

Defining and Refining Business Logic Made Simple

The Only Thing Constant is Change

Let's face it. Change is constant in business. Designing business processes that can keep pace with these changes in industry, market and legal requirements is crucial. And business processes are only as flexible as the business decisions and business policies that drive them.

So, how FLEXIBLE are your business policies?

Organizations wrestle with similar business decisions every day:

- How do I price my products and services?
- Who should I be offering discounts to?
- How do I recognize revenue?
- Where should I place my product promotions?

The answers to these seemingly simple questions are quite often based upon highly sophisticated logic. A single business decision might depend on an evaluation of several business policies; each of which could change in a matter of minutes. For instance, a decision around the level of discounts to offer a customer might involve an evaluation of how many other services this customer subscribes to; what is the level of customer satisfaction; how profitable is this customer.

How do you ensure that your business policies CONSISTENTLY provide the right answer?

Consider the use of business policies across enterprises. There are always certain decisions and their associated policies that are applicable to different lines of business within an organization. For instance, the decisions around classifying a customer as "platinum", "gold", or "silver"; the sets of business rules associated with determining the risk rating for a credit applicant; the combination of rules that govern the recognition of revenue.

Embedding these rules within departmental applications in different formats eliminates the possibility of reusing these sets of rules across the enterprise.

How do you ensure that common business rules can be shared and REUSED across different applications?

Interstage Business Process Manager's Decision Tables:

Flexible. Consistent. Reusable.

Interstage® Business Process Manager's Decision Tables is built to address the challenge that most companies face—keeping up with changes to the business decision logic which tends to change more so than work flow logic itself. A company's ability to quickly respond to changes in market conditions is critical to its success. Flexibility, consistency and reusability of rules that govern business decisions go a long way in ensuring an organization's competitive edge.

Decision Tables are an intuitive approach to creating, testing, and managing business rules that drive business processes. With Decision Tables, business users can leverage a simple, yet powerful table-based approach for managing decisions dynamically. Interstage Business Process Manager continues to support the incorporation of business rules both within the process definition as well as through integrations with third-party, commercial rule engines. However, increasingly, enterprises are looking for an alternative that eliminates the need to learn, develop, and support a complex, commercial rule engine infrastructure and yet, provides them with the ability to manage their business logic independent of their process definitions. Interstage Business Process Manager's Decision Tables feature is that option.

Decision Tables provide a process-centric approach to modeling, managing, testing and deploying decision-intensive business activities through an intuitive, web-based graphical interface. It is tightly integrated with Interstage Business Process Manager's process modeling and process execution environment. The Decision Tables feature is not intended to be compared with stand-alone rules engine; it is designed to co-exist with Interstage Business Process Manager.

Condition	Action
Customer Level = Platinum	Apply 10% Discount
Customer Level = Gold	Apply 5% Discount
Customer Level = Silver	Apply 0% Discount

Figure 1: Simple Table Format to Display Business Decisions

Why Interstage Business Process Manager's Decision Tables?

- Precise, yet compact way to model complicated logic
- Associate many independent conditions with several actions in an elegant way
- Express complex multi-part rules without any programming efforts
- Eliminates the need for programming skills to capture, validate, test and manage decision-intensive business activities
- Provides a simple table format where business users can easily type values at positions in order to express the conditions and results of the rules
- Single environment to author and manage both business processes and rules
- Once developed, rules can be reused in multiple processes
- Built-in test environment to easily test rules before they are deployed
- Built-in approval process for rules modification

Key Capabilities	Benefits
• Process-centric, dynamic business rules	• Allows for flexible business decisions
• Tightly integrated with BPM	• Ensures rapid deployment of flexible, consistent and reusable business rules
• Web-based, table-like interface	• Makes it easy for business users to manage business policies
• Customizable user interface	• Helps easily incorporate the corporate look-and-feel
• Built-in rules testing feature	• Ensures that all business rules get tested and verified before they are deployed
• Composite conditions support	• Represent complex business logic concisely
• Detailed audit trail	• Aids compliance and reporting
• Data cleansing and mapping of condition columns and selection columns to process variables	• Lets users easily associate IT-centric process variable names with more familiar, business descriptors in policies
• Rule life-cycle management using BPM	• Facilitates a consistent process for modeling and testing business rules before they are deployed

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Where Business Process Meets Rules

The Decision Tables feature helps business users develop and manage process-centric rules. Once the decision tables are created, they can be integrated into the business process as follows:

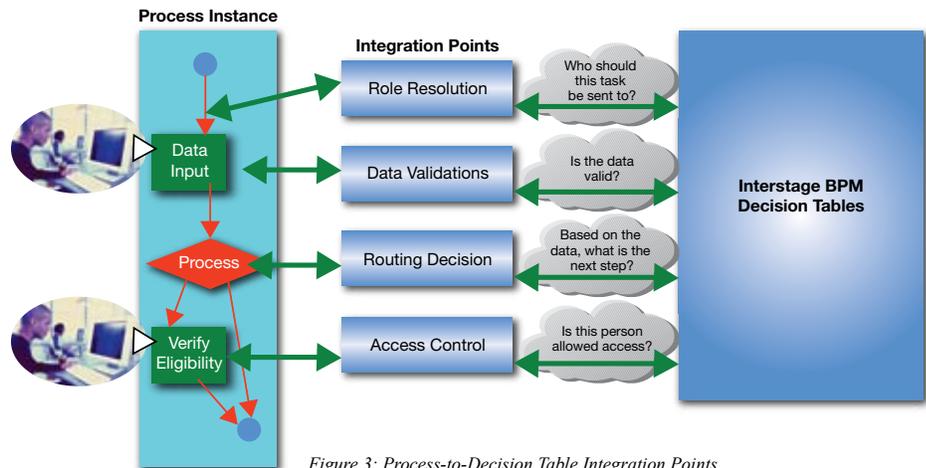


Figure 3: Process-to-Decision Table Integration Points.

Interstage Business Process Manager is the BPM solution of choice for a wide range of businesses striving to become more agile in challenging economic environments. With the Decision Tables capabilities in Interstage Business Process Manager, business users now have a simple way to define, refine, test, and manage the rules that govern their business processes with minimal IT support.