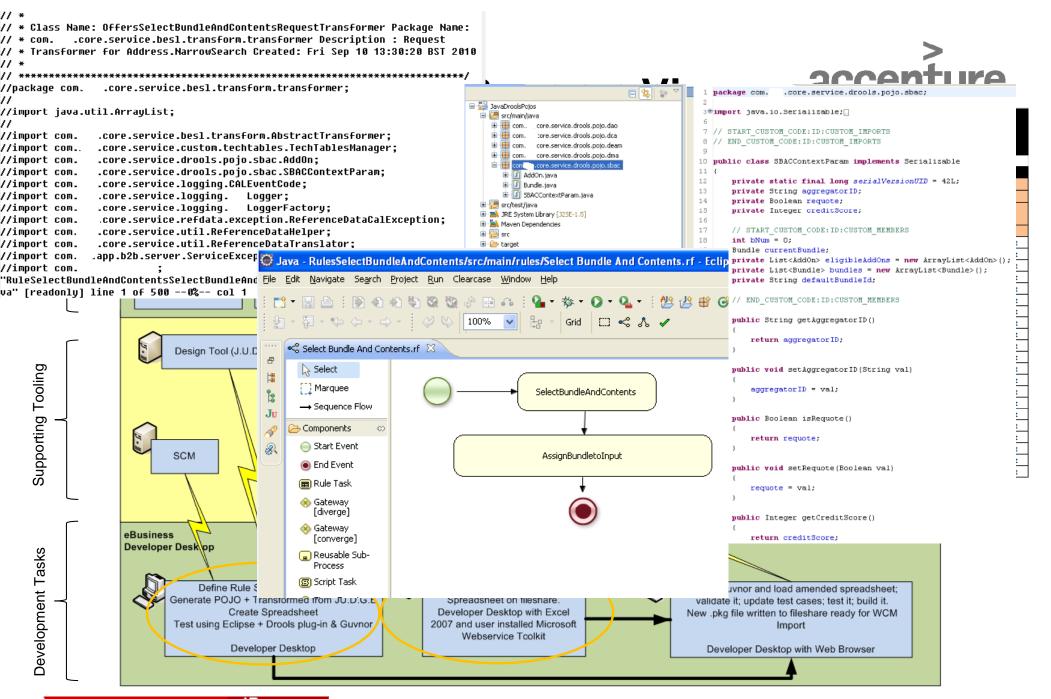


BRMS Used to Test & Package Rule-Sets Development Architecture Overview









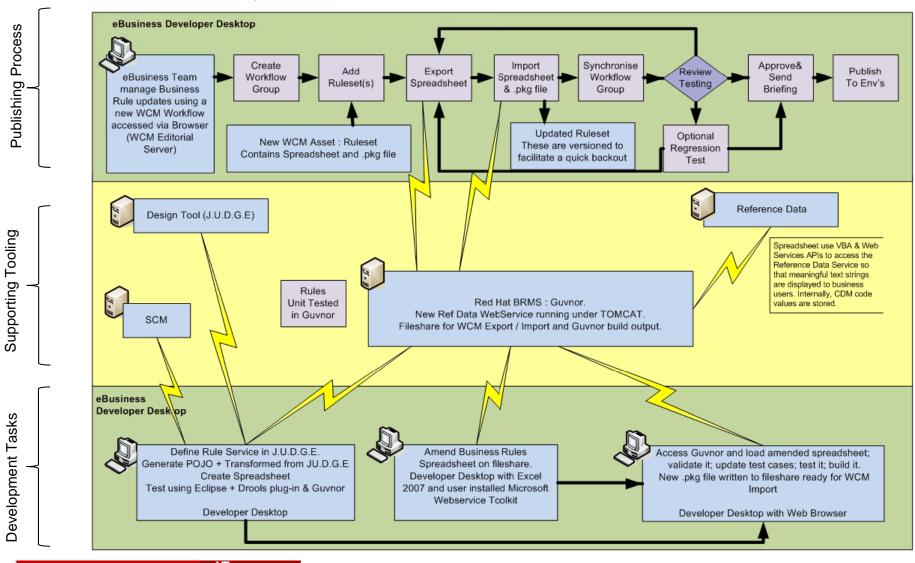
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Rules Life Cycle – a Process View



Delivered.



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R2.1 BAU Business Rules Update Process



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