

DECISION ENGINE CHECKLIST

IDIOM
Decision
Manager.
Market
Alternative

Feature or characteristic

INTEGRATION FEATURES

Access Methods

Web Services

Yes		Popular web access protocol
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Native Calls

Yes		For all platforms; easiest to code, fastest to execute.
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DLL

Yes		Standard PC deployable callable envelope
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IBM Business Rule Beans

Yes		Allows management of rules within IBMs proprietary rules architecture
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Messaging

JMA/JMS

Yes		Java standard asynchronous communications
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MSMQ

Yes		Microsoft standard asynchronous communications
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Business Object Models

Document Object Model (DOM)

Yes		Industry standard object model
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JDOM

Yes		Alternate Java version
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Platforms

Java

Yes		Major open source platform
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.Net

Yes		Dominant desktop and major corporate platform
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Performance

Compilable for maximum performance

Yes		100 decisions in 2milliseconds!
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Native classes

Yes		Needed where optimal performance is required
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Stateless for unlimited runtime instances

Yes		Scales to the maximum that the environment can support
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Support for large business objects

Yes		Modern business objects are getting increasingly complex (millions of nodes e.g. MDDL)
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Auditable

Logging of all rules fired

Yes		Optional for performance reasons
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Regression testing

Yes		Review and confirm the integrity of audited rules
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RULES MANAGEMENT

Ease of Use

No scripting	Yes	No arcane knowledge needed to use Idiom; no language to learn
Wizard managed rules builder	Yes	Error free rules; Non technical interface
"Mind Map" style Decision Trees	Yes	Free form development of decision/rule context
Palette based rule construction	Yes	Lego style rules construction using pre-built resources
Color coded development	Yes	Entire UI is color coded for easy navigation and context awareness
Visible rule-firing sequence	Yes	Predictable runtime execution

Flexible Rule Selection

Apply rules for past dates	Yes	Rerun "as at" prior dates
Preload rules for forward dates	Yes	Pre-build and pretest rules for future use
Temporary rules	Yes	Support for short term overrides

Meta Rules (rules to control rules)

Change effective date	Yes	Run different parts of an objects rules at different dates
Change context	Yes	Need to run different sets of rules on the same document? - then change context

Documentation

Automatic English generation of rules	Yes	Present the business knowledge in 'logical' English
"Where Used" for all rule elements	Yes	Understand the impact of change

Authorization and Control

Workgroup based authorization	Yes	Authority is devolved to expert domains for self-management of rules
User based change Log	Yes	Individuals still accountable for specific changes

Vocabulary Maintenance

Facts and terms defined via XML schemas	Yes	Using the most pervasive standard for shared definition of vocabulary
Management of changes in terminology	Yes	Changes of terminology must be reconciled with existing rules
Support for very large Schemas	Yes	Public domain schemas now render millions of nodes (e.g. MDDL); proprietary schemas typically render tens of thousands
Automatic rendering of included Schemas	Yes	Terms must be defined in context, therefore complex types must be fully resolved prior to presentation.

Rule Integrity

Single possible result per rule	Yes	No conflicts or collisions
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Single path through all rules	Yes		No conflicts or collisions
Management of datatype	Yes		Reduces opportunities for error
Collections processed as a repeater	Yes		Reduces rules development effort, manages complexity
Verifiable			
Deductive rules	Yes		Rules are statically defined for predictable and testable outcomes
Scenarios can be tested	Yes		Testing at the same level that the rules will operate at
Rule firing sequence and results tracking	Yes		Traceability is at the level that the user defines the rules
Scale			
Rules for multiple domains	Yes		Allows assembly of complex processes across multiple parties
Multi-user rules repository	Yes		Allows sharing of rules across domains
COMMERCIAL			
Vendor is niche focused (no other products)	Yes		Focused product avoids platform and tool clash; small footprint, no architectural "baggage" or extraneous functionality
ISV Support			
Restricted rules management for ISV Customers	Yes		To support customer self-managed customization
"Black-box" deployable ISV Rules	Yes		Easily deployed upgrades to the application's business rules
Many integration, platform, and deployment options	Yes		One source of rules for all customers regardless of platform
Unlimited Deployment			
No deployment fee's	Yes		No additional runtime costs; maximizes deployment options
All platforms supported from same rules	Yes		Deploy to multiple platforms in parallel
Rules can be swapped between Business Partners	Yes		Business Partners can provide each other with proprietary rules
Support for Third Party rules suppliers	Yes		Industry standard rules can be supplied as a service to multiple consumers
Price	Yes		Compare our price!