Communication of objects through the workflow engine

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Links

Context

Between the multiple steps of the business process, which are coordinated through the Camunda engine, there needs to be a flow of information for further processing.

Decision

We decided to set and retrieve the serialized Customer objects in the context of the Camunda engine. This decision is viable, as the objects are reasonably small and do not require the additional complexity of i.e. Kafka as a message channel here.

Consequences

Before each delegate is executed, the required information needs to be retrieved from the context of that delegate execution. This value can then be used for operating on it. Further the variable can be overwritten before the end of the delegate execution to have the context variable updated with the up-to-date values. However, by using this solution the workflow state is not visible to outside service, therefore extensions would have to be done ideally within Camunda.