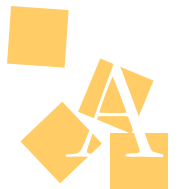
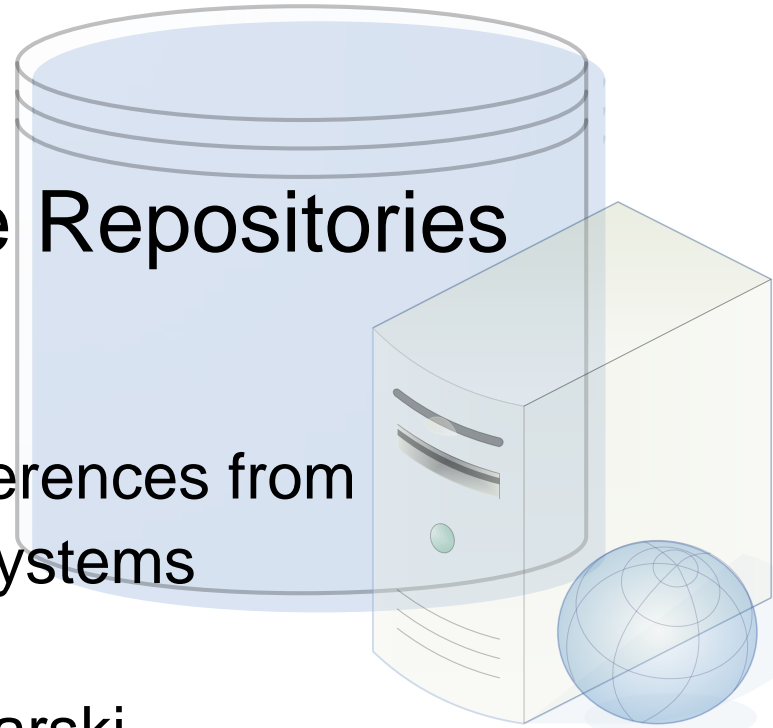


Enterprise Business Rule Repositories

Requirements and Differences from
CMS and RMS Systems

By Krzysztof Karski

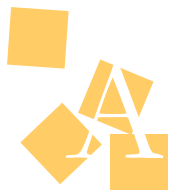
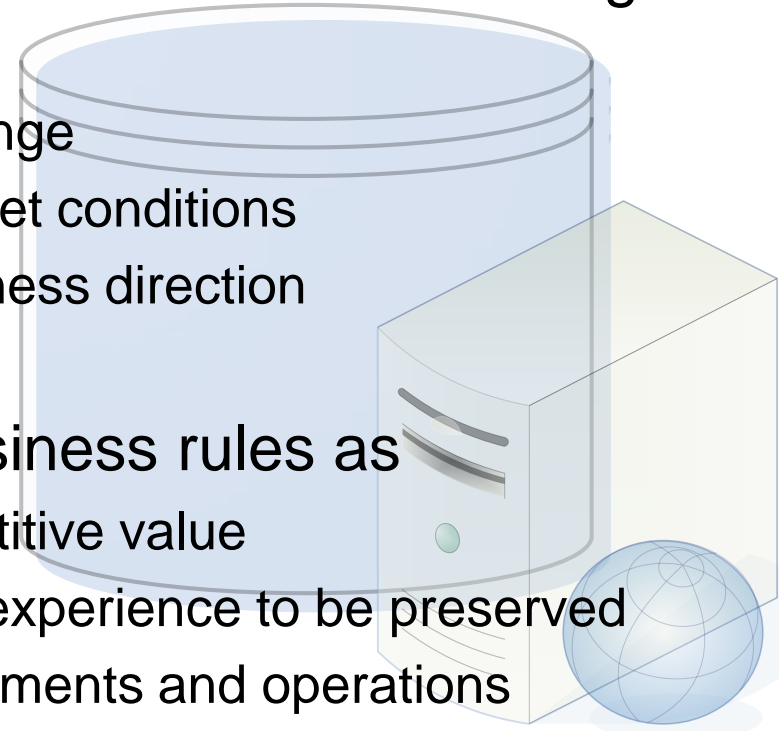


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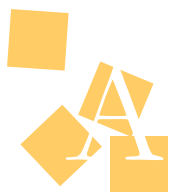
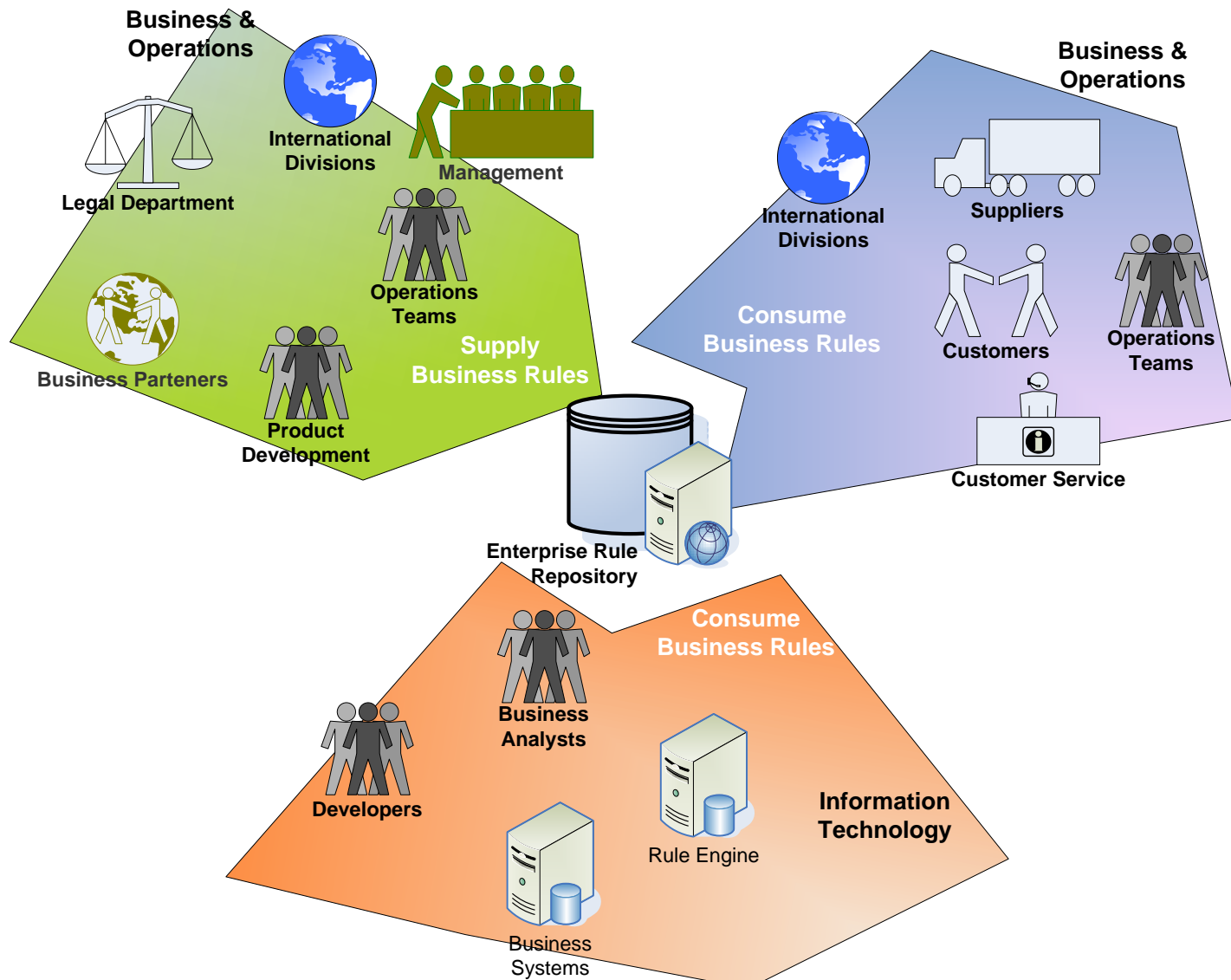
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Purpose of a Business Rule Repository

- Part of ensuring an organization responds in a holistic and uniform fashion at all levels to a change in business practices
 - In response to regulatory change
 - In response to changing market conditions
 - In response to changing business direction
- To recognize and utilize business rules as
 - Intellectual property of competitive value
 - Hard earned knowledge and experience to be preserved
 - Corporate compliance requirements and operations transparency
 - Marketable commodity with intrinsic market value



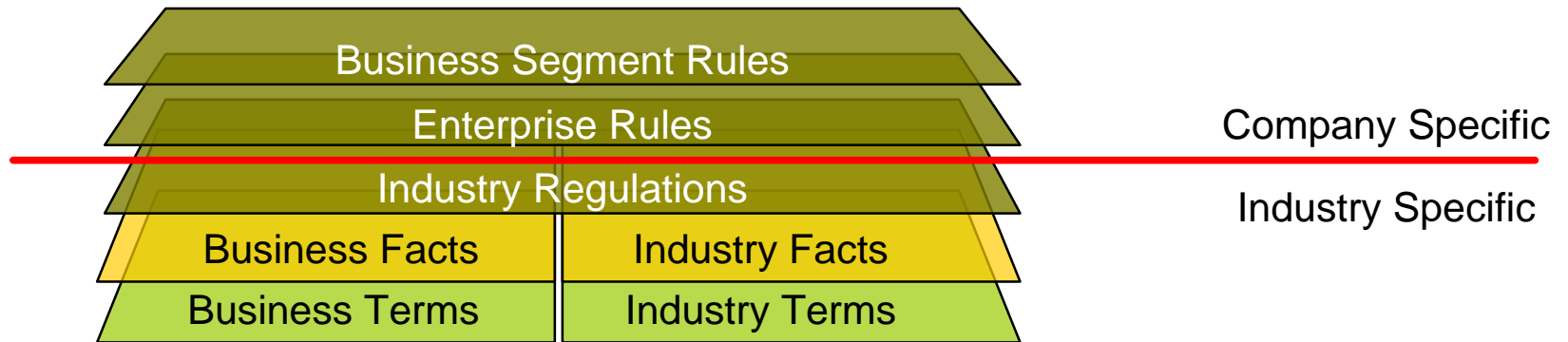
Enterprise Rule Repository in Context



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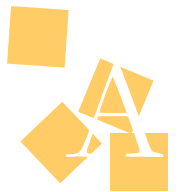
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Layers of Governance



What is a Business Rule Repository?

- Ideally a computerized and automated system for storing, accessing and managing a company's business rules in a natural language
- Used across the enterprise by primarily business people but also IT people and IT systems
- Supports a rule's full lifecycle and overall management workflows of rules
- Ensures business rules are consistent, unambiguous and correct
- Provides solid rule distribution and publishing capabilities



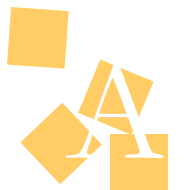
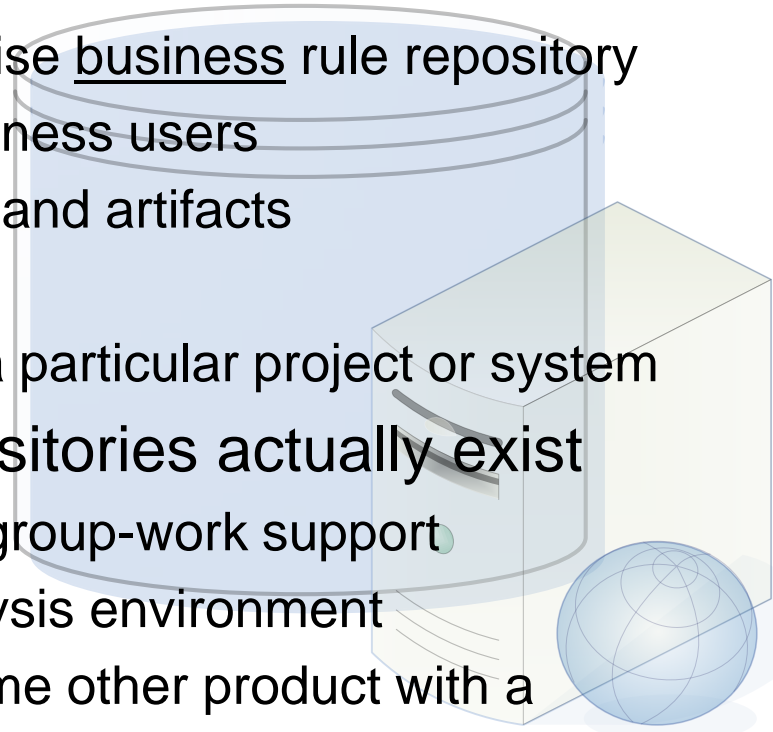
What is Different about a Rule Repository?

- Rule engine independent management system for business rules
- Helps define terminology and business concepts according to the business domain
- Enforces rule dependence on terms, facts and concepts
- Provides search capabilities factoring in fact and concept model
- Enforces proper rule expression and grammar
- Enables rule interdependency analysis
- Provides additional rule specific context information
- Promotes rule reuse and supports rules being organized differently depending on need



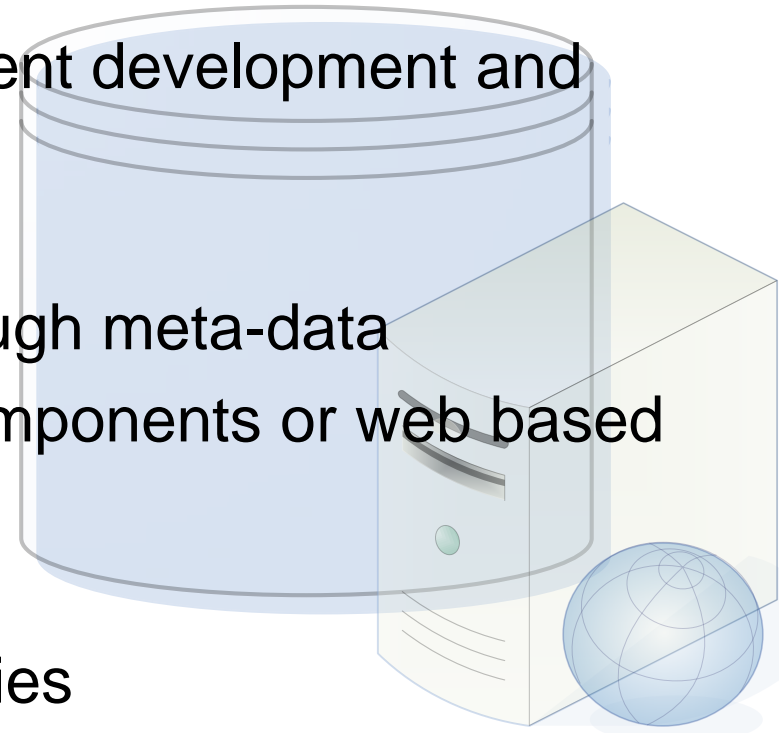
“Business” Rule Repositories Today

- Most companies use their rule engine as the only rule repository
 - Not appropriate for an enterprise business rule repository
 - Not visible to any or most business users
 - Engine specific rule language and artifacts
 - Often require technical skills
 - Silos rules knowledge inside a particular project or system
- Few true business rule repositories actually exist
 - Still immature and with weak group-work support
 - Often a rule authoring or analysis environment
 - Possibly embedded within some other product with a different core competency



Useful Rule Management Aspects of a CMS

- Built to manage textual content expressed in natural language
- Facilitate collaborative content development and workflows
- Provide role based security
- Provide added context through meta-data
- Often include publishing components or web based access
- Rich search capabilities
- Provide versioning capabilities



Rule Management Shortcomings of CMS

- Does not enforce consistency in expression
 - Terminology
 - Fact model
- Does not understand the structure of the content
 - Proper rule writing grammar and keywords
 - Enforcement of chosen rule expression templates
 - Consistency, consistency, consistency
- Specialized content reuse functionality
 - Extend or reuse rulesets in other rulesets
 - Referencing specific rules inside of other rule artifacts
- Logical vs. physical organization of content
 - Organizing and presenting the same content differently depending on role, responsibility or step in workflow
- Often, too document based



Useful Rule Management Aspects of a RMS

- Understands the role of content as requirements and guidance
- Provides good identification, traceability and versioning capabilities
- Supports large teams and complex workflows
- Supports role based security
- May provide some functionality to resolve contradictions, redundancies and overlaps

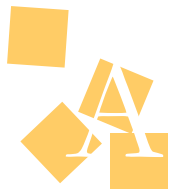
Rule Management Shortcomings of a RMS

- Does not enforce consistency in expression
 - Terminology and fact model
- Does not understand the structure of the content
 - Proper rule writing grammar and keywords
 - Enforcement of chosen rule expression templates
 - Consistency, consistency, consistency
- Logical vs. physical organization of content
 - Organizing and presenting the same content differently depending on role, responsibility or step in workflow
- Enterprise wide access would be a challenge
- Content layout, formatting and delivery are not a strength



Q & A

Thank You



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