



Drools

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Agenda

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 - DSL

»



Introduction

BRMS

KIE's projects
The rules Engine Drools
IDE setup



The problem

Today, the main challenge for business applications is agility

Applications must be able to adapt quickly and react to:

- Functional evolutions
- Changes in legislation
- Changes in organisation
- ...

In other words : Changing business rules



Where to implement business rules?

Stored as configuration properties in files or database ?

=> Not suited for such a rule

*If the customer lives in Paris, is over 55 years old
and has been a customer for more than 2 years,
give a 10% discount*

Implemented in source code

- Low maintainability
- Spaghetti code which may be unefficient



BRMS

A **business rule management system (BRMS)**

identifies the notion of business rule as an asset that can be managed independently of the application code

- Rules can be edited, versionned monitored by a business expert
- Independently tested
- Independently documented, audited
- Independently deployed



Rule's engine

A BRMS include a **rule's engine**

- Which evaluates IF-THEN instructions based upon the business rules
- When the conditions of the rules are satisfied (IF), it executes the associated actions (THEN) which generally modify the model

=> Programming becomes declarative

=> Business logic is no longer distributed in the code but centralized in the rules repository.



Execution model

Rule's engine :

- Parses and compile the set of rules. (Once at the startup of the application for instance)

Client (final application) :

- Get a reference to the rule's engine
- Insert facts
- Ask the engine to trigger rules
- Retrieve the objects updated by the rule's engine



Required steps

Adopting a rule-based solution requires:

- Identification of business rules: ***Business Expert***
- Implements the rule in a rule language: **Business / technical expert**
- Integrating the Rules Service into the Application as Libraries or External service: **Technical**
- Provision of a rules management interface (BRMS Tool): Business / **Technical**
- Deployment of new rules procedure (Automation of tests / Deployment): **Technical**



Considerations

- A rule engine is based on complex technologies
- It's hard to rely on a black box
- How the rules are triggered is not very intuitive
- Rules extraction is not always easy



Benefits

- **Declarative programming** : Rule engines allow you to specify "What to do" and not "How to do it". They are able to solve difficult problems and in addition to providing explanations!
- **Separation of concern** : Data are the domain objects, the logic centralized in a rules file (different from the OO approach that encapsulates attributes and methods). The business logic is no longer dispersed
- **Centralization of knowledge** : Everything is centralized in the knowledge base, relatively readable and can be used as documentation
- **Understandable rules** : By defining language specific to the domain, the rules are expressed in quasi-natural language and become accessible to the business experts



When to use a rules engine ?

The problem is too complex for the classical code (optimization problems for example, expert system)

The problem is not complex but there is no simple robust solution.

The logic often changes, in this case business rules can be changed quickly without too much risk.

The business experts exist but are not technical. The rules syntax then make it possible to express the business logic in their own terms.

When not to use rules engine?



A rule engine is just a part of a complex application, you do not have to implement everything as rules

A good indicator is the degree of coupling between the rules.

- If triggering a rule ***invariably*** triggers a rule chain, then the implementation of this rule-based logic may not be appropriate, a decision tree may be sufficient



Classical domains and use cases

Domains

- Finance and Insurance
- Regulation, government rules
- Ecommerce
- Risk management

Use cases

- Authorization of access based on several criteria (role, ownership of the entity, organization, location, etc.)
- Application customization (eg management of a personalized homepage of an e-commerce site)
- Diagnostic
- Complex validation
- Workflow / Orchestration
- Problem of routing, Optimization of planning, storage, ...



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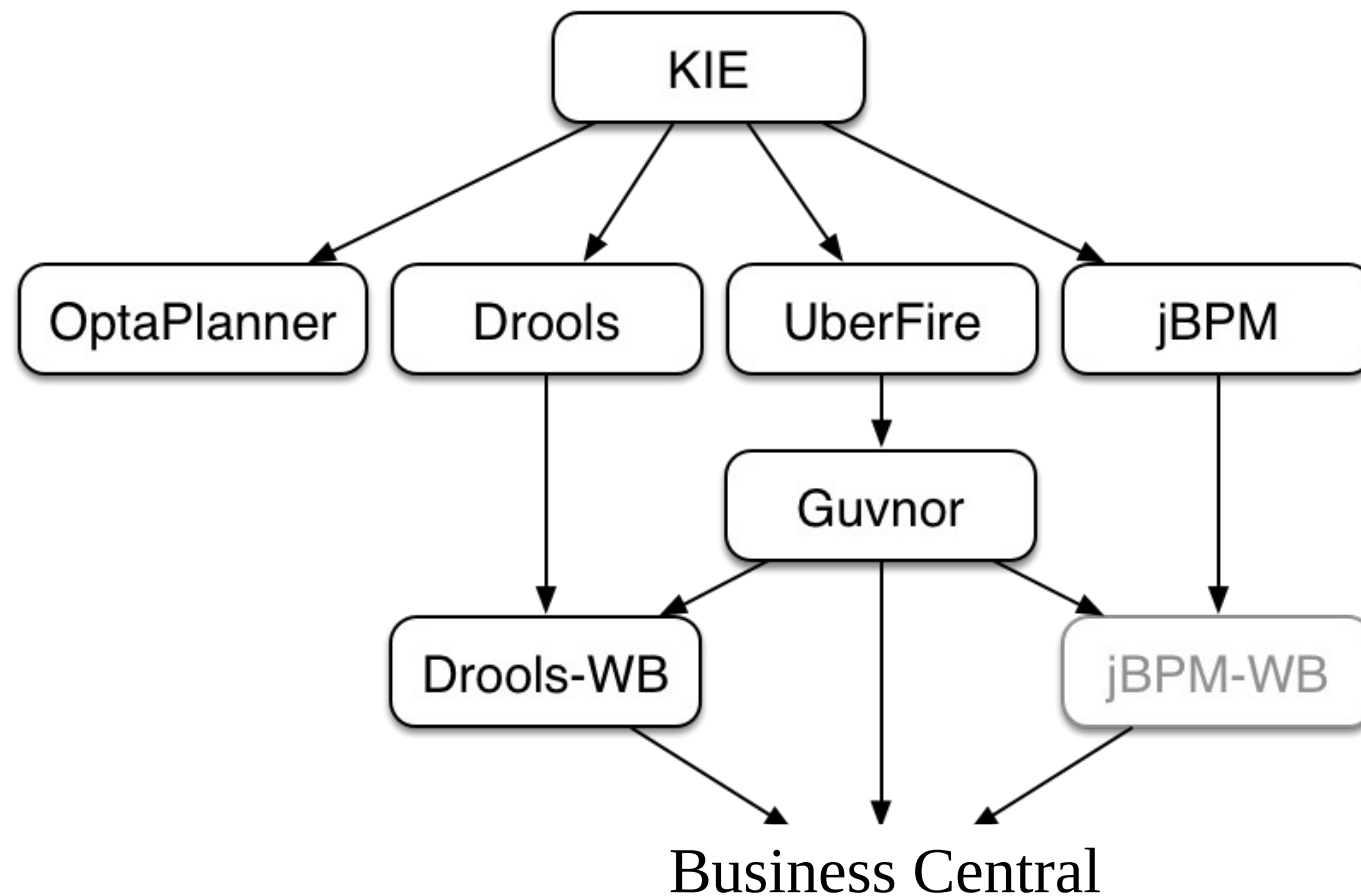


Projets KIE

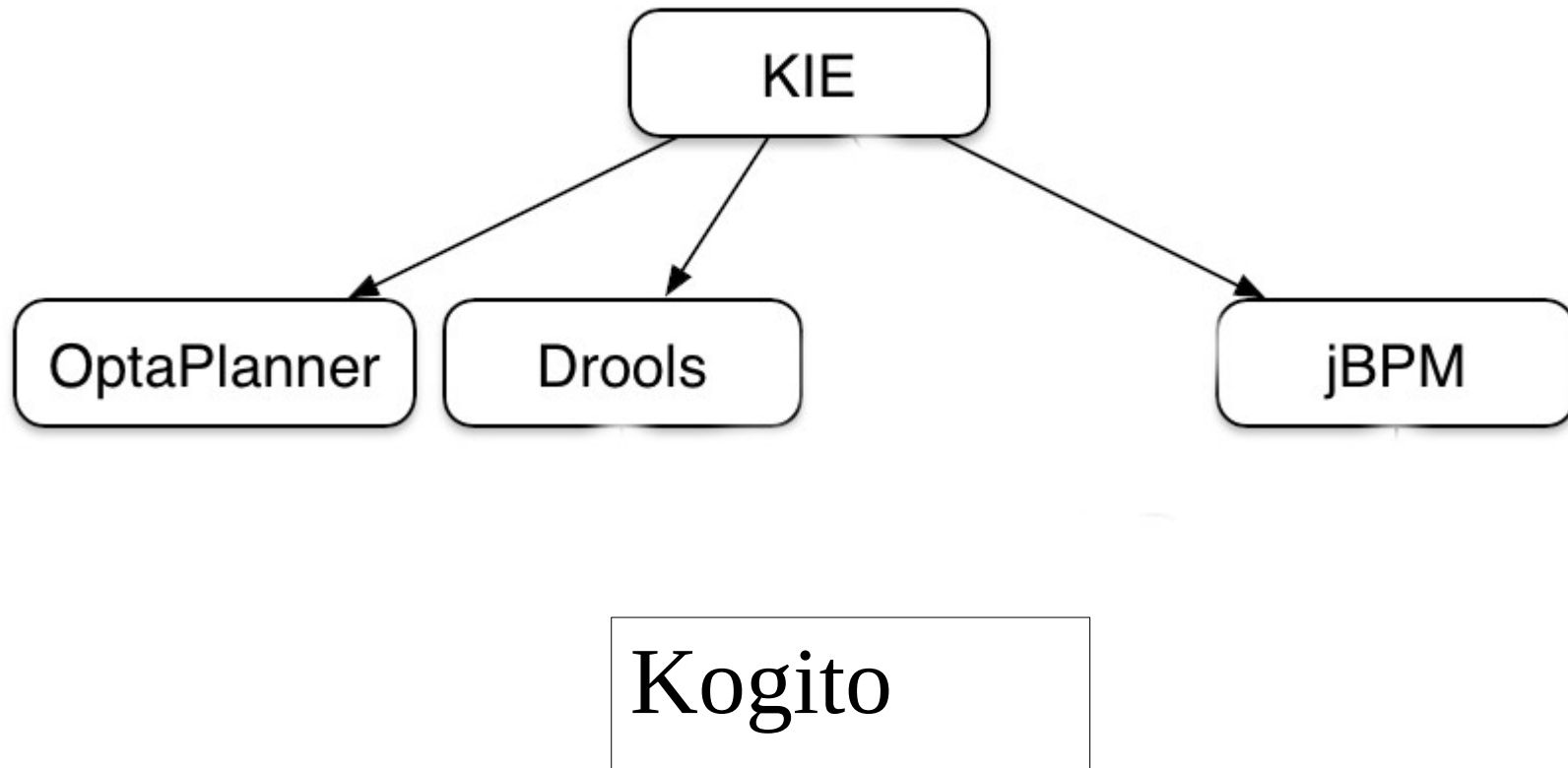
KIE (*Knowledge Is Everything*) wraps several projects that share the same API and the same building and deployment techniques (based on Maven and Git)

- **Drools** : Rules engine and Complex Event Processing
- **jBPM** : Workflow engine
- **OptaPlanner** optimize complex problems subject to constraints (planning, vehicle routing, etc.)
- **Business Central** : Web application for managing business rules and processes.
- **UberFire** : A framework to easily build web interfaces: workbenches

KIE's projects



KIE's projects





Business Central Project Lifecycle

Authoring : Creation of knowledge using a specific language: DRL, BPMN2, DMN, Decision Table, ...

Build : Build a Deployable Artifact containing Knowledge (**.jar**)

Test : Test rules, processes

Deployment: Deployment in a repository (Typically Maven)

Client Integration : kjar is exposed as a KieContainer. Client application create KieSession to interact with the engine (embeded or REST API)

Usage : User interface or CLI for end users:

Operation : Monitoring of session, Reporting



Alternatives

Authoring / Development

- Business Central and several KieServer to deploy knowledge base for testing or production
- VSCode, IntelliJIDEA, Eclipse plugin and Java test classes. Pipeline CI/CD to deploy on KieServer, Kubernetes/Kogito or custom

Packaging :

- Embeddeed Drools libraries and rules in a regular Java application
- Kjar deployed separately from client applications in a Maven repository

Client integration

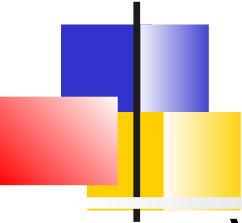
- Direct Java Call
- Remote Java Call (Drools Client Library)
- Regular RestFul



Writing rules

Drools supports different assets to specify rules:

- **Decision Model and Notation (DMN)** :
Standard OMG : XML-based decision diagram
- **Decision tables** : Excel or guided decision tables of Business Central
- **Guided rules** : Wizard from Business Central
- **DRL** : The most powerful
- **Predictive Model Markup Language (PMML)** : Predictive data analysis models in XML



Storage and build options for rules

Versioning of business resources :

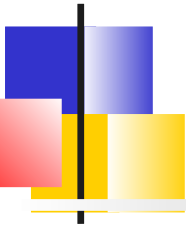
- Business Central Git VFS
- External git repository

Artifact repository

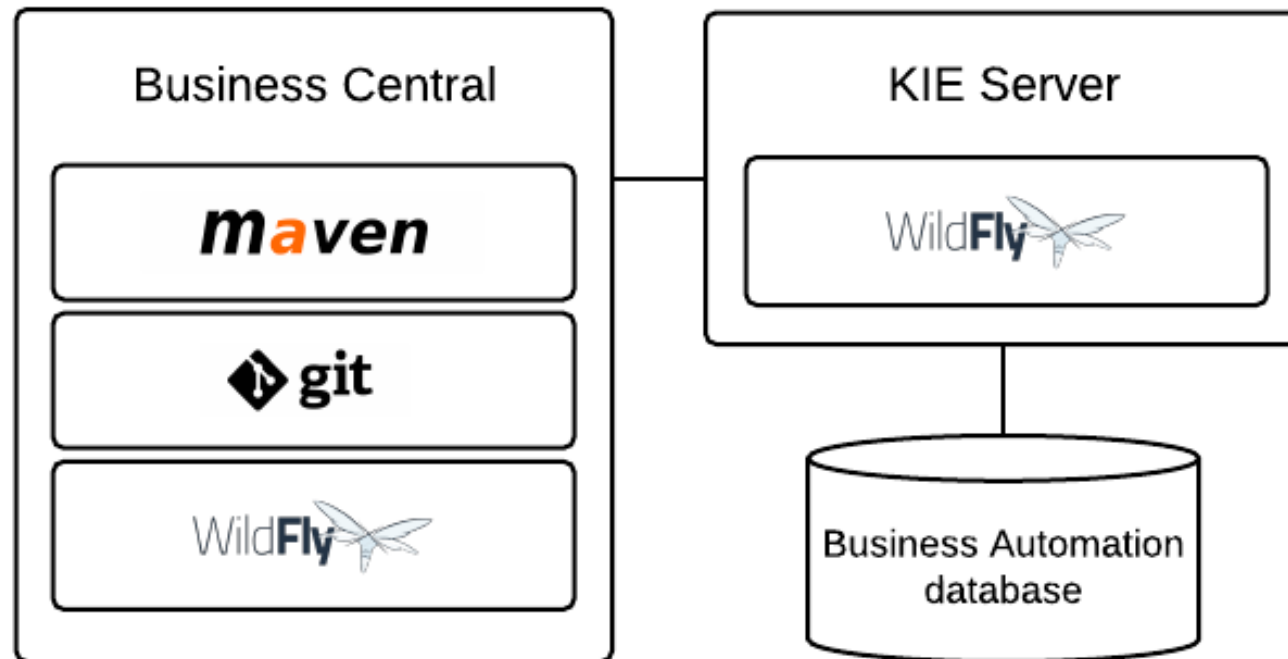
- Business Central Maven repository
- External Maven repository

Build

- Business Central
- Independent Maven project
- Embeddeed with the final application

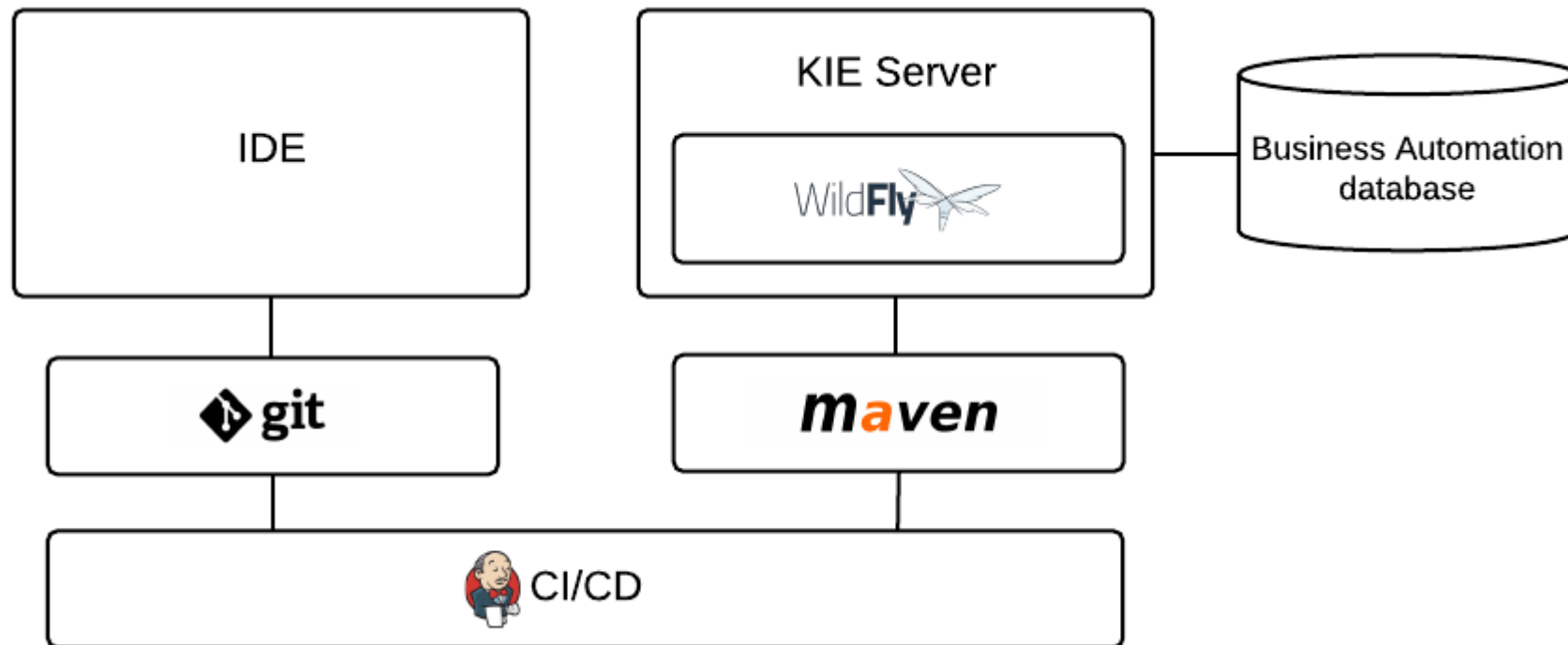


Business Central Architecture

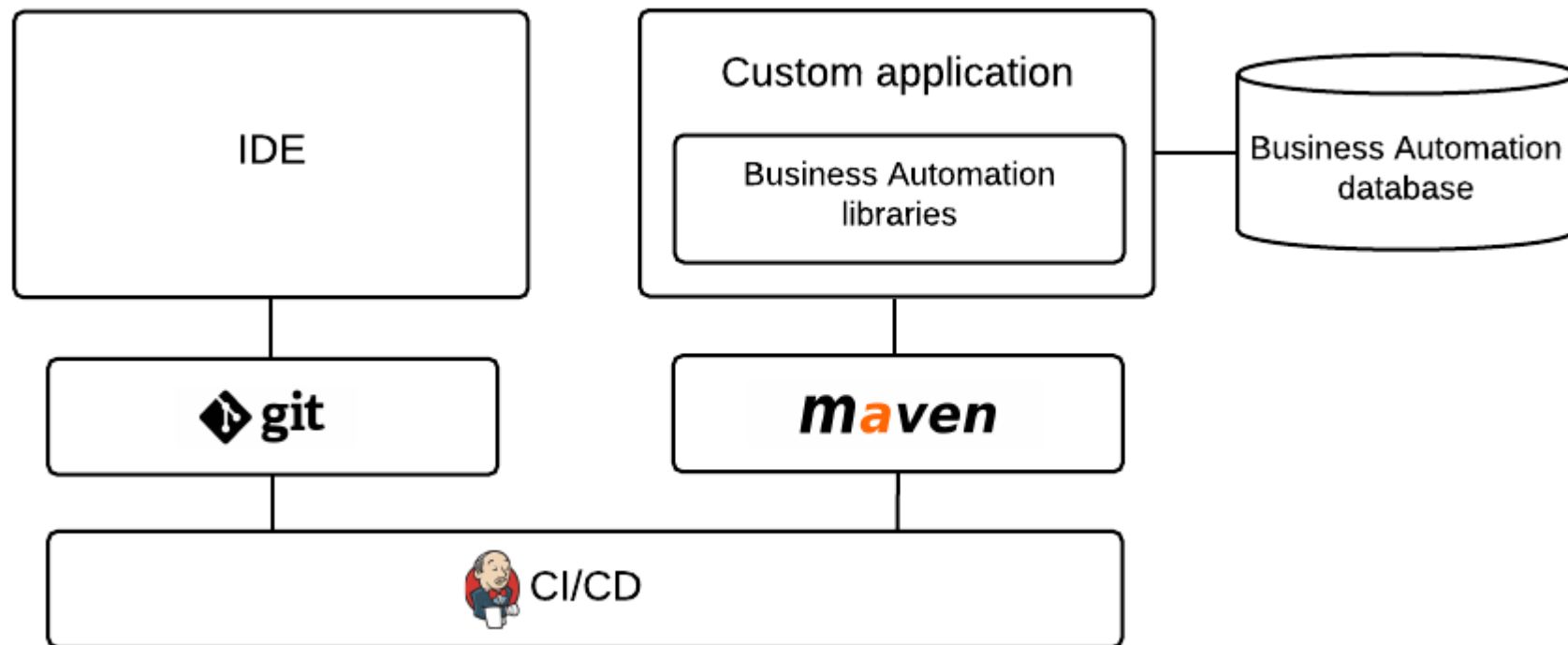




IDE + KieServer/Kogito



IDE and embeddeed





Packaging KJAR

Whatever the architecture chosen, artifact produced is a JAR named KJAR which contains :

- The module descriptor *META-INF/kmodule.xml*
- Ressources which contains business rules
- Domain Model classes : the facts.

The tool used for packaging is generally Maven ;
a plugin allows to validate the rules files

The *kjar* may or may not contains the client application



kmodule.xml

META-INF/kmodule.xml

- Configures one or more knowledge bases by specifying the resources (rules files or processes)
- For each knowledge base, configure one or more types of sessions that can be created.

An empty descriptor applies a default configuration:

- all resource files found in the classpath are added to the same knowledge base.
- 2 types of sessions (stateless and stateful) are associated with the single knowledge base



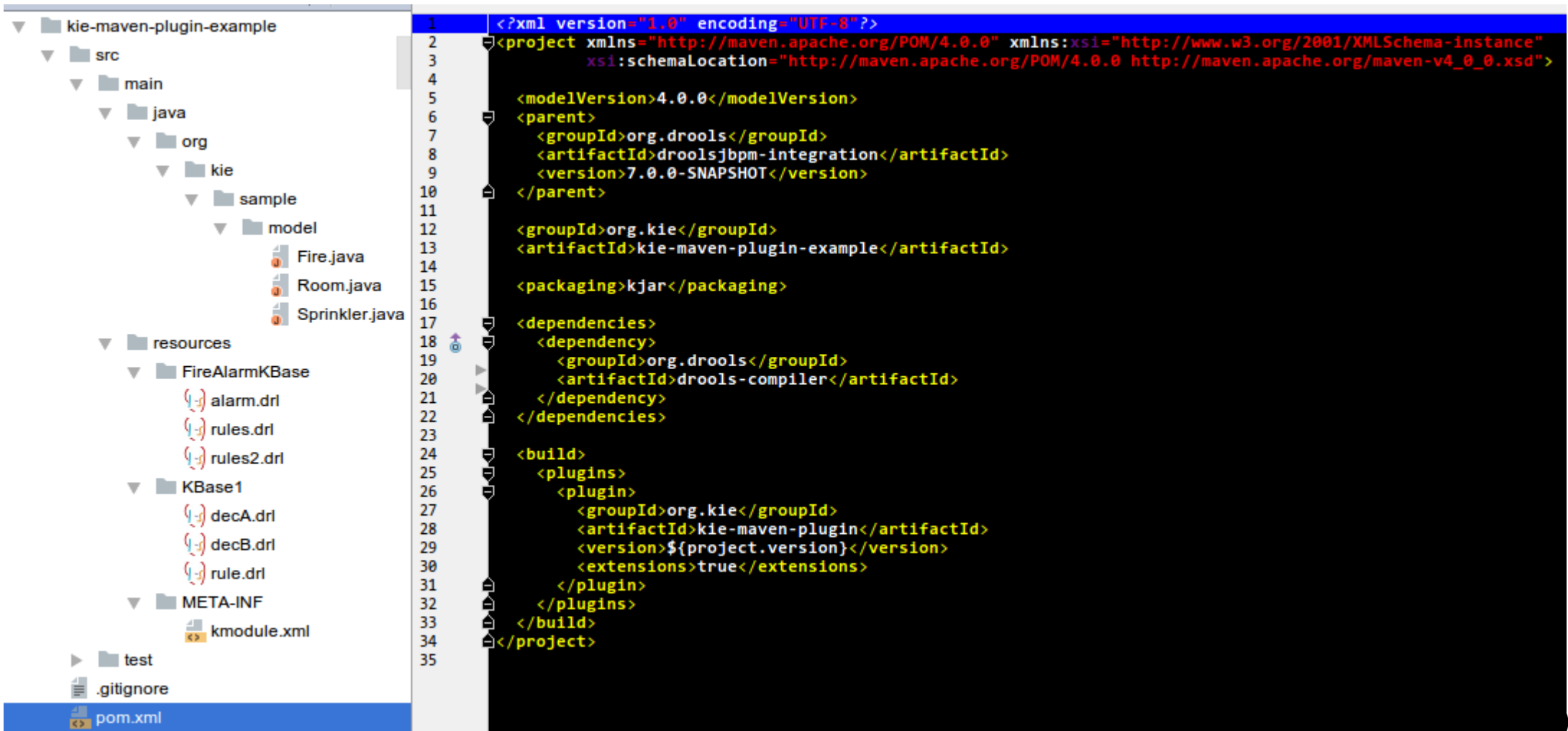
Example *kmodule.xml*

```
<kmodule xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xmlns="http://www.drools.org/xsd/kmodule">

  <kbase name="KBase1" default="true" eventProcessingMode="cloud" equalsBehavior="equality"
  declarativeAgenda="enabled" packages="org.domain.pkg1">
    <ksession name="KSession2_1" type="stateful" default="true"/>
    <ksession name="KSession2_2" type="stateless" default="false" beliefSystem="jtms"/>
  </kbase>

  <kbase name="KBase2" default="false" eventProcessingMode="stream" equalsBehavior="equality"
  declarativeAgenda="enabled" packages="org.domain.pkg2, org.domain.pkg3" includes="KBase1">
    <ksession name="KSession3_1" type="stateful" default="false" clockType="realtime">
      <fileLogger file="drools.log" threaded="true" interval="10"/>
      <workItemHandlers>
        <workItemHandler name="name" type="org.domain.WorkItemHandler"/>
      </workItemHandlers>
      <calendars>
        <calendar name="monday" type="org.domain.Monday"/>
      </calendars>
      <listeners>
        <ruleRuntimeEventListener type="org.domain.RuleRuntimeListener"/>
        <agendaEventListener type="org.domain.FirstAgendaListener"/>
        <agendaEventListener type="org.domain.SecondAgendaListener"/>
        <processEventListener type="org.domain.ProcessListener"/>
      </listeners>
    </ksession>
  </kbase>
</kmodule>
```

Example : Independent rules project



The screenshot displays a Maven project named 'kie-maven-plugin-example' in an IDE. The left pane shows the project's directory structure, and the right pane shows the contents of the 'pom.xml' file.

Project Structure (Left Pane):

- kie-maven-plugin-example
 - src
 - main
 - java
 - org
 - kie
 - sample
 - model
 - Fire.java
 - Room.java
 - Sprinkler.java
 - resources
 - FireAlarmKBase
 - alarm.drl
 - rules.drl
 - rules2.drl
 - KBase1
 - decA.drl
 - decB.drl
 - rule.drl
 - META-INF
 - kmodule.xml
 - test
 - .gitignore
 - pom.xml

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <project xmlns="http://maven.apache.org/POM/4.0.0" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
3     xsi:schemaLocation="http://maven.apache.org/POM/4.0.0 http://maven.apache.org/maven-v4_0_0.xsd">
4
5     <modelVersion>4.0.0</modelVersion>
6     <parent>
7         <groupId>org.drools</groupId>
8         <artifactId>droolsjbpm-integration</artifactId>
9         <version>7.0.0-SNAPSHOT</version>
10    </parent>
11
12    <groupId>org.kie</groupId>
13    <artifactId>kie-maven-plugin-example</artifactId>
14
15    <packaging>kjar</packaging>
16
17    <dependencies>
18        <dependency>
19            <groupId>org.drools</groupId>
20            <artifactId>drools-compiler</artifactId>
21        </dependency>
22    </dependencies>
23
24    <build>
25        <plugins>
26            <plugin>
27                <groupId>org.kie</groupId>
28                <artifactId>kie-maven-plugin</artifactId>
29                <version>${project.version}</version>
30                <extensions>true</extensions>
31            </plugin>
32        </plugins>
33    </build>
34 </project>
35
```



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Rule's engine

A rule's engine is composed of a knowledge base, an inference engine and a working memory

- The knowledge base aggregates the **compiled rules**
- The client application inserts facts (domain model objects) in the **working memory**
- The inference engine, able to handle large volume of rules and facts, has the role of comparing the facts to the conditions of the rules,
if the conditions of the rules are satisfied the corresponding actions are performed.
=> actions **modify** the facts of the working memory, which can trigger the activation of other rules.

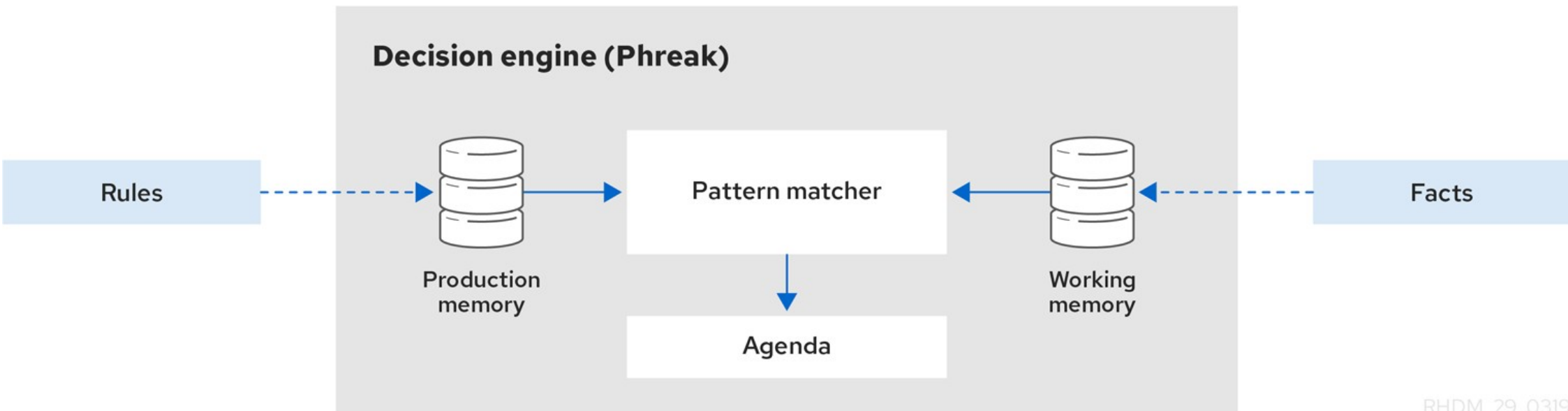
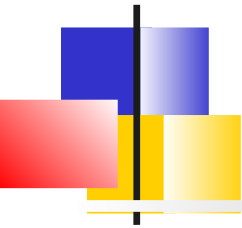


Agenda

When matching the rules, it is possible that several rules are active simultaneously, it is said that they are in conflict.

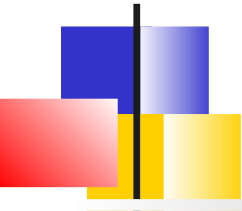
The **Agenda** component is responsible for managing the execution order of the conflicting rules by using a conflict resolution strategy. (priority or other)

Components of the engine



RHDM_29_0319

Pattern matching, ReteOO and PHREAK



The treatment of comparing the facts to the rules is called the **Pattern Matching**. There are many pattern matching algorithms: Linear, Rete, Treat, Leaps.

Drools started to implement and optimize the Rete algorithm in an object technology. (**ReteOO**)

- Eager algorithm
- Poor performance when inserting lot of facts in working memory

Since Drools6 : the new algorithm is **PHREAK** :

- Based on Rete Graph
- Lazy algorithm
- Much better performance when inserting facts



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Eclipse plugins

Drools provides Eclipse plugins which unfortunately will be discontinued, the current version is buggy!

It offers

- A Drools Perspective
- Project, .drl file, decision table and DSL creation wizards
- A drl file editor and validator
- Views for debugging



Drool's views

For debugging, the plugin offers several views to inspect the rules engine.

These views are available when the execution reaches a breakpoint

1. The **Working Memory View** allow to inspect the facts in memory
2. The **Agenda View** allow to see the activated rules in the agenda. For each rule, the associated variables are displayed. (Does not work with PHREAK)
3. The **Global Data View** allow to see all the global variables available in the session.



The audit view










The **audit view** allow to display a log which can be generated with the following code :

```
KieRuntimeLogger logger =  
    KieServices.Factory.get().getLoggers().newFileLogger  
        (ksession, "logdir/mylogfile");  
  
ksession.insert(...);  
ksession.fireAllRules();  
  
// stop logging  
logger.close();
```


Or which has been configured via *kmodule.xml*



Events of the logfile

1. Object inserted 
2. Object updated: 
3. Object removed 
4. Activation created 
5. Activation canceled : 
6. Activation executed : 
7. Sequence of starting or ending of a rule :
8. Activation/desactivation of a rules's group: 
9. Add/remove a rule's package: 
10. Add/remove a rule : 

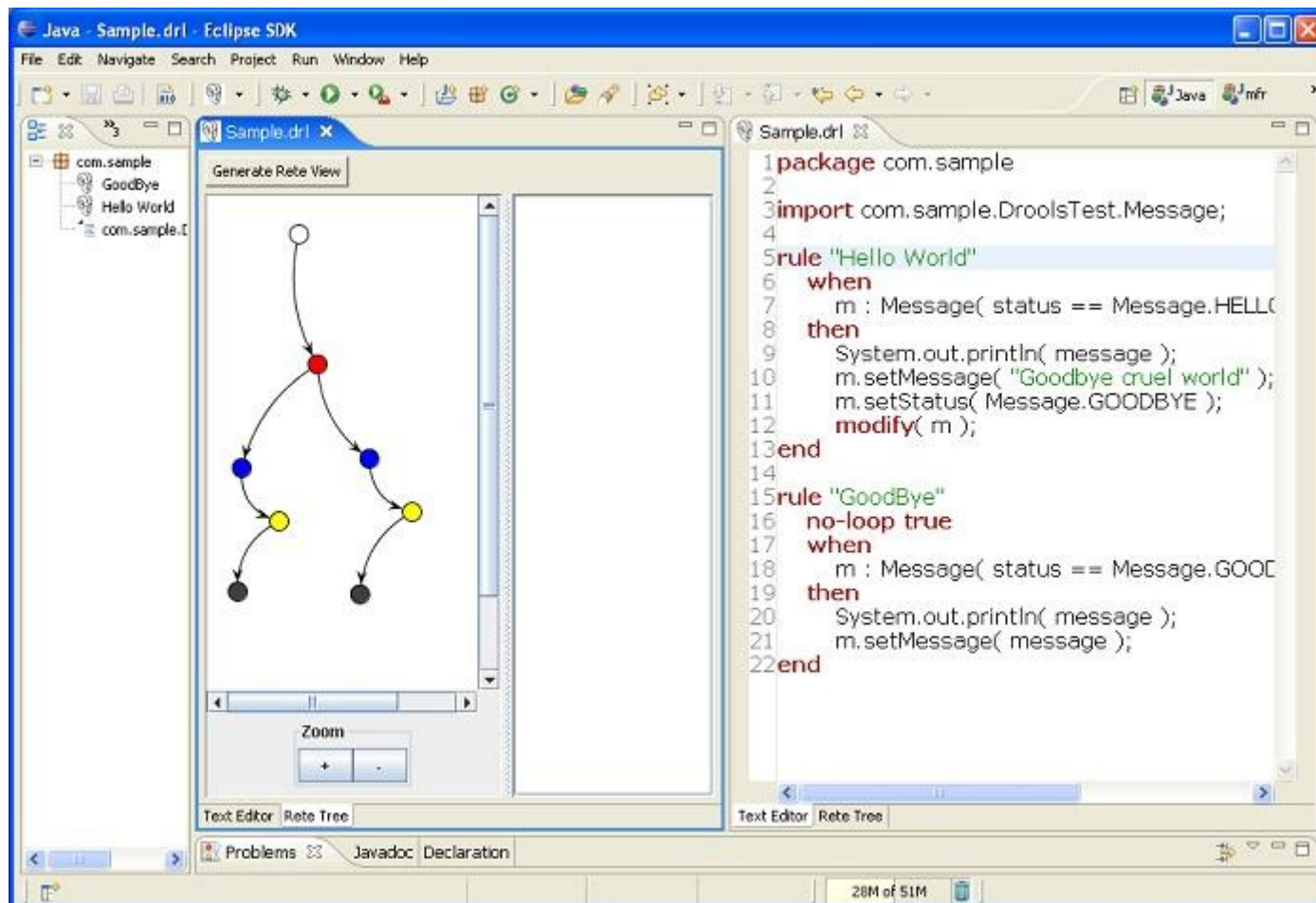
Example



Activation executed: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:11]; guest=[fid:8:8]

- Object asserted (12): [Seating id=1, pid=0, pathDone=true, leftSeat=1, leftGuestName=n5, rightSeat=1, rightGuestName=n5]
- Object asserted (13): [Path id=1, seat=1, guest=n5]
- Object modified (11): [Count value=2]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:0:0]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:1:1]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:2:2]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:3:3]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:4:4]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:5:5]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:6:6]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:7:7]
- Activation created: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:10]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:8:8]
- Object modified (10): [Context state=ASSIGN_SEATS]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:2:2]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:4:4]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:8:8]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:6:6]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:1:1]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:3:3]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:7:7]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:5:5]
- Activation cancelled: Rule assignFirstSeat context=[fid:10:16]; count=[fid:11:15]; guest=[fid:0:0]
- Activation created: Rule findSeating leftGuestName=[fid:0:0]; rightGuestSex=[fid:8:8]; seatingId=[fid:12:12]; seatingRightGuestName=[fid:12:12]; context=[fid:10:16];
- Activation created: Rule findSeating leftGuestName=[fid:4:4]; rightGuestSex=[fid:8:8]; seatingId=[fid:12:12]; seatingRightGuestName=[fid:12:12]; context=[fid:10:16];

Rete View





Rete view legend

- Green : Input point
- Red : *ObjectTypeNode*
- Blue : *AlphaNode*
- Yellow: Adaptateur de l'entrée gauche
- Green : *BetaNode*
- Black : Rule node

Selection of a node update the properties
view



Other IDES

RedHat offers also a VSCode Extension which allows :

- Syntax coloration on drl files
- View and design BPMN models,
- View and design of DMN models and test scenario files .

You can also find support in IntelliJIDEA :

<https://plugins.jetbrains.com/plugin/16871-drools>



Archetype Maven

An alternative to using the project creation wizard, it is possible to use a Maven archetype:

org.kie:kie-drools-archetype



Getting started

KIE API

Stateless Session

Stateful Session and inference

Agenda and conflicts

Listeners, Channels, Entry-points



Main classes

KieServices : Singleton giving access to other Kie services (Container, Loggers, persistence, Serializer, ...)

KieModule : Wraps Knowledge base(s), and their sessions. Generally configured via *kmodule.xml*

KieContainer: The container responsible for loading the *KieModule*.

KieBase : A compiled knowledge base.

KieSession : API with the working memory.



KieContainer / KieModule

Different ***KieContainer*** can be created depending the way to load the *KieModule*

- From the classpath
- From a maven repository
- From a REST API

From *KieContainer*, we can instantiate :

- *KieBases* and *KieSessions* defined in the module



Example

// Retrieve the singleton KieServices

```
KieServices kieServices = KieServices.Factory.get();
```

// Instantiate a container which loads resources

// from classpath

```
KieContainer container = KieServices.getKieClasspathContainer()
```

// Retrieve KnowledgeBase from the module

```
KieBase kBase1 = kContainer.getKieBase("KBase1");
```

// Retrieve different sessions

```
KieSession kieSession1 = kContainer.newKieSession("KSession2_1");
```

```
StatelessKieSession kieSession2 =
```

```
    kContainer.newStatelessKieSession("KSession2_2");
```




ReleaseId

A Kie project is a Maven project

The ***groupId***, ***artifactId***, and ***version*** declared in the *pom.xml* file are used to generate a ***ReleaseId***.

A *KieContainer* can also be constructed with a *ReleaseId*.

Then, it will load resources from the Maven repository.

```
KieServices kieServices = KieServices.Factory.get();  
ReleaseId rId = kieServices.newReleaseId( "org.acme", "myartifact", "1.0" );  
KieContainer kieContainer = kieServices.newKieContainer( rId );
```



Types of sessions

Two types of Drools session are possible

- ***stateless* : *StatelessKieSession*.**
which does not use inference
- ***stateful* : *KieSession***



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Stateless Knowledge Session

Stateless sessions are the simplest case because they do not use the inference engine.

You can think about a *function* that we would pass arguments and that would cause a result.

Use cases of stateless sessions :

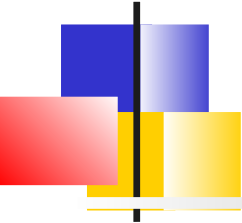
- Validation : Is a person eligible for a loan?
- Computation : Calculate a discount
- Routing or filtering: Filter emails, forward messages to destinations
- ...



Sample : The domain model (facts)

```
public class Applicant {  
    private String name;  
    private int age;  
    // getter and setter methods here  
}
```

```
public class Application {  
    private Date dateApplied;  
    private boolean valid;  
    // getter and setter methods here  
}
```



Sample - Rules

```
package com.company.license
```

```
rule "Is of valid age"
```

```
when
```

```
    Applicant( age < 18 )
```

```
    $a : Application()
```

```
then
```

```
    $a.setValid( false );
```

```
end
```

```
rule "Application was made this year"
```

```
when
```

```
    $a : Application( dateApplied > "01-jan-2014" )
```

```
then
```

```
    $a.setValid( false );
```

```
end
```



Pattern matching (Rete)

When rules are evaluated, if there is fact of type *Applicant* in the working memory. The fact is evaluated against the constraints of the rules.

- In this case, the 2 constraints of the first rule (constraint on the type and the age field).
- A constraint on an object type plus one or more constraints on its fields is called a **pattern**.

If a fact matches the pattern, the consequence of the rule is executed.

The notation **\$a** represents a variable¹. It reference the object which has matched and therefore its properties can be updated in the consequence part.

1. The ('\$') character is optional but makes the expression of the rule more readable.



Execution

// Stateless session creation

```
StatelessKieSession ksession = kContainer.newStatelessKieSession();
```

```
Applicant applicant = new Applicant( "Mr John Smith", 16 );
```

```
Application application = new Application();
```

```
assertTrue( application.isValid() );
```

// Execution of the rules for this 2 facts

```
ksession.execute(  
    Arrays.asList( new Object[] { application, applicant } ) );
```

```
assertFalse( application.isValid() );
```




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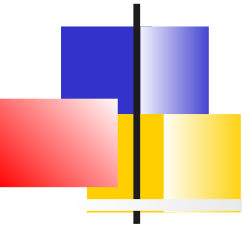
Stateful Session

Stateful session have a longer life cycle and allow iterative update of the facts .

Use cases are:

- Monitoring : Stock market monitoring and semi-automatic purchasing
- Diagnosis: Discovery of fault, medical diagnosis
- Logistics: Delivery tracking, provisionning
- Compliance: Validation of legislation

Sample – Domain model



```
public class Room {  
    private String name  
    // getter and setter methods here  
}  
  
public class Sprinkler {  
    private Room room;  
    private boolean on;  
    // getter and setter methods here  
}  
  
public class Fire {  
    private Room room;  
    // getter and setter methods here  
}  
  
public class Alarm { }
```



Sample – Rule

```
rule "When there is a fire turn on the sprinkler"
when
    Fire($room : room)
    $sprinkler : Sprinkler( room == $room, on ==
false )
then
    modify( $sprinkler ) { setOn( true ) };
    System.out.println( "Turn on the sprinkler for room
" + $room.getName() );
end
```



Inference and modify

Unlike the *StatelessSession* example, which used the standard Java syntax to modify the attribute of a fact, using the ***modify*** statement can warn the engine of changes of the facts and thus allow it to make other pattern matching.

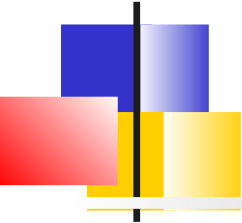
This is called ***inference***



not operator

The ***not*** operator is used to match when no instance of the object exists in the working memory:

```
rule "When the fire is gone turn off the sprinkler"
when
    $room : Room( )
    $sprinkler : Sprinkler( room == $room, on == true )
    not Fire( room == $room )
then
    modify( $sprinkler ) { setOn( false ) };
    System.out.println( "Turn off the sprinkler for room " +
        $room.getName() );
end
```



exists operator and *insert* keyword

The operator ***exist*** test the existence of a fact :

```
rule "Raise the alarm when we have one or more  
fires"
```

```
when
```

```
    exists Fire()
```

```
then
```

```
    // Inference will occur after insert
```

```
    insert( new Alarm() );
```

```
    System.out.println( "Raise the alarm" );
```

```
end
```



delete/retract instruction

The instruction ***delete*** allows to remove a fact from working memory

rule "Cancel the alarm when all the fires have gone"

when

not Fire()

\$alarm : Alarm()

then

// Inference will occur after delete

delete(\$alarm);

System.out.println("Cancel the alarm");

end

1. retract is also supported



Inference and maintainability

The insertion of a new fact from a previous knowledge may lead to more maintainability

```
rule "Infer Adult"  
when  
    $p : Person( age >= 18 )  
then  
    insert( new IsAdult( $p ) )  
end
```

The other rules can be based on being an adult rather than the value 18.

=> Adaptation to other specification will be facilitated



insertLogical

insertLogical retract the fact as soon as the when clause becomes false again :

```
rule "Infer Child"
```

```
when
```

```
$p : Person( age < 16 )
```

```
then
```

```
insertLogical( new IsChild( $p ) )
```

```
end
```

The fact *IsChild* (*\$ p*) is automatically retracted as soon as the person reaches 16



Triggering the rules with *fireAllRules()*

```
// Creation of the stateful session
```

```
KieSession ksession = kContainer.newKieSession();
```

```
String[] names = new String[]{"kitchen", "bedroom", "office",  
    "livingroom"};
```

```
Map<String,Room> name2room = new HashMap<String,Room>();
```

```
for( String name: names ){
```

```
    Room room = new Room( name );
```

```
    name2room.put( name, room );
```

```
    ksession.insert( room );
```

```
    Sprinkler sprinkler = new Sprinkler( room );
```

```
    ksession.insert( sprinkler );
```

```
}
```

```
ksession.fireAllRules() ;
```

```
> Everything is ok
```



FactHandle

A FactHandle allow to obtain a reference to an inserted fact in the working memory.

```
Fire kitchenFire = new Fire( name2room.get( "kitchen" ) );
Fire officeFire = new Fire( name2room.get( "office" ) );
FactHandle kitchenFireHandle = ksession.insert( kitchenFire );
FactHandle officeFireHandle = ksession.insert( officeFire );
ksession.fireAllRules() ;
```

- > Raise the alarm
- > Turn on the sprinkler for room kitchen
- > Turn on the sprinkler for room office

These references allow to remove the facts later :

```
ksession.retract( kitchenFireHandle );
ksession.retract( officeFireHandle );
ksession.fireAllRules() ;
```

- > Turn on the sprinkler for room office
- > Turn on the sprinkler for room kitchen
- > Cancel the alarm
- > Everything is ok



Execution model

Drools supports 2 rule execution modes :

- **Passive mode** (default) : Rules are triggered when explicitly calling *fireAllRules()*
- **Active mode** : When *fireUntilHalt()* is called. Drools continuously evaluates rules until the *halt()* method is called.
=> Application which reacts to facts insertion events, or when timers are configured



Getting started

KIE API

Stateless Session

Stateful Session and inference

Agenda and conflicts

Listeners, Channels, Entry-points



Methods versus Rules

Methods:

- They are explicitly called
- Specific instances are passed as arguments
- A call causes a single run

Rules :

- They are never explicitly called
- Specific instances can not be passed as an argument
- A rule can fire once, several times, or no time.



Activations, Agenda and conflicts

When calling *fireAllRules()*, the rules are evaluated independently of each other

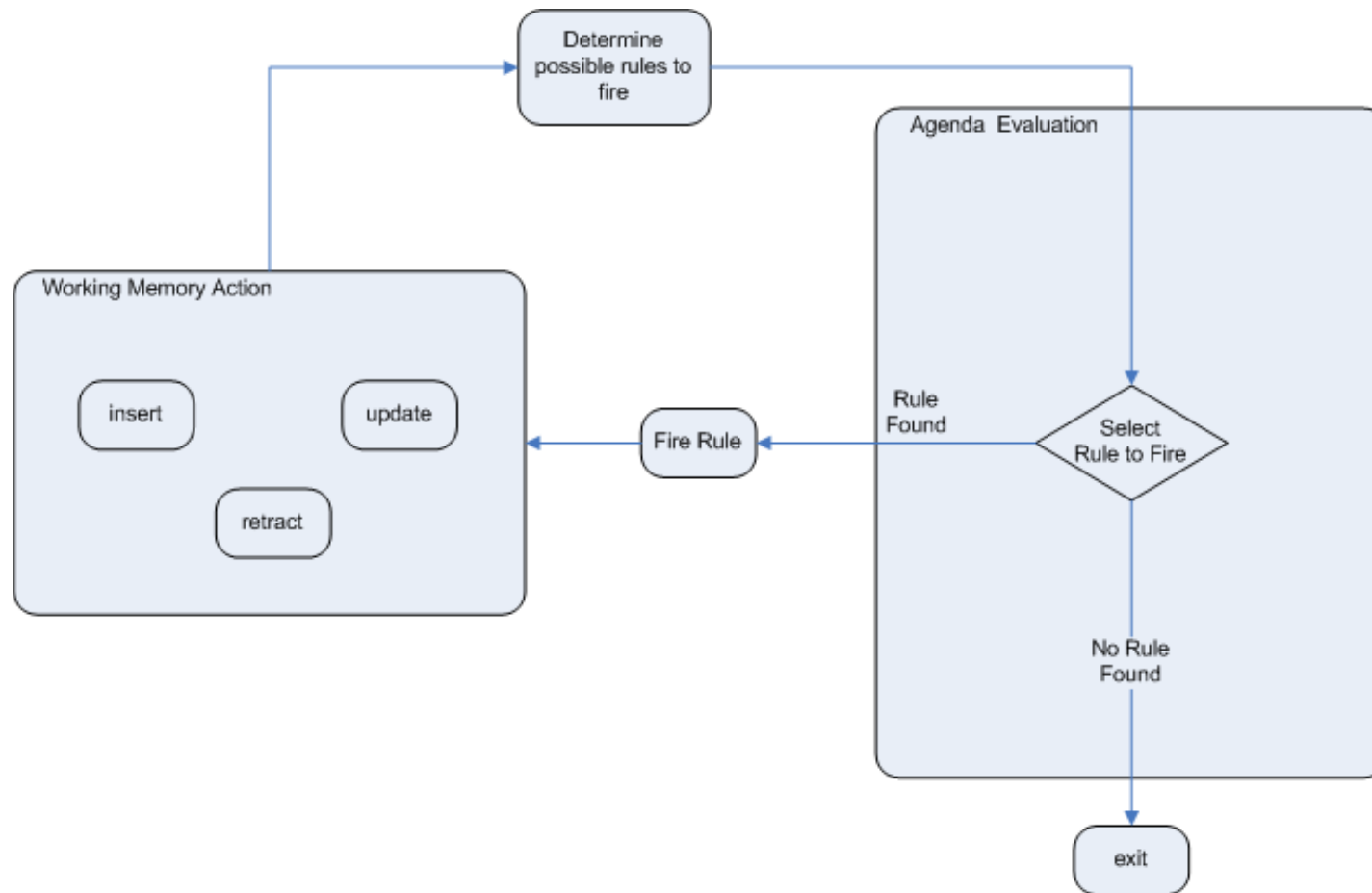
If the conditions of a rule are met, it is activated.

If several rules are activated, the agenda chooses the first rule based on **group** or **salience** attributes of the rules (See later).¹

If the consequence of the rule updates the working memory, the inference occurs. It means that all rules are evaluated again

1. If 2 rules have the same precedence, the declaration's order is taken in account

Life cycle of the Agenda





Getting started

KIE API

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Event Model

Kie provides an event model that allows to execute some code when some Drools Event Occurs.

3 interfaces are provided:

- *AgendaListener*
- *RuleRuntimeEventListener*
- *ProcessEventListener* (for jBPM).



Debug listeners

Drools provides 2 listeners for debugging. They display debug messages on the console :

- *DebugRuleRuntimeEventListener* and *DebugAgendaEventListener*

KieRuntimeLogger also uses events to generate a trace file visible by the Audit view of Eclipse

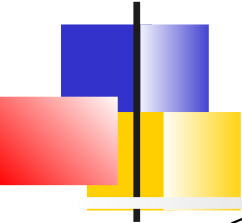
```
KieRuntimeLogger logger =  
KieServices.Factory.get().getLoggers().newFileLogger(ksession,  
    "logdir/mylogfile");  
...  
logger.close();
```



Example of a customized listener

```
ksession.addEventListener(  
    new DefaultAgendaEventListener() {  
        public void afterMatchFired(AfterMatchFiredEvent event) {  
            super.afterMatchFired( event );  
            System.out.println( event );  
        }  
    });
```

```
ksession.addEventListener( new  
    DebugRuleRuntimeEventListener() );
```



Configuration via *kmodule.xml*

```
<kmodule xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xmlns="http://jboss.org/kie/6.0.0/kmodule">
  <kbase name="KBase1" default="true" eventProcessingMode="cloud" equalsBehavior="equality">
    <ksession name="KSession2_1" type="stateful" default="true"/>
    <ksession name="KSession2_1" type="stateless" default="false" beliefSystem="jtms"/>
  </kbase>
  <kbase name=""KBase2" default="false" eventProcessingMode="stream" equalsBehavior="equality"
    declarativeAgenda="enabled"
    packages="org.domain.pkg2,org.domain.pkg3" includes="KBase1">
    <ksession name="KSession2_1" type="stateful" default="false" clockType="realtime">
      <fileLogger file="drools.log" threaded="true" interval="10"/>
      <listeners>
        <ruleRuntimeEventListener type="org.domain.RuleRuntimeListener"/>
        <agendaEventListener type="org.domain.FirstAgendaListener"/>
        <agendaEventListener type="org.domain.SecondAgendaListener"/>
      </listeners>
    </ksession>
  </kbase>
</kmodule>
```



Channels

A **channel** is a standardized way to transmit data from within a session to the external world.

- Alternative to globals. (see further)

Technically, *channel* is a Java interface with a single method :

void send(Object object)

Channels can only be used in the RHS of our rules as a way to send data to outside



Registration

Channels must be registered ::

```
ksession.registerChannel("audit-channel", auditChannel);
```

Then, they can be used in rules :

```
rule "Send Suspicious Operation to Audit Channel"  
  when  
    $so: SuspiciousOperation()  
  then  
    channels["audit-channel"].send($so);  
end
```




Entry points

Entry points are a way to partition working memory. The rules can then apply to certain entry points

// Reasoning from an entry point

```
rule "Routing transactions from small resellers"
```

```
when
```

```
    t: TransactionEvent()
```

```
        from entry-point "small resellers"
```

On insertion, the entry point can be specified:

```
ksession.getEntryPoint("myEntryPoint").insert(new Object());
```



Rule syntax : DRL

Main elements

Rule's attributes

LHS

RHS

Query, aggregation



.drl files

A rules file is a simple text file with the extension .drl

It has the following structure :

- **package** : Namespace
- **imports** : Java types used
- **declare** : Internal declaration of new types
- **globals** : Globals variables which can accessed from outside the session
- **functions** : Reuse of logic
- **queries** : Fact queries
- **rules** : Rules

It is also possible to distribute the rules over several files which then usually have the *.rule* extension



Structure of a rule

```
rule "name"  
    attributs  
    when  
        LHS  
    then  
        RHS  
end
```

- × Punctuation ", line breaks are optional
- × Attributes are optional
- × LHS is the conditional part of the rule
- × RHS is a block that allows to specify in different dialects a code to execute.



Keywords

Keywords :

- Hard (*true, false, accumulate, collect, from, null, over, then, when*). Can not be used as variable
- Soft : only recognized in their context (*package, import, attributes, rule, ...*)

The escape character is ` (backquote) :

```
Holiday( `when` == "july" )
```

Comments:

- line : **#** or **//**
- multi-lines : **/* */**



Error message

[ERR 101] Line 6:35 no viable alternative at input ')' in rule "test rule" in pattern WorkerPerformanceContext

1st Block 2nd Block 3rd Block 4th Block 5th Block

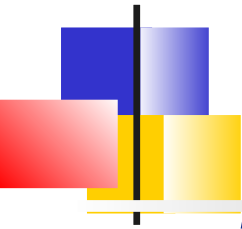
- ✓1st block : Error code
- ✓2nd block : Information on the column and the row.
- ✓3rd block : Description of the error.
- ✓4th block (optional) : First context of the error.
Generally, the rule, the function, the query where the error occurred.
- ✓5th bloc (optional) : Identify the **pattern** where the error occurred



Package

A ***package*** groups together a set of *rules*, *imports*, and *globals* that are related.

- A package represents a namespace and must be unique in the knowledge base. It follows the naming conventions of Java packages
- If the rules of the same package are distributed over several files. Only one file contains the package configuration.
- Items declared in a package can be in any order, except for the package statement.
- The ';' is optional.



Import

import instructions are similar to java imports

The full name of the Java types must be specified.

Drools automatically imports :

- the Java classes from the package of the same name
- the package *java.lang*.



Global

global defines global variables

- Global variables can be used in the consequences of the rules. (RHS)
- They are not inserted into working memory and therefore should not be used as conditions in the rules except as a constant
- The engine is not warned when the value of a global variable changes



Example

```
global java.util.List myGlobalList;
```

```
rule "Using a global"  
when  
  eval( true )  
then  
  myGlobalList.add( "Hello World" );  
end
```

```
List list = new ArrayList();  
WorkingMemory wm = rulebase.newStatefulSession();  
wm.setGlobal( "myGlobalList", list );
```



Functions

functions allow to insert code in rule's files.

- They are just like Helper classes.
With functions, the logic is centralized in one place.
- They are used to invoke actions in the consequence part of the rules.

```
function String hello(String name) {  
    return "Hello "+name+"!";  
}  
rule "using a static function"  
when  
    eval( true )  
then  
    System.out.println( hello( "Bob" ) );  
end
```



Declarations

2 kinds of declarations :

- **Declaration of new types** : Drools works directly with POJOs as facts.
It is therefore possible to define the business model directly in the rules or to create model objects that are useful only in reasoning.
Drools, at compile-time, generates the Java bytecode that implements the new type
- **Declaration of meta-data or annotations**: The facts or their attributes can be annotated.
Annotations can be used to filter rules or facts.



Declaration of new types

```
declare Address
```

```
    number : int
```

```
    streetName : String
```

```
    city : String
```

```
end
```

```
declare Person
```

```
    name : String
```

```
    dateOfBirth : java.util.Date
```

```
    address : Address
```

```
end
```



Access to the declared types

We can access to the internal declared types via the interface ***org.drools.definition.type.FactType***

```
// Get the data type
FactType personType = kbase.getFactType( "org.drools.examples",
                                           "Person" );

// Instanciate it
Object bob = personType.newInstance();

// Set attributes
personType.set( bob, "name", "Bob" );
personType.set( bob, "age", 42 );
```



Meta-data declaration

The character **@** is used

The metadata can concern a new or existing type or one of its attributes.

```
declare Person
```

```
  @author( Bob )
```

```
  @dateOfCreation( 01-Feb-2009 )
```

```
  name : String @key @maxLength( 30 )
```

```
  dateOfBirth : Date
```

```
  address : Address
```

```
end
```

Or on a existing type

```
declare Person
```

```
  @author( Bob )
```

```
  @dateOfCreation( 01-Feb-2009 )
```

```
end
```



Usage of meta-data

Drools allows the declaration of arbitrary meta-data.

Metadata can be used by queries.

Some meta-data are predefined and have a meaning for the engine.

They are especially useful for Drools-CEP:

@role, @timestamp, @duration, ...



Example

```
StatefulKnowledgeSession ksession= createKSession();

ksession.fireAllRules(new AgendaFilter() {
    public boolean accept(Activation activation) {
        Map<String, Object> metaData =
activation.getRule().getMetaData();
        if (metaData.containsKey("LegalRequirement")) {
            return true;
        }
        return false;
    }
});
```



Rule syntax : DRL

Main elements

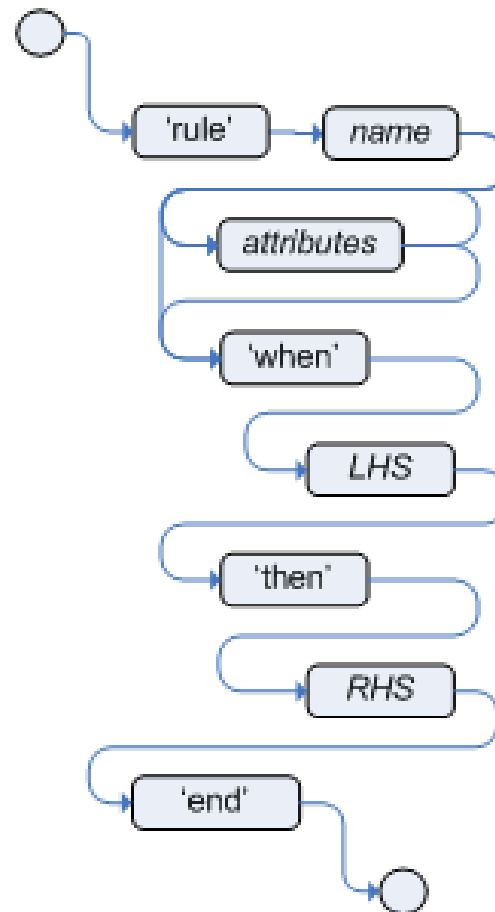
Rule's attributes

LHS

RHS

Query, aggregation

Rule





Rule

A **rule** must have a unique name inside the package.

The name can contain spaces if it is delimited by ".

The left side of the rule (LHS) or condition follows the keyword **when**

The Right Hand Side (RHS) or Consequence follows the keyword **then**

The rule ends with the keyword **end**.

Rules can not be nested.



Attributes (1)

no-loop (boolean, false) : When the consequence of the rule changes a fact, it can cause the rule to be activated again. Recursion can be avoided with the no-loop attribute set to true.

salience (integer, 0) : Each rule has an salience attribute that determines the priority of the rule in the agenda.

dialect (String, "java" or "mvel") : The dialect is usually specified at the package level. This attribute overrides the package-level definition.



Attributes (2)

agenda-group (String, MAIN) : This attribute allows to partition the Agenda and control the execution. Only the rules of the agenda group that has the focus are allowed to fire.

activation-group (String) : Rules belonging to the same activation group are exclusive. The first rule that fires cancels the others.

ruleflow-group (String) : Group several rules. The rules in this group will only be enabled when the process is in a particular node of an associated jBPM process.



Attributes (3)

auto-focus (boolean, false) : When a rule is enabled with the auto-focus attribute set, the group indicated by one of its attributes (agenda-group or activation-group) gains the focus.

lock-on-active (boolean, false) : When a group (ruleflow or agenda) becomes active, all the rules in this group that have the lock-on-active attribute set will no longer be activated in the future whatever the origin of the update. They can be reactivated when their group is reactivated. (gain the focus again)

date-effective (date as String) : A rule can only be activated if the current date is greater than the effective date.

date-expires (date as String) : A rule can only be activated if the current date is greater than the expiration date.



Agenda groups

Agenda groups allow to partition rules in groups that are themselves placed in an execution stack

The agenda executes the rules of the group placed on the top of the stack

When all the rules have been executed, the agenda pops another group from the stack.



Timer

Drools supports *timers* based on intervals or expressed by cron expressions.

```
timer ( int: <initial delay> <repeat interval>? )
```

```
timer ( cron: <cron expression> )
```

Exemple

```
rule "Send SMS every 15 minutes"
```

```
    timer (cron:* 0/15 * * * ?)
```

```
when
```

```
    $a : Alarm( on == true )
```

```
then
```

```
    channels[ "sms" ].insert( new Sms( $a.mobileNumber, "The alarm is still on" );
```

```
end
```



fireUntilHalt()

In order for rules using timers to be triggered, the engine must be active.

In this case, do not call *fireAllRules()* but ***fireUntilHalt()*** which evaluates the rules until it receives a halt signal

In this case, stopping the engine can be done:

- Inside the RHS of a rule : ***drools.halt()***
- Inside Java client : ***ksession.halt()***
fireUntilHalt() method is usually started in an independent thread so that the Java code can stop it.



Rule syntax : DRL

Main elements
Rule's attributes

LHS

RHS

Query, aggregation



LHS



The LHS part is the conditional part of the rule.

It consists of zero or more conditions elements

- If no condition element, the LHS is set to true and will be activated when the working memory is created
- Conditional elements consist of **patterns** that are implicitly connected by **and**

Pattern



A pattern consists of:

- A binding pattern to create a variable used in the rule
(the \$ character is optional but recommended)
- A restriction on the type (A fact, an interface, an abstract class)
- A set of constraints linked by operators

Ex : \$c : Cheese()



Constraint's syntax

2 syntaxes can be used:

- **Field's constraints**

- Concern only ONE attribute
- Combined with && , || and ()

- Ex: Cheese(quantity == 5 && quantity < 10)

- **Group 's constraints**

- Concern SEVERAL attributes of the same fact
- Combined with ',' (which means && with a lower precedence)

- Ex: Person(age > 50, weight > 80, height > 2)

Field's constraints



A field constraint expresses a restriction on a property of the object accessible by getter / setter, it is possible to bind the field on a variable

3 types of restriction are possible:

- **Unique value**: the field is compared to a single value
- **Multiple values**: the field is compared to several values
- **Multi-constraints**: Several constraints are specified on the field

The value of the field can be String, numeric, date (format "*dd-mmm-yyyy*" by default), boolean or Enum

Constraints on null value or return value of a method can also be used



Single value constraint

Available operators : `<`, `<=`, `>`, `>=`, `==`, `!=`, *contains*, *not contains*, *memberof*, *not memberof*, *matches (regexp)*, *not matches*

```
Cheese( quantity == 5 )
```

```
Cheese( bestBefore < "27-Oct-2009" )
```

```
Cheese( type == "camembert" )
```

```
Cheese( from == Enum.COW)
```

```
Cheese( type matches "(Buffalo)?\S*Mozarella" )
```

```
CheeseCounter( cheeses contains "stilton" )
```

```
CheeseCounter( cheese memberOf $matureCheeses )
```

```
Person( likes : favouriteCheese ) Cheese( type == likes )
```

```
Person( girlAge : age, sex == "F" ) Person( age == ( girlAge + 2), sex ==  
    'M' )
```




Multiple values constraint

Operators *in* and *not in*, allow to specify multiple values separated by ","

```
Person( $cheese : favouriteCheese )
```

```
Cheese( type in ( "stilton", "cheddar", $cheese ) )
```



Multiples constraints

Multiple constraints allow you to specify several restrictions on the field related by the operators '&&' or '||' and parentheses

```
Person( age > 30 && < 40 )
```

```
Person( age ( (> 30 && < 40) ||  
              (> 20 && < 25) ) )
```

```
Person( age > 30 && < 40 || location == "london" )
```



Group's constraint

The comma, allows to separate the constraints of groups and is equivalent to an AND (with less priority):

```
Person( age > 50, weight > 80, height > 2 )
```

The comma operator can not be nested in a composite expression:

```
Person( ( age > 50, weight > 80 ) || height > 2 )  
// => compilation ERROR
```



Other operators

not : There is no fact in the working memory corresponding to these restrictions

exists : There is at least one fact in the working memory corresponding to these restrictions

forall : All the facts of the working memory corresponding to the first restriction satisfy the other restrictions

from : Used to compare data other than the entire working memory (For example a query, a channel)

collect : Lets reason on a collection of facts

accumulate : Allows to perform an aggregate function on a collection of objects



Examples

#There is no red bus in the memory

```
not Bus(color == "red")
```

#There is at least one bus 42 of red color in the memory

```
exists ( Bus(color == "red", number == 42) )
```

#All English buses are red

```
forall( $bus : Bus( type == 'english')  Bus( this == $bus, color =  
    'red' ) )
```

Addresses with the correct postal code

which are associated with a Person from memory

```
Person( $personAddress : address )
```

```
Address( zipcode == "23920W") from $personAddress
```



Examples

Build a mothers list

Any woman with a child

```
$mothers : LinkedList()
```

```
from collect( Person( gender == 'F', children > 0 ) )
```

All orders with a total greater than 100

```
$order : Order()
```

```
$total : Number( doubleValue > 100 )
```

```
from accumulate( OrderItem( order == $order, $value : value ),  
    sum( $value ) )
```



Rule syntax : DRL

Main elements
Rule's attributes
LHS
RHS
Query, aggregation



RHS

The right part contains a list of actions to perform.

In general, no conditional code because the rule must be "atomic" (if not separate into several rules)

The operations can act on the working memory and thus trigger the inference:

- Inserting new facts
- Deleting facts
- Updating facts



Macro-methods

Drools supports several macro-methods that avoid retrieving the references of the facts that you want to update:

- ***set : set<field> (<value>)***

Used to update a field

```
$application.setApproved ( false );  
$application.setExplanation( "has been bankrupt" );
```

- ***modify : modify (<fact-expression>) {
 <expression>,
 <expression>,
 ... }***

Used to specify the fields to modify and notify Drools of the change

```
modify( LoanApplication ) {  
    setAmount( 100 ),  
    setApproved ( true )  
}
```



Macro-methods (2)

- **update :**
update (<object, <handle>)
update (<object>) // => Find the corresponding fact
Used to specify the fact to update and to notify Drools of the change.
`LoanApplication.setAmount(100);`
`update(LoanApplication);`
- **insert: insert(new <object>);**
Used to insert a new fact
`insert(new Applicant());`
- **insertLogical : *insertLogical(new Something())***
the object is automatically deleted if the rule is no longer valid.
`insertLogical(new Applicant());`



Macro-methods (3)

- **delete : delete(<object>)**
Used to remove an object from working memory. The retract keyword is also supported
delete(Applicant)



Context variables

2 context variables can be used in the RHS :

- ***drools*** (*RuleContext*) expose
 - useful methods to retrieve information about the rule
 - *drools.getRule().getName()*: The name of the activated rule
 - *drools.getMatch()* : Information on why the rule was activated
- ***kcontext*** is also available and it can retrieve a reference of *KieRuntime*



KieRuntime API

With a *KieRuntime* reference, you can call

- ***halt()*** : Stop the engine in active mode
- ***getAgenda()***: return a reference on the agenda of the session
Ex : `getAgenda().getAgendaGroup("CleanUp").setFocus();`
- ***getQueryResults(String query)*** returns the result of a queries
- ***addEventListener, removeEventListener*** : (Un)Register listeners.
- ***getKnowledgeBase()*** Access to KnowledgeBase .
- Managing global variables with ***setGlobal(...)***, ***getGlobal(...)*** and ***getGlobals()***.
- ***getEnvironment()*** : Access to the environment configuration properties of the engine



Usage of the variable drools

When some conditions are met active a groupe of rules.

```
rule "more than 1 fire then enter panic mode"

when
    Number( intValue >= 2) from accumulate ($f : Fire( ); count($f))
then
    drools.setFocus("panicMode");
    System.out.println("Panic Mode !");
end
```



Rule syntax : DRL

Main elements
Rule's attributes
LHS
RHS

Query, aggregation



Introduction

A *query*, in Drools, can be considered as a rule without its RHS section.

However, a major difference is that a query can take arguments



Query definition

A query can search for facts in the knowledge base

A request can be parameterized.

The names of the queries are global to the knowledge base

=> No identical name even in different packages

Its definition is similar to the left part of a rule:

// One parameter : x

query "people over the age of x" (int x)

person : Person(age > x)

end



Query on demand

The result of a query is obtained by :
ksession.getQueryResults("name")

It is then possible to iterate on the resulting rows

```
QueryResults results = ksession.getQueryResults( "people over the age of x" ,30 );
System.out.println( "we have " + results.size() + " people over the age  of 30" );

System.out.println( "These people are are over 30:" );
for ( QueryResultsRow row : results ) {
    Person person = ( Person ) row.get( "person" );
    System.out.println( person.getName() + "\n" );
}
```



Live queries

Drools also allows you to attach a listener to a query in order to be informed of the change of a results as soon as they are available

These are the live requests, they are executed via the method
openLiveQuery()

```
public LiveQuery openLiveQuery(String query,  
                                Object[] arguments,  
                                ViewChangedEventListener listener);
```



Interface *ViewChangeListener*

ViewChangeListener has 3 methods:

```
public interface ViewChangeListener {  
    public void rowInserted(Row row);  
    public void rowDeleted(Row row);  
    public void rowUpdated(Row row);  
}
```

The interface therefore allows you to be warned when inserting, updating and deleting facts respecting the query



Other ways to express rules

Decision tables

Rule's templates

DMN



Presentation

Decision tables are an efficient and compact way to represent conditional logic, they are tailored to business experts

The data entered in a spreadsheet makes it possible to generate the rules.

=> the business expert then benefits from his favorite tool:
Excel

For each line of the decision table, the data is combined with a template to generate a rule.

Decision tables allow you to encapsulate rules and isolate the object model. Only the parameters of the rules that can be modified are exposed.

Example

	B	C	D	E
7				
8				
9		RuleSet	Some business rules	
10		Import	org.drools.decisiontable.Cheese, org.drools.dec	
11		Sequential	true	
12				
13		RuleTable Cheese fans		
14		CONDITION	CONDITION	ACTION
15		Person	Cheese	list
16	(descriptions)	age	type	add(* \$param*)
17	Case	Persons age	Cheese type	Log
18	Old guy	42	stilton	Old man stilton
19	Young guy	21	cheddar	Young man cheddar
20				
21		Variables	java.util.List list	



Template syntax

Decision tables have 2 types of columns:

- **Condition columns** \Leftrightarrow LHS, the constraint syntax must be used
- **Action columns** \Leftrightarrow RHS, the code syntax must be used

\$param is used to indicate where cell data will be inserted
(\$1 can be used)

If the cell contains a list of values separated by commas,
the symbols \$1, \$2, and so on can be used.

The *forall (DELIMITER) {SNIPPET}* function can be used to
loop through all available values.



Condition columns

The rendering of a condition depends on the presence of a declaration of an object type in a line above.

If the type is specified, a type constraint is created.

If the cell contains just one attribute, the constraint will be an equality constraint, otherwise the cell will include an operator.

13	RuleTable Cheese fans	
14	CONDITION	CONDITION
15	Person	
16	age	type
17	Persons age	Cheese type
18	42	stilton



Consequences

The result of an action cell depends on the presence of an entry on the line immediately above.

- If there is nothing, the cell is interpreted as it is
- If there is a variable, the contents of the cell are added to the variable

ACTION
list.add("\$param");
Log
Old man stilton



Declarative keywords

Before the keyword *RuleTable*, the following keywords may be present and condition their cell immediately to the right:

- ***RuleSet*** : Specifying the name of the rule group, if empty it is the default group
- ***Sequential*** : The cell on the right contains true or false. If true, the salience property is used to guarantee order
- ***Import*** : List of java classes to import
- ***Functions*** : Functions declaration
- ***Variables*** : Global variables declaration
- ***Queries*** : Queries declaration



Example

RuleSet	Control Cajas[1]
Import	foo.Bar, bar.Baz
Variables	Parameters parametros, RulesResult resultado, EvalDate fecha
Functions	<pre>function boolean isRango(int iValor, int iRangoInicio, int iRangoFinal) { if (iRangoInicio <= iValor && iValor <= iRangoFinal) return true; return false; } function boolean esIgualTipo(TipoVO tipoVO, int p_tipo, boolean isNull) { if (tipoVO == null) return isNull; return tipoVO.getSecuencia().intValue() == p_tipo; }</pre>



RuleTable keyword

A cell with ***RuleTable*** indicates the beginning of the definition of a rule table.

The table starts with the next line.

It is read from left to right and from bottom to top until a white line.



Keywords in the rules table

CONDITION : Indicates a condition column

ACTION : Indicates an action column

PRIORITY : Indicates a column used for the salience attribute

DURATION : Indicates the duration attribute of the rule

NAME : The name of the rule (optional)

NO-LOOP : Attribute *no-loop* (true or false)

ACTIVATION-GROUP : Attribute *activation-group*

AGENDA-GROUP : Attribute *agenda-group* of the rule

RULEFLOW-GROUP : Attribute *ruleflow-group* of the rule



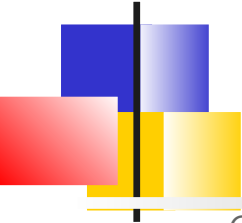
Integration

The integration of a decision table requires the library

drools-decisiontables.jar

The main class ***SpreadsheetCompiler*** takes as input a csv or excel file and generates the rules in DRL

The rules can then be manipulated independently



Example : usage of SpreadSheet Compiler

```
@SuppressWarnings("restriction")  
  
public static void main(String[] args) {  
  
    String fileName="/org/formation/dtables/assurance.xls";  
  
    if ( args.length  > 0 )  
        fileName = args[0];  
  
    SpreadsheetCompiler spc = new SpreadsheetCompiler();  
    String drl = spc.compile(fileName, InputType.XLS);  
    System.out.println("DRL\n"+drl);  
}
```




Steps

1. The business expert starts from a decision table template
2. It informs the parameters of the rules and actions with business descriptions
3. They enter the lines corresponding to the rules
4. The decision table is taken over by a technician who maps the business language to scripts
5. The business expert and the technician review together the changes made.
6. The business expert can edit the rules according to his needs.
7. The technical expert can write test cases that check the rules



Other ways to express rules

Decision tables
Rule's templates
DMN



Rules template

Rules templates use tabular data sources (Spreadsheets, CSV, or others) to generate many rules.

This is a technique that is ultimately more powerful than the decision tables:

- Data can be stored in a database
- Rule generation can be conditioned by data
- The data can be used in any part of the rules (operator, name of a class, name of a property)
- Several templates can be run on the same data



Structure of a template

The text file :

- starts with **template header**.
- Then it list of columns of tabular data
- A blank line to mark the end of the column definitions
- The standard DRL headers (*package, import, global, functions*)
- The **template** keyword marks the beginning of a rule template ; several templates can be defined in the same file.
- The template uses the syntax **@{token_name}** for substitutions (ex: @ {row.rowNumber})
- The keyword **end template** marks the end of the template.



Example

template header

age
type
Log

```
package org.drools.examples.templates;
```

```
global java.util.List list;
```

template "cheesefans"

```
rule "Cheese fans_{row.rowNumber}"
```

```
when
```

```
Person(age == @{age})
```

```
Cheese(type == "{@type}")
```

```
then
```

```
list.add("{@log}");
```

```
end
```

end template



kmodule

The template must then be included with the associated data file in the *kmodule* definition

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<kmodule xmlns="http://drools.org/xsd/kmodule">
  <kbase name="TemplatesKB" packages="org.drools.examples.templates">
    <ruleTemplate
      dtable="org/drools/examples/templates/ExampleCheese.xls"
      template="org/drools/examples/templates/Cheese.drt"
      row="2" col="2"/>
    <ksession name="TemplatesKS"/>
  </kbase>
</kmodule>
```



Sample with a database

```
// Get results from your DB query...
resultSet = preparedStmt.executeQuery();
// Generate the DRL...
resultSetGenerator = new ResultSetGenerator();
String drl = resultSetGenerator.compile(resultSet,
    new
    FileInputStream("path/to/template.drt"));
```



Other ways to express rules

Decision tables
Rule's templates
DMN



Introduction

Decision Model Notation is a standard published by OMG (like BPMN2)

It is supported in Drools since latest 7.x

The primary goal is to provide a standard notation that is readily understandable by :

- **Business Analysts** : They can define the initial decision requirements
- **Developers** : They can create complex decision logic and automate the decisions;
- **Business Stakeholders** : They can manage and monitor the decisions.



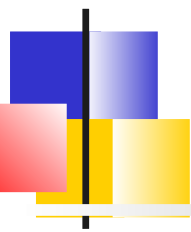
DMN support in Drools

Drools engine provides runtime support for DMN 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 models at conformance level 3.

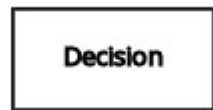
KIE DMN Editor provides design support for DMN 1.2 models at conformance level 3.

DMN models can be integrated by :

- Design your DMN models using the [KIE DMN Editor online](#).
- Design your DMN models using the [KIE DMN Editor in VSCode](#).
- Import DMN files into your project by opening them in KIE DMN Editor.
- Package DMN files as part of your project knowledge JAR (KJAR) file without KIE DMN Editor



Main elements of the diagram

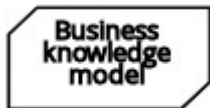


Decisions determine an output value depending on:

- their input data (input nodes or the output value from other decisions)
- their decision logic - boxed expressions of different types, they can reference function of BKM



Input data : Information used in decision nodes.
When enclosed within a Business Knowledge Model (BKM), they indicate parameters for the BKM node.



BKMs encapsulate business knowledge as reusable functions.



A knowledge source denotes an authority which regulates a BKM or a decision node.



Connectors

The connectors used to connect the different elements must also respect the standard shape



Information Requirement

Connection from an input data node or decision node to another decision node that requires the information



Knowledge requirement

from a business knowledge model to a decision node or to another business knowledge model that invokes the decision logic.

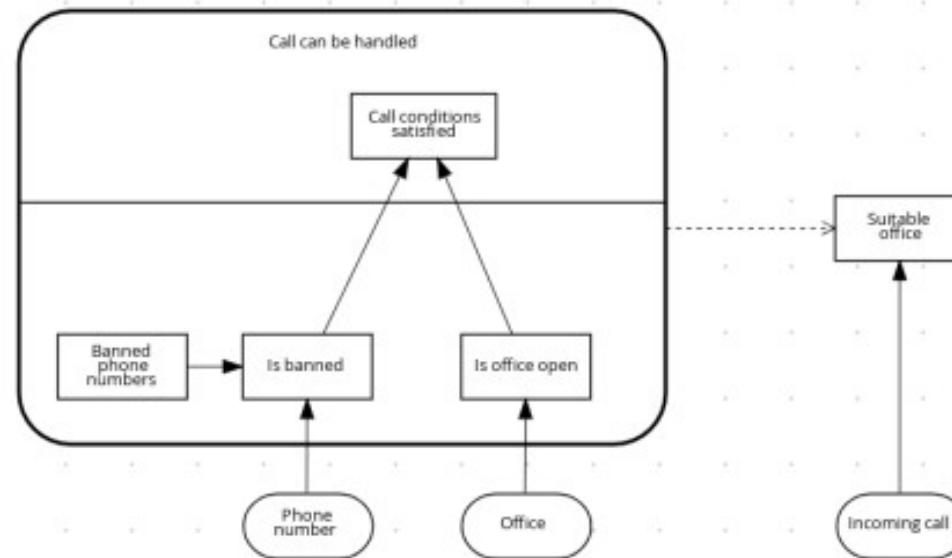


Authority requirement

from an input data node or a decision node to a dependent knowledge source or from a knowledge source to a decision node, business knowledge model, or another knowledge source.

Decision service

Some parts of the graph can be externalized in a ***Decision Service***





Decision node

Decision nodes may express their logic by a variety of boxed expressions. All the boxed expressions use the **FEEL syntax**

- **Literal Expression** pure FEEL expression that produces an output value
- **Contexts** represent a collection of one or more key-value pairs where the value is a decision logic, and the key is the respective identifier
- **Decision tables**
 - Input columns
 - Output columns
 - Hit policy (unique, ...)
- **Relations** encapsulate lists of expressions
- **Functions** define reusable operations into your model. They are generally associated to BKM
- **Invocation** : map the invocation for business knowledge model nodes
- **List** represent a group of FEEL expressions.



FEEL

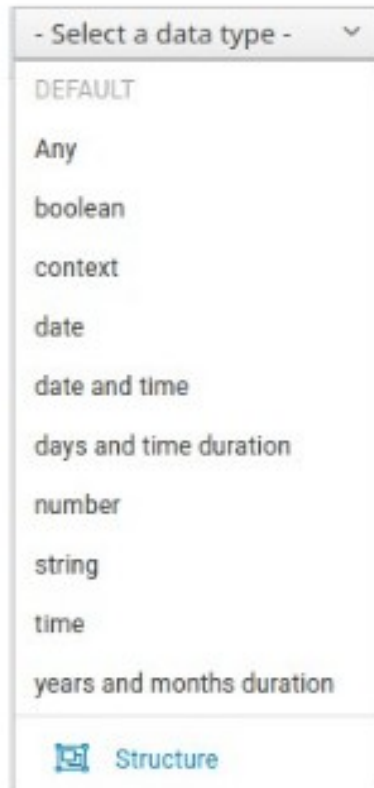
The ***FEEL (Friendly Enough Expression Language)*** is intended as a common ground between business analysts, programmers, domain experts and stakeholders.

It provides :

- Side-effect free
- Simple data model with numbers, dates, strings, lists, and contexts
- Simple syntax designed for a broad audience
- Three-valued logic (*true, false, null*)



Data types



Of course complex structured data types can be defined from the basic types : ***Structure***



Syntax of conditions with FEEL

if expression

if 20 > 0 then "YES" else "NO"//→ "YES"

for expression

for i in [1, 2, 3] return i * i//→ [1, 4, 9]

some (name) in (list) satisfies (predicate)

some i in [1, 2, 3] satisfies i > 2 //→ true

every (name) in (list) satisfies (predicate)

every i in [1, 2, 3] satisfies i > 1 //→ false

in expression

1 in [1..10] //→ true

Three-valued logic(and, or)

true and true //→ true

true and false and null //→ false

true and null and true //→ null

true or false or null //→ true



Built-in functions

FEEL includes a library of built-in functions which can be used in Decision nodes :

- **String** : *substring, length, upper/lower case, starts/ends with, split, string join, ...*
- **List** : *count, min, sum, median, mode, stddev, all, any, ...*
- **Numeric** : *floor/ceiling, modulo, log, exp, sqrt*
- **Range functions** : *before, after, meets, overlaps, ...*
- **Temporal** : *day of year, day of week, month of year, ...*



Variable and function names

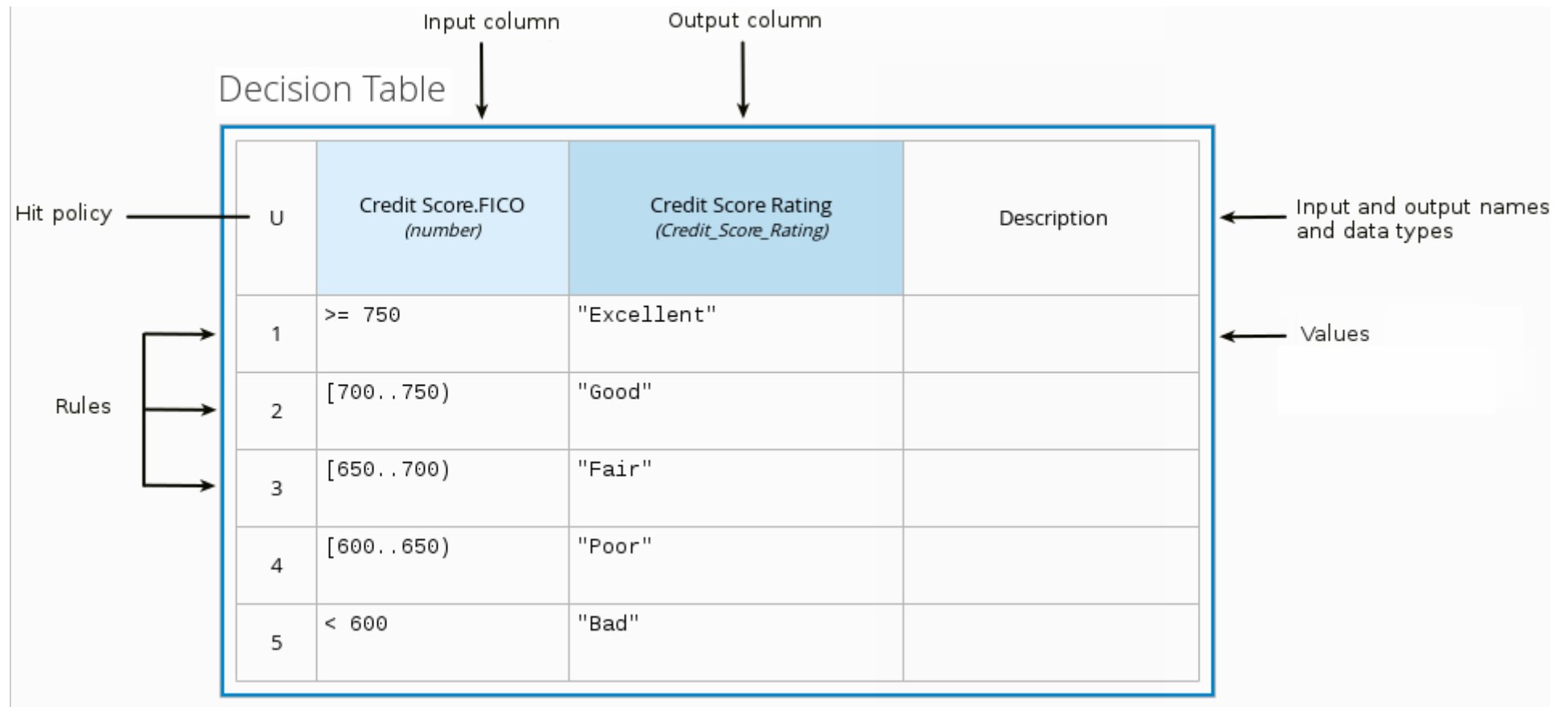
FEEL supports spaces and a few special characters as part of variable and function names.

A *FEEL* name must start with a letter, ?, or _ element.

Valid variables names :

- *Age*
- *Birth Date*
- *Flight 234 pre-check procedure*

Decision Table





Decision Tables

Each rule consists of a single row in the table, and includes columns that define the conditions (input) and outcome (output) for that particular row.

Input and output values can be FEEL expressions or defined data type values.



Hit policies

Hit policies determine what to do when several rules in the decision table match.

Possible values are :

- **Unique (U)**: Permits only one rule to match. Any overlap raises an error.
- **Any (A)**: Permits multiple rules to match, but they must all have the same output.
- **Priority (P)**: Permits multiple rules to match, with different outputs. The output that comes first in the output values list is selected.
- **First (F)**: Uses the first match in rule order.
- **Collect** : Aggregates output from multiple rules based on an aggregation function.



Literal expressions

Literal FEEL expression as text in a table cell

Lender Acceptable PITI (*Literal expression*)

Lender Acceptable PITI (<i>number</i>)
<code>decimal(acceptable rate, 2)</code>



Context expression

A set of variable names and values with a result value

Prioritized Waiting List (*Context*)

#	Prioritized Waiting List (<i>tPassengerTable</i>)	
1	Cancelled Flights (<i>tFlightNumberList</i>)	Flight List[Status = "cancelled"].Flight Number
2	Waiting List (<i>tPassengerTable</i>)	Passenger List[list contains(Cancelled Flights, Flight Number)]
	<result>	sort(Waiting List, Passenger Priority)



Relation expression

Traditional data table with information about given entities, listed as rows.

Used to define decision data.

Employee Information (*Relation*)

#	Name (string)	Dept (string)	Salary (number)
1	"John"	"Sales"	100000
2	"Mary"	"Finances"	120000



Function expressions

A parameterized expression containing a literal FEEL expression, a nested context expression of an external JAVA or PMML function, or a nested boxed expression of any type.

BKMs are defined as boxed function expressions

InstallmentCalculation (*Function*)

F	InstallmentCalculation (number)		
	(ProductType, Rate, Term, Amount)		
	1	MonthlyFee (number)	if ProductType ="STANDARD LOAN" then 20.00 else if ProductType ="SPECIAL LOAN" then 25.00 else null
	2	MonthlyRepayment (number)	(Amount *Rate/12) / (1 - (1 + Rate/12)**-Term)
		<result>	MonthlyRepayment+MonthlyFee



Invocation expression

Invokes a business knowledge model. It contains :

- the name of the business knowledge
- a list of parameter bindings
 - Name of the parameter
 - Binding expression (Value)

Rebooked Passengers (*Invocation*)

#	Rebooked Passengers (tPassengerTable)	
	Reassign Next Passenger	
1	Waiting List (tPassengerTable)	Prioritized Waiting List
2	Reassigned Passengers List (tPassengerTable)	[]
3	Flights (tFlightTable)	Flight List



List expression

Represents a FEEL list of items.

Used to define lists of relevant items for a particular node in a decision.

Approved credit score agencies (*List*)

1	"Acme Agency, Inc."
2	"Top Scores, Inc."
3	"Global Scoring, Inc."



DMN model execution

The model execution differs if you use embedded packaging or remote external service (Kogito)



Related Projects

Complex Event Processing
Drools and jBPM



Introduction

Complex event processing (CEP) allow to make decisions based on temporal relationships between facts.

The main focus of CEP is to correlate small units of time-based data within an ever-changing, ever-growing data cloud in order to react to *hard-to-find* special situations

Reasoning is made on events which are facts with a time of occurrence



Features

- In general, many events need to be processed but only a small percentage are of real interest.
- Events are generally immutable (you cannot change the past!).
- Rules and queries work on event patterns
- There are strong temporal relationships between events
- Individual events are generally of little importance. The system must detect patterns of temporally related events
- The system must compose and aggregate events



Complex event

A complex event is simply an aggregation, composition, or abstraction of other events

Rules will be expressed via complex events using aggregation, composition or abstraction



Semantic of events

2 kinds of events are considered :

- **Punctual event**
- **Interval event**

All events are :

- Immuables
- A managed life cycle : when it is too old,
it is removed from the session



Declaring time-based-events

In order to create the CEP rules, we must inform the engine which types of objects must be treated as events

It is done by adding meta-data :

- **@Role** : *Fact* or *Event*
- **@Timestamp** : The attribute which gives the time of occurrence. If not present, the timestamp is the time of insertion
- **@Duration** : The attribute which gives the duration of the event. Optional
- **@Expires** : The attribute which gives the life time in the session



Example

```
@org.kie.api.definition.type.Role(Role.Type.EVENT)
@org.kie.api.definition.type.Duration("durationAttr")
@org.kie.api.definition.type.Timestamp("executionTime")
@org.kie.api.definition.type.Expires("2h30m")
public class TransactionEvent implements Serializable {
    private Date executionTime;
    private Long durationAttr;
    /* class content skipped */
}
```



Example (2)

```
declare PhoneCallEvent
```

```
  @role(event)
```

```
  @timestamp(whenDidWeReceiveTheCall)
```

```
  @duration(howLongWasTheCall)
```

```
  @expires(2h30m)
```

```
  whenDidWeReceiveTheCall: Date
```

```
  howLongWasTheCall: Long
```

```
  callInfo: String
```

```
end
```



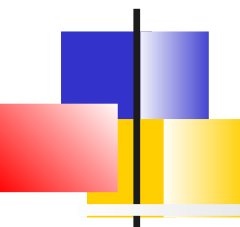
Temporal operators

There are 13 temporal operators available which allow to correlate events

For example :

```
declare MyEvent
@role(event)
@timestamp(executionTime)
End
```

```
rule "my first time operators example"
when
    $e1: MyEvent()
    $e2: MyEvent(this after[5m] $e1)
Then
    System.out.println("We have two events" + " 5 minutes apart");
end
```



Operator		Point - Point	Point - Interval	Interval - Interval
A before B	A	●	●—●	●—●
	B			●—●
A after B	A			●—●
	B	●	●—●	●—●
A coincides B	A	●		●—●
	B	●		●—●
A overlaps B	A			●—●
	B			●—●
A finishes B	A		●—●	●—●
	B		●	●—●
A includes B	A		●—●	●—●
	B		●	●—●
A starts B	A		●—●	●—●
	B		●	●—●
A finishedby B	A		●	●—●
	B		●—●	●—●
A startedby B	A		●	●—●
	B		●—●	●—●
A during B	A		●	●—●
	B		●—●	●—●
A meets B	A		●—●	●—●
	B		●	●—●
A metby B	A		●	●—●
	B		●—●	●—●
A overlappedby B	A			●—●
	B			●—●



A sample

```
rule "More than 10 transactions in an hour from one client"
when
    $t1: TransactionEvent($cId: customerId)
    Number(intValue >= 10) from accumulate(
        $t2: TransactionEvent(this != $t1,
            customerId == $cId, this meets[1h] $t1),
        count($t2) )
    not (SuspiciousCustomerEvent(customerId == $cId,
        reason == "Many transactions"))
then
    insert(new SuspiciousCustomerEvent($cId,
        "Many transactions"));
end
```



Entry points

Entry points are a way to partition the working memory

Rules can express conditions about events from one particular source

Entry points are declared implicitly by using them in rules

At insertion, the entry point can be specified :

```
ksession.getEntryPoint("myEntryPoint").insert(new Object());
```



Sample

```
// Insert event from one entry-point to another
rule "Routing transactions from small resellers"
  when
    $t: TransactionEvent() from
      entry-point "small resellers"
  then
    entryPoints["Stream Y"].insert(t);
  end
```



Sliding windows

Sliding windows allow to filter the events of the working memory or any entry point

2 kinds of sliding windows :

- ***Length-based*** : Number of elements
- ***Time-based slicing*** : Elements that happened within a specific time elapsed from now

Sliding windows can be defined

- inside a rule
- or outside for reuse



Length-based sample

```
rule "last 6 transactions are more than 100 dollars"
When
    Number(doubleValue > 100.00) from accumulate(
        TransactionEvent($amount: totalAmount)
        over window:length(6),
        sum($amount))
then
    //... TBD
end
```



Time-based sample

```
rule "obtain last five hours of operations"
when
    $n: Number() from accumulate(
        TransactionEvent($a: totalAmount)
        over window:time(5h),
        sum($a)
    )
Then
    System.out.println("total = " + $n);
end
```



Declared sliding windows sample

```
declare window Beats
```

```
  @doc("last 10 seconds heart beats")
```

```
  HeartBeat() over window:time( 10s )
```

```
    from entry-point "heart beat monitor"
```

```
end
```

```
rule "beats in the window"
```

```
  when
```

```
    accumulate(HeartBeat() from window Beats,
```

```
      $cnt : count(1))
```

```
  then
```

```
    // there has been $cnt beats over the last 10s
```

```
end
```



Related Projects

Complex Event Processing
Drools and jBPM



Introduction

Drools and jBPM complement each other, allowing end users to describe business knowledge using different paradigms : Rules and processes

They shared :

- The same API
- The same integration patterns with a business application
- The same mechanisms for building and deploying



Accessing processes from rules

In the action side, a rule has access to *kcontext* and *kcontext.getKieRuntime()*

With this object reference, it is possible to :

- create, abort, and signal processes
- Access the *WorkItemManager* to complete *WorkItems*



Sample

```
rule "Validate OrderLine Item's cost"
```

```
  when
```

```
    $ol: OrderLine()
```

```
  then
```

```
    Map<String, Object> params = new HashMap<String, Object>();
```

```
    params.put("requested_amount", $ol.getItem().getCost());
```

```
    kcontext.getKieRuntime().startProcess("simple", params);
```

```
end
```



Process instances as facts

Insertion of Process Instances as facts in the Rule Engine allow to write rules about our processes or groups of processes

The listener ***RuleAwareProcessEventLister***, provided by jBPM, automatically insert our *ProcessInstances* and update them whenever a variable is changed

The processes need to include Async activities



Example

```
rule "Too many orders for just our Managers"
```

```
when
```

```
List($managersCount:size > 0) from collect(Manager())
```

```
List(size > ($managersCount * 3)) from
```

```
    collect(WorkflowProcessInstance(processId == "process-  
order"))
```

```
then
```

```
    //There are more than 3 Process Order Flows per manager.
```

```
    // Please hire more people :)
```

```
end
```



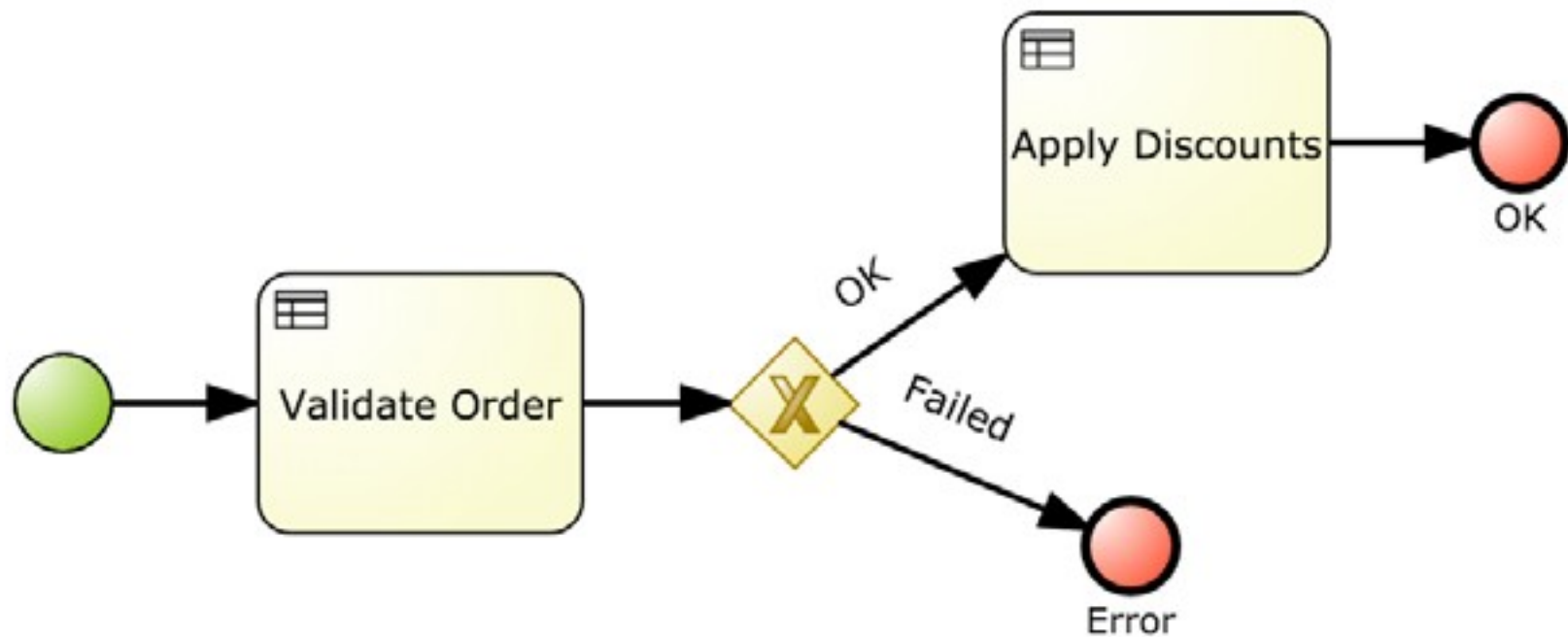
BPMN2 Business Rule Tasks

BPMN2 specification proposes a specific type of task called a ***Business Rule Task***.

It is used in conjunction with the Rule property : ***ruleflow-group*** .

This property allows to specify which rules can be fired when the Business Rule Task is executed as part of a process instance

Example





Externalizing Knowledge services

Kie workbenches



Workbenches

Kie projects provide a set of usable workbench tools that allow to create, build, and deploy rule and process definitions in any Kie Server

These workbenches are build with the framework UberFire .

They are web application deployed in a application server (Jboss wildfly)



Installation

Download the distribution which is a war
kie-wb-*.war

Deploy it in the application server

- Drools 7 is only available for Wildfly 14

Workbench is available at :

<http://<server>:<port>/>



Roles and users

A WB use the following roles:

- **admin** : Administrator, manages users, repositories,, ...
- **developer** : Manage assets (rules, models, processes, forms. Create build and deploy projects
- **analyst** : Idem developer with restricted right (no deployment for example)
- **user** : Participate in business processes and perform tasks
- **manager** : Access to reporting



Getting started

Typical actions to start:

1. Create a user with the admin rôle
2. Add a repository
3. Add a project
4. Provide the business model
5. Create the rules
6. Build and deploy in a KieServer

These actions can be done through the web interface, an online command tool (kie-config-cli.sh) or via a REST interface



Packages

Package configuration is usually done only once by someone with expertise with rules and templates

All assets belong to a single package that acts as a namespace

A package is created by specifying its name



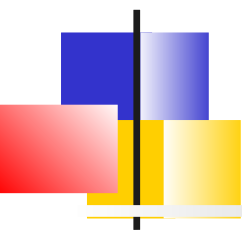
Formats of rules

The workbench supports multiple rule formats and editors:

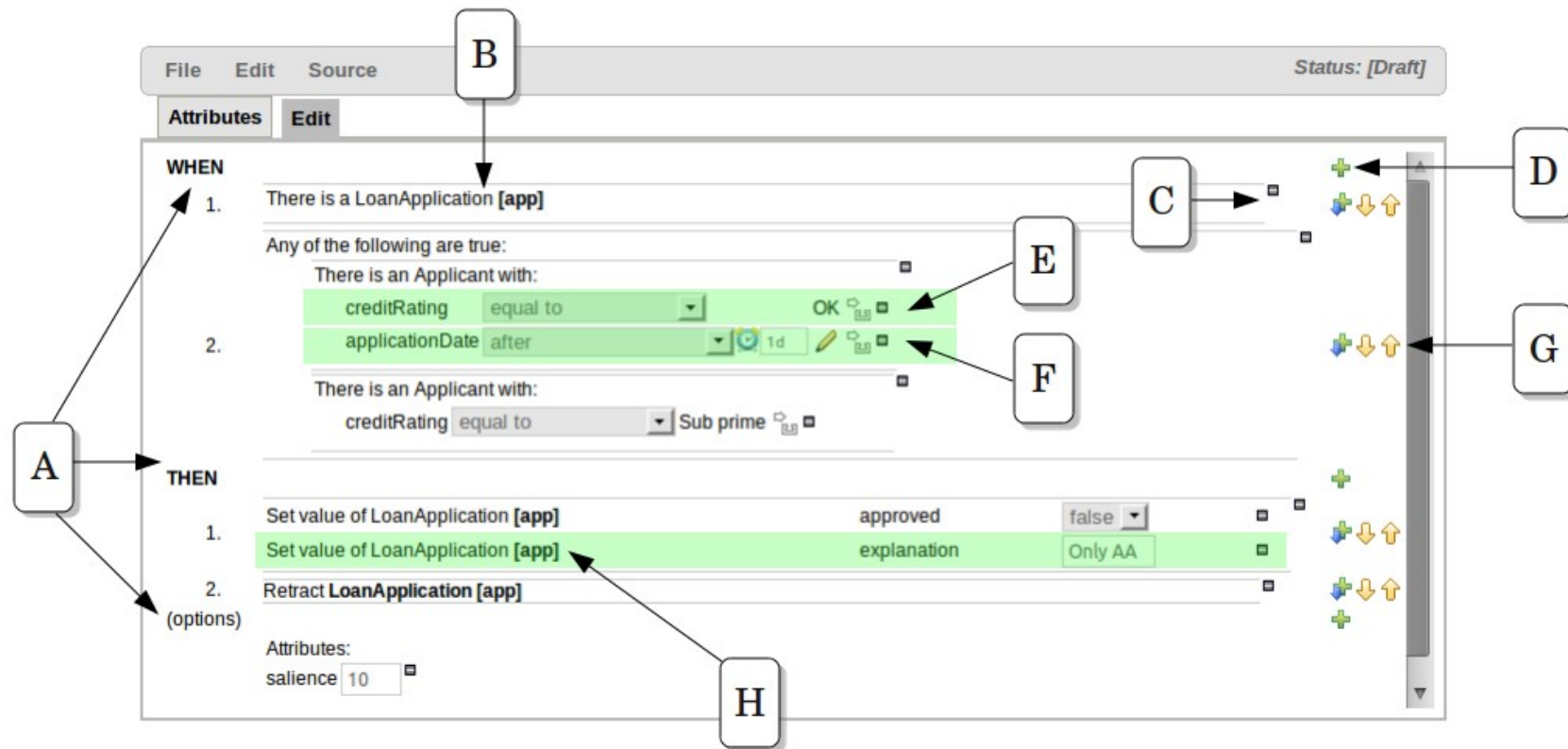
- BRL Format with BRL Editor (also present in Eclipse)
- DSL
- Decision tables in file to upload
- Decision tables edited directly in the web interface
- Rule Flow process to upload
- DRL
- functions
- Configuring lists of values (Enum)
- Rules template powered by data tables
- DMN

New Rule → name, category and format

- => A wizard starts
It is always possible to consult the source in drl




Guided Business Rules Editor






















Guided Template Editor


Guided Template [t1]

EXTENDS None selected 

WHEN 

There is an Applicant with:

	age	 less than	 \$max_age	 	
1.	age	 greater than or equal to	 \$min_age	 	   
	creditRating	 equal to	 \$cr	 	


























THEN 

(show options...)

Template data

Guided Template [t1]

Add row...

	\$max_age	\$min_age	\$scr
			
 	 25	 20	AA
 			OK
 			Sub prime
 	 35	 25	AA
 			OK
 			Sub prime
 	 45	 35	AA
 			OK
 			Sub prime



Decision Table Editor

Drools-WB offers an editor for decision tables.






The editor proposes facts and fields available in the context of the project

2 types of tables can be created:

- Extended Entries: Column definitions do not specify a value. The values are then indicated in the body of the table. However, they can be restricted by an interval.
- Limited Entries: The column definitions specify a value. The body of the table contains checkboxes



Extended table

+ Decision table					
	#	Description	Age	Make	Premium
			Applicant [\$a]	Vehicle [\$v]	
			age [<]	make [==]	
 	1		35	BMW	1000
 	2		35	Audi	1000

Limited table



Test scenario

The test scenarios validate the operation of the rules and avoid regression bugs.

A test case defines several sections:

- Given list the test facts
- Expected lists the expected changes and actions

Test scenario

Test Scenario [Good credit history only]

SaveDeleteRenameCopyx▼

Run scenario

+ GIVEN

Insert 'LoanApplication'[app]
approved: false

Insert 'IncomeSource'[incomeSource]
Add a field

Insert 'Applicant'[a]
creditRating: OK

+ CALL METHOD

Add input data and expectations here.

+ EXPECT

Use real date and time

LoanApplication 'app' has values:

approved: equals false

More...

(configuration)
All rules may fire

+ (globals)

Test Scenario ConfigMetadataAll Test Scenarios

Reporting

Success

Text



DSL editor

FileEditSource

AttributesEdit

```
[when]When the credit rating is {rating:ENUM:Applicant.creditRating} = applicant:Applicant(creditRating=="{rating}")  
[when]When the applicant dates is after {dos:DATE:default} = applicant:Applicant(applicationDate>"{dos}")  
[when]When the applicant approval is {bool:BOOLEAN:checked} = applicant:Applicant(approved=={bool})  
[when]When the ages is less than {num:1?[0-9]?[0-9]} = applicant:Applicant(age<{num})  
[then]Approve the loan = applicant.setApproved(true);  
[then]Set applicant name to {name} = applicant.setName("{name}");
```



List of values

Enum Editor [credit ratings]

SaveDeleteRenameCopyValidate✕▼

Add enum

	Fact	Field	Context
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applicant	creditRating	['AA', 'OK', 'Sub prime']
<input type="checkbox"/>	Person	age	['20','25','30','35']



Access to the Workbench database

```
public class MainKieTest {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        // works even without -SNAPSHOT versions  
        String url = "http://localhost:8080/kie-drools/maven2/de/test/Test/1.2.3/Test-1.2.3.jar";  
  
        // make sure you use "LATEST" here!  
        ReleaseIdImpl releaseId = new ReleaseIdImpl("de.test", "Test", "LATEST");  
  
        KieServices ks = KieServices.Factory.get();  
  
        ks.getResources().newUrlResource(url);  
  
        KieContainer kieContainer = ks.newKieContainer(releaseId);  
  
        // check every 5 seconds if there is a new version at the URL  
        KieScanner kieScanner = ks.newKieScanner(kieContainer);  
        kieScanner.start(5000L);  
        // alternatively:  
        // kieScanner.scanNow();  
  
        Scanner scanner = new Scanner(System.in);  
        while (true) {  
            runRule(kieContainer);  
            System.out.println("Press enter in order to run the test again....");  
            scanner.nextLine();  
        }  
  
        private static void runRule(KieContainer kieKontainer) {  
            StatelessKieSession kSession = kieKontainer.newStatelessKieSession("testSession");  
            kSession.setGlobal("out", System.out);  
            kSession.execute("testRuleAgain");  
        }  
    }  
}
```



Thank U!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Annexes

DSL



Introduction

Les ***Domain Specific Languages*** (DSL) permettent d'étendre le langage de règles en l'adaptant au langage métier.

C'est une couche d'abstraction dédiée aux experts métier non technique qui est traduite dans le langage de règle au moment de la compilation

Ils peuvent également être utilisés comme gabarits de conditions ou d'action, permettant ainsi de mutualiser certaines parties de règles



Syntaxe

Le format d'un DSL est tout simplement un fichier texte qui traduit des clés en langage « *naturel* » en des expressions *drl*

Chaque ligne commence par indiquer un **scope**, puis la traduction du langage étendu dans le langage de règle

```
[when]This is "{something}"=Something(something=="{something}")
```

```
[then]Log "{message}"=System.out.println("{message}") ;
```

Il est possible d'utiliser également le scope **[keyword]** qui permet de redéfinir un mot-clé :

```
[keyword] quand = when
```

Les phrases définies sont en fait des expressions régulières. Les wildcards peuvent donc être utilisés.



Examples

```
[when]There is a Person with name of  
    "{name}"=Person(name=="{name}")
```

```
[when]Person is at least {age} years old and lives in  
    "{location}"=Person(age > {age}, location=="{location}")
```

```
[then]Log "{message}"=System.out.println("{message}");
```

```
There is a Person with name of "kitty"  
    ---> Person(name="kitty")
```

```
Person is at least 42 years old and lives in "atlanta"  
    ---> Person(age > 42, location="atlanta")
```

```
Log "boo"  
    ---> System.out.println("boo");
```



Exemple avec regexp

```
[when][]is less than or equal to<=  
[when][]is less than=<  
[when][]is greater than or equal to>=  
[when][]is greater than=>  
[when][]is equal to===  
[when][]equals===  
[when][]There is a Cheese with=Cheese()  
[when][]- {field:\w*} {operator} {value:\d*}={field} {operator} {value}
```

```
There is a Cheese with  
- age is less than 42  
- rating is greater than 50  
- type equals 'stilton'
```

```
Cheese(age<42, type=='stilton', rating>50)
```



Mise en place

1. Nommer son fichier DRL avec l'extension *.dslr*

2. Faire référence au fichier DSL dans le fichier de règle avec le mot-clé *expand*
`expand your-expand.dsl`

3. Passer le DSL au moment de la compilation (Drools 5) :

```
PackageBuilder builder = new PackageBuilder() ;  
builder.addPackageFromDrl( sourceReader,  
dslReader );
```