The IBM FileNet Business Process Manager Advantage

For organizations that are looking to cut costs and increase levels of service and productivity, the IBM FileNet Business Process Manager Suite is an enterprise-class Business Process Management software offering that allows organizations to automate, integrate and optimize their business processes.

IBM FileNet ECM technology

IBM FileNet Business Process Manager (BPM) manages the flow of work throughout your business by streamlining, automating and optimizing business processes. It also enables the business to monitor, measure and control its processes.

Unlike other BPM-only offerings, the IBM FileNet BPM solution uniquely integrates process and content with deeply embedded analytics and simulation to deliver a comprehensive BPM solution that provides unparalleled Return on Investment and lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO). The BPM suite is built on the IBM FileNet P8 platform for greater value and investment protection by allowing customers to easily add IBM FileNet Records Manager, Web Site Manager (WSM) and Team Collaboration Manager as needs dictate.

Transitioning to BPM from eProcess is helped considerably by the fact that eProcess shares a number of common components with the new BPM platform. Nevertheless, the move to BPM offers significant additional capabilities over eProcess.

Why transition to BPM?

The benefits of moving to BPM are both improvements to existing functionality and access to entirely new capabilities.

Standards-based process modeling and design

Business analysts can use IBM FileNet Process Modeler, a Visio-based, easy-to-use modeling environment to define Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN) based process models, with support for swim lanes and other process modeling features. Process Designer supports the widely accepted process execution standard, XPDL. BPMN-based process models can be directly mapped to process definitions in XPDL to be used in the designer.

Improved user experience – BPF and Workplace

BPM provides Business Process Framework (BPF), a BPM application development framework that allows organizations to quickly develop and deploy process applications for FileNet Business Process Manager. Ideal for case-based applications, BPF provides configurable and common UI elements that results in speed in development, a common foundation for BPM applications, and a better end-user UI experience. BPF reduces the total cost of ownership for BPM applications. BPM also includes an out-of-the-box administrative and development portal, Workplace, that provides easy access to all BPM functionality. This helps reduce TCO and can accelerate the speed of deployment.

Both Workplace and BPF run on standard J2EE application servers such as IBM WebSphere and BEA WebLogic, leveraging Java and Web standards HTML and XML.

SOA, Web services, and process orchestration support

Integration capabilities are extended in Process Designer to directly discover and integrate functionality exposed as XML Web Services utilizing the WS-BPEL standard.

In addition to consuming Web services, Process Designer can publish entire defined processes as Web services, automatically generating a WSDL (Web Service Definition Language) and publishing it to a UDDI (Universal Description Discovery and Integration) registry.

The Process Engine includes a WSDL based Web services API besides the Java API. BPM also implements Web services standards such as WS-ReliableMessaging for Web services communication and WS-Security for Web services security.

Sophisticated event based processing

BPM has a fully integrated Content Engine. This provides a sophisticated publish and subscribe event-based processing capability. This allows external business events to trigger the launching of new processes or interact with running processes, without the need for custom development. This in turn enables the deployment of processes that are more responsive to external business events, elevating the level of business agility.

Better high availability and scalability support

BPM provides farming or clustering of Process Engines for better scalability and fail-over support. BPM ships with agents for both Microsoft Cluster Server and Veritas Cluster Server. This allows organizations to deploy mission critical BPM applications in a high availability configuration.

Process optimization through simulation and analysis

BPM provides a fully integrated Process Simulator. The simulation environment is integrated with both Process Designer and Process Analyzer. Process definitions created in Process Designer can be simulated in Process Simulator. This ensures the accuracy of simulations, by minimizing any loss of process fidelity between simulations and actual deployments.

The simulation environment is integrated with Process Analyzer. Process Simulator is able to directly leverage actual process performance data when creating process simulations. Process simulations also generate exactly the same analytics data as real processes in production. This allows real and simulated processes to undergo side-by-side comparison, ensuring that the benefits of a new process are quantified before the process is ever deployed.

Electronic forms support – eForms

BPM fully integrates with IBM FileNet eForms, allowing you to create smart and high-fidelity electronic forms for each human activity in processes.

Business Activity Monitoring (BAM)

BPM offers BAM that provides visibility into the execution of business processes and overall organizational performance as measured per various metrics. Business managers can have their own customized dashboards, receive alerts, and if need be, initiate an action or workflows from their dashboard.

Enhanced integration options

BPM provides additional options for integrating applications into defined business processes. The Component Integrator has the additional capability to directly leverage Message Queue via the application servers Java Message Service (JMS).

Unified security, access control, and user directory

User identities are maintained via integration with LDAP Directory Services. This synchronizes Users and Groups with corporate directory services,

eliminating the need to maintain additional users and groups.

Integrated compliance solution

BPM is an integrated component of the IBM FileNet Enterprise Content Management solution. As such it can integrate with compliance solutions such as IBM FileNet Records Manager and IBM FileNet Email Manager.

How difficult is the transition?

The work required to transition to BPM is greatly eased due to the common componentry shared between eProcess and BPM.

Common Process Designer

IBM FileNet Process Designer provides a superset of functionality offered by its eProcess counterpart. This means that existing process definitions created in eProcess can be easily upgraded by opening them in Process Designer.

Common Java API

The Java API underpinning both eProcess and BPM shares a common heritage. This both minimizes the changes needed to transition custom code and reduces the training requirements for development resources.

Summary

The BPM suite offers significant additional benefits to organizations that have deployed eProcess. Organizations can build on the successes achieved with eProcess by taking their processes to a new level of business performance with IBM FileNet BPM.

To find out how your organization can benefit from IBM FileNet P8, contact us at 1-800-FileNet (345-3638) or outside the U.S. at 714-327-4800. Or visit us at filenet.com/accelerate

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