



# The IDIOM approach and its benefits



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## Idiom Decision Manager

*"Business rules for business people"*

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[www.idiomsoftware.com](http://www.idiomsoftware.com)

Connected to: localhost (127.0.0.1)

## 1

### Business rules are developed by business people

Rules development is done by the people

... who **own** the rules

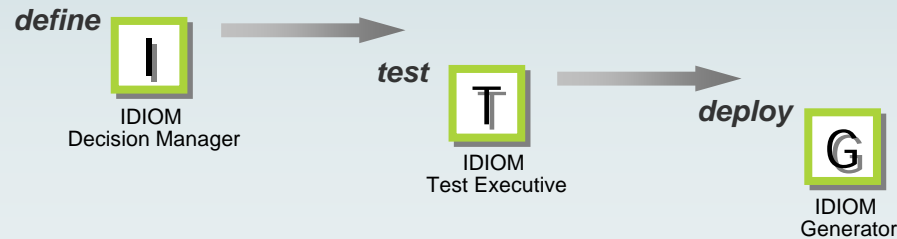
... and **understand** them best

The **IDIOM Decision Suite** provides simple but powerful tools

... to **define** and **verify** the rules

... to **test** the rules

... to **deploy** the rules



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## Business rules are no longer coded as part of the application

- ... where they are difficult to **verify**
- ... and difficult to **change**
- ... and not readily **shared** with other applications

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## Instead, business rules are exported to the application

... in the form of **generated code** added to the Decision Engine

The generated code is easily and inexpensively **replaced**  
*without changing the application*

whenever the business needs to change a rule

### The **IDIOM Decision Engine**

is an independent runtime module  
which the application **calls** whenever it needs  
a decision



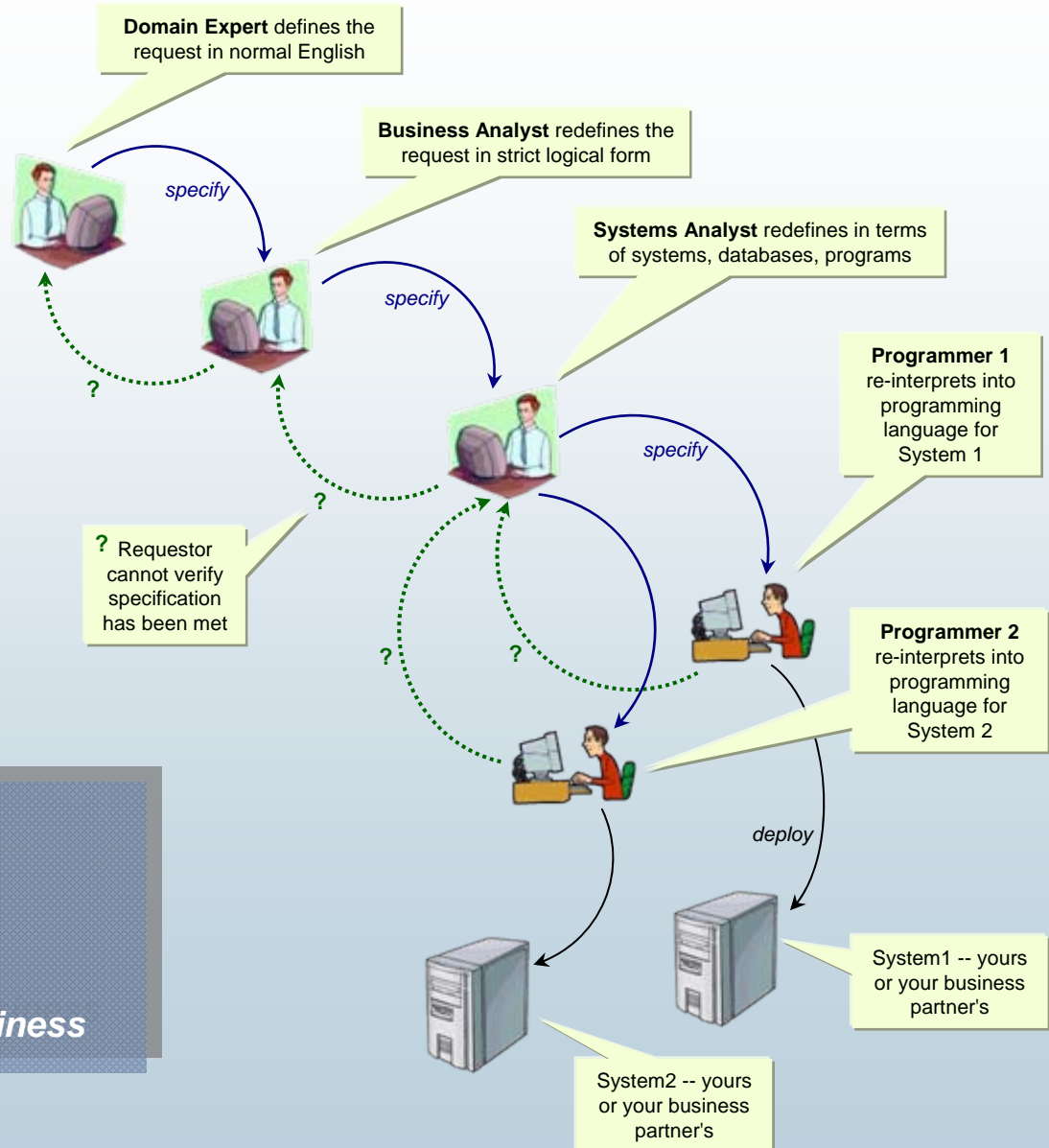
## The old way . . .

Implementing a business rule involves multiple steps

Each step reinterprets the specification

No step provides feedback in a form the requestor understands

- ◆ *Takes longer*
- ◆ *Costs more*
- ◆ *More opportunities for error*
- ◆ *Rules less accessible to the business*



## The IDIOM way . . .

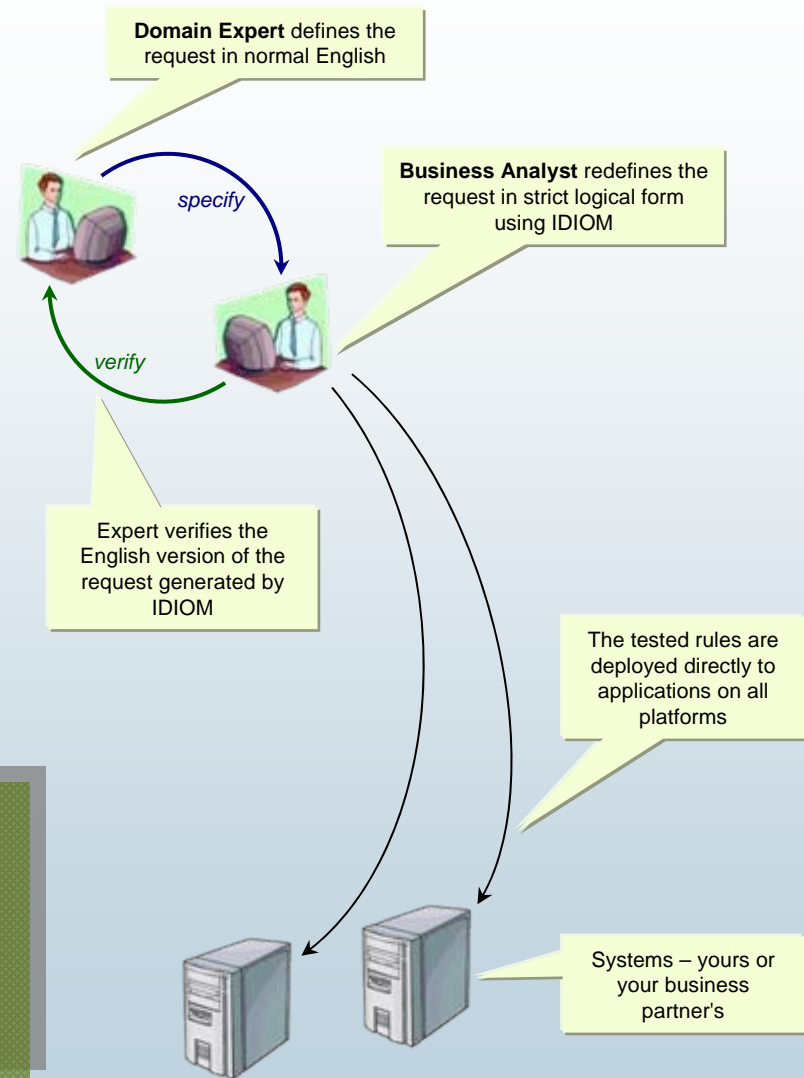
Closed loop around the Expert reduces errors

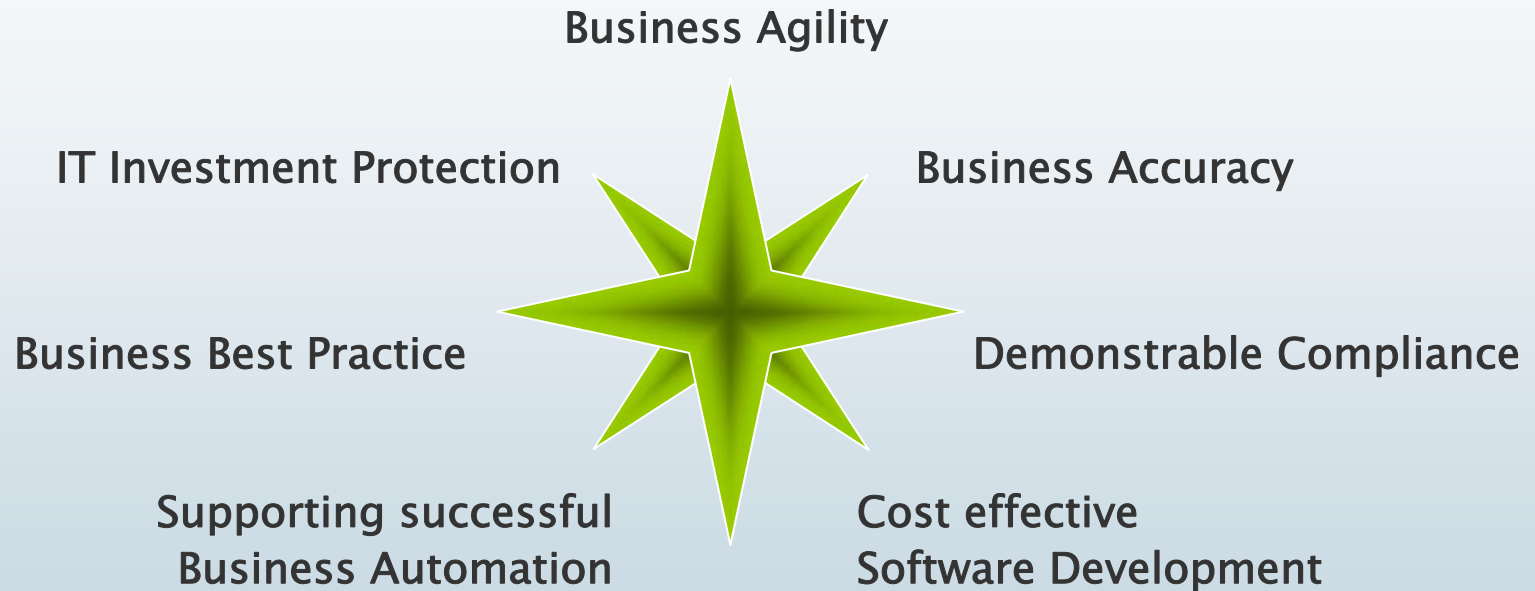
Expert and Analyst understand each other's specifications

Rules are not re-interpreted into code

Tested rules are deployed directly into systems

- ◆ *Fewer opportunities for error*
- ◆ *Reduced time and cost*
- ◆ *Cleaner, more maintainable system design*
- ◆ *Rules inherently accessible to the business*





## Business Agility

*Easily change business practice by changing the IDIOM business rules*

Easily, quickly, with minimal expense or risk  
*because ...*

- programming eliminated
- minimal testing required
- minimal impact on system
- accuracy of rules easily verifiable.

Freedom to ...

- reconfigure business practice over time
- define rules for particular periods of time
- reconfigure rules for needs of specific locations or channels.

## IT Investment Protection

### *Rules survive system change*

Replace the system, plug the rules of business practice into the new system

### *Extend life of legacy systems*

Improve legacy system's adaptability:

Use **IDIOM** when

- adding new functionality to the core
- revising or replacing outdated components.

Evolve, don't disrupt. When a replacement system threatens, use **IDIOM** to ...

- make the existing system more agile
- bridge the transition.



## Business Accuracy

*Rules in the system are what the business wants and expects  
(WYSIWYG)*

Accuracy verifiable because

- generated code matches rules in **IDIOM**
- rules in **IDIOM** documented and readable by the business.

The 'chain of whispers' from business to programmer is eliminated.

## Business Best Practice

*Rules development elicits and preserves your business's best practice*

During rules development

- business experts contribute expertise
- rules developers capture it in the **IDIOM** rules repository.

A knowledge base of best practice evolves.

Knowledge is not lost when key people leave.

Capturing and codifying business practice helps it to evolve in a managed way.

## Demonstrable Compliance

### *Business practice documented and accessible*

Standards, statutes, regulatory requirements increasingly dominate business practice.

Demonstrating compliance is becoming increasingly important (ENRON, Basel Accord)

**IDIOM** facilitates auditing because:

- **IDIOM** documents business practice
- Guarantees deployed system matches documentation

## Supporting successful Business Automation

*Automated systems gain the flexibility they need to serve the business effectively*

Service industries seek efficiency by automating their business decision processes.

*Without a rules-centric approach*

- ... the benefit of automation is lost
- ... when business inflexibility results
- ... because the system is hard to change.

**IDIOM's** rules-centric approach ensures the system is flexible.

**IDIOM** provides the upside of automation without the downside.

## Cost effective Software Development

### *IDIOM reduces cost and increases effectiveness of system development*

Development of new systems simplified and accelerated: rules development by business people means

- reduced programming
- better distribution of effort
- better value for effort

Effort to maintain systems is reduced:

- rule changes more easily made
- systems remain viable longer

**IDIOM** is easy to adopt

- does not demand technology changes
- has minimal dependencies – generates code in standard languages

Increases ability for systems to benefit from industry standards for data exchange and B2B communication

This concludes the IDIOM approach and benefits

