

PERSPECTIVE OF IDIOM LTD

Idiom Ltd¹ focuses on a specific niche of rules practice with its Idiom Decision Manager product. We see ourselves as being particularly focused on the type of rules that are likely to be developed by users who are external to the traditional systems development process. These rules implement business decisions and are true business rules, contrasting with semantic rules that define the knowledge domain. Idiom rules can be considered to be proxies for the decision making behavior of the person or role who has defined them, and to assist this decision focus we have developed the Decision Centric Development Approach.

With regards to rule interoperability, we already have multiple third parties who are developing rules for commercial re-sale, or otherwise for use by other un-related parties. This pattern of rules ‘built by one party for execution by another’ is standard behavior within the Idiom rules community. The effect is to allow the rules owning party to export its decision making behavior into third party systems. Examples include validation, underwriting, and rating of insurance and similar contracts; or, calculation and approval of revenue for patient episodes in health.

Therefore we see the benefit of being able to submit our rules for execution by third party rules engines. We believe that our target rules are likely to represent a small but important subset of the entire rules domain that is being considered by the Workshop. For instance, we assume that data complies with a schema. This means that Idiom rules never address the issues that are described by a schema such as datatype, relationships, cardinality, optionality, enumeration, etc.

Idiom is targeted at a defined subset of the Business Rules Group’s² classifications. It does not support inductive inference, fact or term business rules. Rather, it supports the definition and implementation of action assertion (constraint), mathematical calculation and deductive derivation business rules.

There are no assertions, and no rete algorithm. Our IP is essentially related to the speed and certainty with which non-technical users can define and deploy their own decision making behavior. In this regard we would expect any interoperability standard to allow rules to be defined as a using of predicate logic, Xpath navigation, and various permutations and calculations.

We would be pleased to contribute in a more specific way when we have a better idea of the overall goals and direction of the Workshop. In any event, we applaud the authors of the workshop for creating this useful forum, and we look forward to playing our part in due course. Thank You.

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¹ www.idiomsoftware.com

² <http://www.businessrulesgroup.org/brgdefn.htm>