

RULEXPRESS

THE BUSINESS TOOL FOR EXPRESSING AND COMMUNICATING BUSINESS RULES.

FAQs ABOUT RULEXPRESS

WHAT ROLE WILL IT PLAY IN YOUR ORGANIZATION?

WHAT IS RULEXPRESS?

RuleXpress is a business friendly workstation providing direct business level interaction with business rules, including the business terminology that supports them.

WHY RULEXPRESS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION?

RuleXpress proactively addresses the costs of business level miscommunication, stovepipe vocabularies, and misinterpretation of policy. The simple notion is to enable highly refined specification of business logic before it gets to IT system development and implementation under IT platforms. RuleXpress never requires business people to force fit their knowledge into forms unnatural to them as is often the case under IT methodologies.

Specifically, RuleXpress provides business oriented support for measuring and improving quality in capturing, assessing and changing business rules and the related business vocabulary. In doing so, RuleXpress directly addresses significant risks in today's business environment, including how to:

- Retain core business worker knowledge.
- Ensure compliance with regulation.
- Educate new business workers quickly in the thoughtware of the organization.

WHO IS RULEXPRESS FOR?

RuleXpress is for direct use by business workers in developing, analyzing and retaining the elements of corporate guidance and knowhow (i.e., business rules). RuleXpress permits business workers to directly shape the rules of corporate governance and special knowledge competencies, and to directly build the comprehensive business glossaries (semantics) needed to support them.

WHAT IS RULEXPRESS NOT INTENDED FOR?

RuleXpress is not intended in any way to substitute for or replace any of the following:

- Runtime rule engines, inference engines, or similar IT tools or platforms used to evaluate and/or execute rules.
- Editors that support specification and/or management of rules for such tools.
- Software requirements tools supporting specification of IT application systems embedding or using such rules.

WHAT WILL BUSINESS WORKERS TYPICALLY USE RULEXPRESS TO DO?

Commonplace activities include the following.

- *Term Management.* Define and manage a business community glossary.
- *Fact Modeling.* Define structured relationships between the various terms of the glossary, captured and portrayed visually.
- *Rule Capture.* Define the business rules of the business community in a pointandclick, grammatically “smart” environment.
- *Rule Group Presentation.* Define groups of sequenced rules for presentation and revision purposes.
- *Assess Quality.* Assess the quality of a specific term, fact or rule, or of an entire glossary and collection of business rules to discover logical and grammatical problems at the business level.
- *Report.* Navigate the various complex dependencies among terms, facts and rules, and report on them.
- *Import Terminology and Business Rules.* Import terms and rules from Microsoft Excel and other sources.

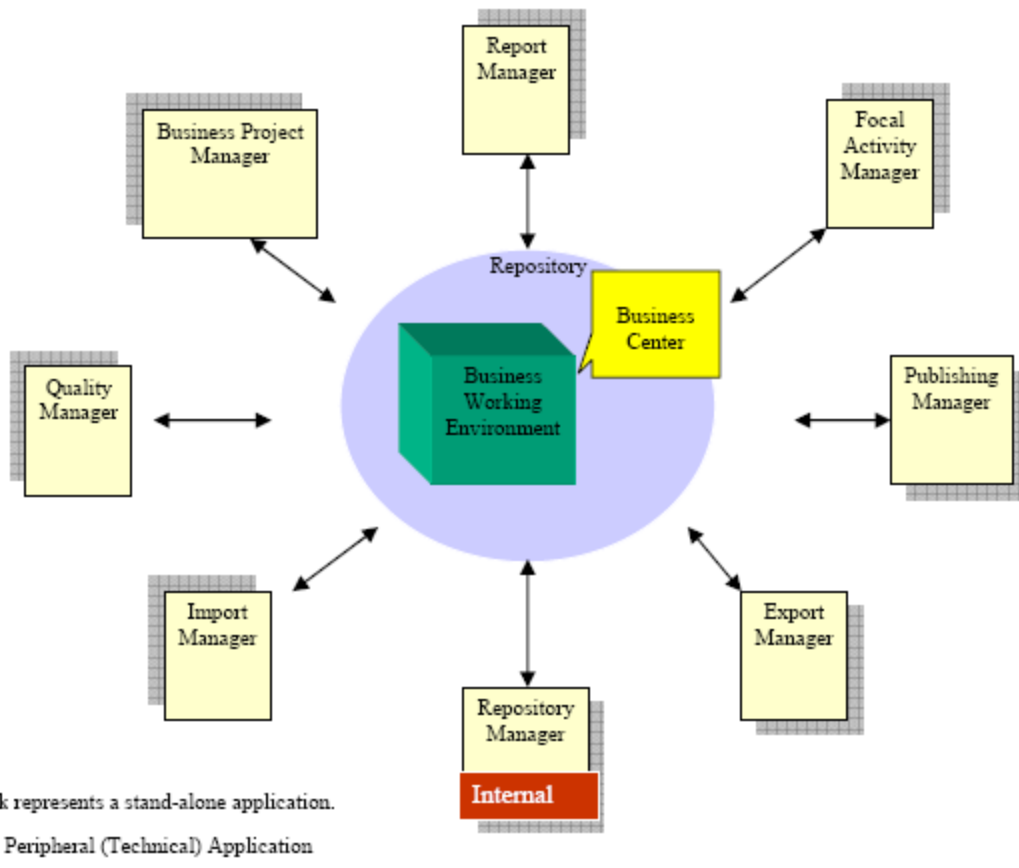
HOW IS RULEXPRESS MANAGED?

IT staff, advanced business rules analysts, and project managers use the Peripheral Applications of RuleXpress to configure the day-to-day activities of the various business workers.

WHAT IS THE ARCHITECTURE OF RULEXPRESS?

The Business Center is the heart of the RuleXpress suite of applications. Business workers use the Business Center to undertake their business vocabulary and rule activities directly. It provides integrated help and instructions on an as-needed, inline basis, as well as a large inventory of examples.

The activities offered by the Business Center are defined for the business worker’s focal activity. By this means, each RuleXpress user (community member) can have his/her own customized application constructed to serve his/her day-to-day work in the best manner possible.



HOW DOES RULEXPRESS RELATE TO RULE ENGINES?

You would not want to import rules expressed in the language of a commercial inference or rule engine (e.g., production rules) into RuleXpress without reverse engineering them into business vocabulary and grammar. In native form, such rule specifications are of little value to business people. RuleXpress is not intended to manage rules expressed in the language of a rule engine but will support you once the rules are expressed in a business vocabulary, for management of rules by business people.

The translation of business statements to programming statements is usually not a simple 1to1 conversion. The IT Department, however, might want to trace from business level expression of rules in RuleXpress to counterpart IT statements within a rule engine platform, or in the reverse direction. This bridging is supported in the following manner:

- In RuleXpress the business can state for each business rule in which IT components the business rule is relevant.
- The publishing methods of RuleXpress will allow users to create reports or other means of communication to inform the IT department of the (changed) business rules.
- For a specific commercial business rules engine product a custom integration may be developed so that the business rules statements of RuleXpress are inserted (for example as comments of rules) in this product. Depending on the target product this integration may need assistance from the development team of the product.
- RuleXpress business rules statements that conform to the highest quality standards can be exported to the formal model of OMG's Business Semantic of Business Rules (BSBR) Standard. Rules engines that are compliant with this

standard can then interpret the rules to their own syntax.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE IT PROFESSIONAL KNOW ABOUT RULEXPRESS?

The RuleXpress Repository API will provide easy access to the repository by external applications. The database schema of the repository is openly available to customers so that they can write queries directly against the database.

RuleXpress will not place significant emphasis (at least initially) on publishing to third-party proprietary formats. However, support will be made available to customers, partners and/or others who do wish to undertake such development.

RuleXpress will have predefined quality thresholds that must be satisfied to publish or transform repository content to particular formats.

SOME KEY-FEATURES OF RULEXPRESS

- *Management of Vocabulary (including a Fact Model) and Rules.* RuleXpress dynamically links concepts used in Rule Statements to the Vocabulary using Natural Language. No (formal or technical) syntax required.
- *Various ways to organize your Vocabulary and Rules.* Communities can be defined to define the ownership of concepts and rules. Rule to Rule Relationships and Rule Groups are used to define relationships and coherence between Rules (within and between communities).
- *Powerful Reporting capabilities.* Define template reports or produce ad hoc reports.
- *Decision Tables.* Capture and manage rules in consolidated representations, especially decision tables and possibly decision trees.
- *Lexical Support.* Lookup terms in an English dictionary.
- *Verification Support.* Evaluate sets of rules at the business level to avoid inconsistency, incompleteness, conflict, overlap, and redundancy.
- *Publishing Methods.* Publish a glossary and/or set of rules to an external audience. Methods may include HTML, XML, and RTF, as well as proprietary formats such as Microsoft Office or Rule Engine Products.
- *Support for the business' Natural Language.* RuleXpress currently supports capturing terms, facts and rules in Dutch and Spanish. Other languages will be made available.
- *Extensible Meta Model.* All manageable items in RuleXpress have a standard set of attributes (Properties) that can be customized and extended.

WHERE IS RULEXPRESS GOING?

Some of the features and capabilities in development or planned for RuleXpress are the following.

- *OMG's Business Semantic of Business Rules (BSBR) Standard.* RuleXpress will support this emerging standard once a final version is accepted by the OMG. The architecture of RuleXpress has been shaped by direct, active participation in this initiative since its startup in early 2003.
- *Semantic Search & Replace.* Find and replace based on meaning rather than merely on specific text fragments.
- *Expression Support.* Interactive edit and grammatical support to help in expressing business definitions and business rule statements properly.
- *Office Integration.* Publish your vocabulary and rules to your Office Environment to ensure that business professionals use the preferred terms and are able to look up rules and definitions in their day to day work.
- *Multilanguage Support.* Support for capturing terms, facts and rules in multiple languages (e.g., English, Dutch, Spanish, etc.), with language conversions based on defined common meanings.

WHO IS BEHIND RULEXPRESS?

RuleXpress is a joint venture of:

Business Rule Solutions, LLC (www.BRSolutions.com), the world leader in applied business rule techniques.

LibRT USA, Inc. (www.LibRT.com), the world leader in commercial rule verification and validation software