



IBM Software Group

WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1.2

Points of agility



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This education module will discuss features of WebSphere Business Modeler version 6.1.2 that support a dynamic computing environment.

BPM “Points of agility”

- IBM's BPM Suite is unique in its ability to support the demanding needs of agile businesses today. Key enablers that make an organization's processes more flexible and dynamic are called "points of agility".
- The six BPM points of agility are as follows:
 - ▶ **EVENTS:** Business events occurring from multiple sources (internal or external to the organization) which are correlated into actionable event patterns that may initially appear random and non-sequenced.
 - ▶ **ANALYTICS:** The analysis of information from processes, applications, events, historical data, and other sources to support decision making and improve business performance.
 - ▶ **RULES:** Combinations of procedural logic (if A, then B, until Z) typically applied to general purpose decisions, assignments, or routing needs.
 - ▶ **SERVICE SELECTION:** Selection of the most appropriate service asset in an SOA for a given service request.
 - ▶ **ACTIVE CONTENT:** Content that is logically filed, automatically changed or personalized, initiates corresponding processes, and requests additional content as needed.
 - ▶ **POLICIES:** Combinations of business-level, declarative statements used to dynamically assemble business functionality into business processes.

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Points of agility

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IBM's Business Process Management suite is unique in its ability to support the demanding needs of agile businesses today. Key enablers that make an organization's processes more flexible and dynamic are called “points of agility”.

Organizations have these “points of agility” today, but unfortunately they are not so agile. They can be handled by manual processes, inefficient human tasks, or in some cases can be ad-hoc and undocumented. IBM's Business Process Management suite is unique in its ability to make each of these points more agile, responsive, reliable, and scalable through the application of the suite's product capabilities.

Points of agility

- Places within the business process that can be easily monitored and modified by business leaders.
- Business measures
- Business rules
- WebSphere Business Services Fabric V6.1.2



These points of agility are generally places in the business process where a person that is knowledgeable about the business and business processes can affect the way the business process behaves without rewriting or redeploying the entire business process.

For WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1.2, the points of agility that have been identified are the business measures, the business rules and the WebSphere Business Services Fabric. WebSphere Business Services Fabric is an additional runtime product that runs on top of WebSphere Process Server.

Business measures enhancements

- Support for generating fully-implemented monitor models
 - ▶ Monitor models can be generated in either the one or two tier structure.
- Generated monitor models can be published directly to BPM repository
- Support for specifying operators for KPI data filters
- Business measures created to capture *monitored values* are shown in the Business Measures view
 - ▶ Icon overlays identify these monitored value business measures
- Updated dashboard samples to reflect the latest KPI visualizations
 - ▶ New image for the simple KPI view
 - ▶ Updated image for the gauge view



The goal with this release of WebSphere Business Modeler is to enable the business analyst or business leader to completely specify the monitor model so that it can be deployed and run without further modification. This is achieved in part, with strict validation that provides warnings when a business measure is not fully implemented.

The exported monitor models can be generated in either the one or two tier structure. With the two tier monitor models the business measures are separated from the life cycle or infrastructure events.

Other improvements include the ability to use the BPM repository for sharing the monitor models with the integration development teams, improved data filters, visual indicators for the monitored values and updated dashboard gauges. The new usability enhancements are discussed further in subsequent slides.

Validation and warning

The screenshot displays the 'Business Measure Details' window. A blue arrow points to a warning icon and message at the top: 'The instance metric "Send Offer Business Item Input" for the element "Hiring" uses the "Business Item Input" template and is missing the required attribute, so the instance metric will require further editing in the WebSphere Business Monitor development toolkit.'

The interface includes a left-hand navigation tree with categories: KPIs, Instance Metrics, Send Offer Busin, Aggregate Metrics, Dimensions, and Unspecified Metrics. The main area is titled 'Business Measure Information' and contains the following fields:

- Name: Send Offer Business Item Input
- Type: KPI Instance metric Aggregate metric Unspecified
- Description: This metric measures the value of an attribute of the input to Send Offer.

Below this is a 'Predefined Metric Template' section with a checked checkbox: 'Specify a predefined business measure template for this metric'. It includes dropdown menus for 'Template' (set to 'Business Item Input') and 'Process element' (set to 'Send Offer'), along with an 'Attribute' field and a 'Brow' button.

At the bottom of the window, there is a footer with 'Points of agility' and '© 2008 IBM Corporation'.

Shown in this screen capture is an example of a warning message that is presented when a business measure is only partially specified. By having the warning messages the business analyst is able to ensure that the business measures being created are whole perfect and complete, ready to run. Ensuring that the business measures are completely specified by the business analyst reduces the margin of error potentially introduced by the implementation team.

Monitored business measures created

Before monitored value set

Icon overlay

Process Element	Processing Time	Processing Cost
Applicant Accepts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approve Executive Application	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approve Standard Application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Check Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create Employee Records	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name	Target	Time Period	Description
Average Approve Standard Application Processing Cost			This metric measures the average processing cost of Approve Standard Application

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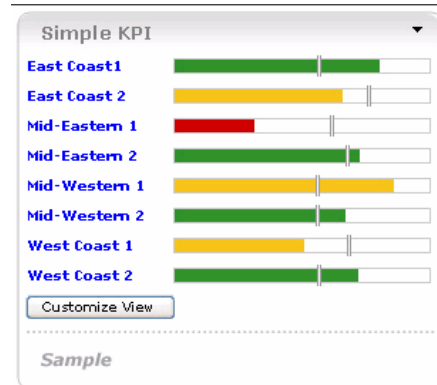
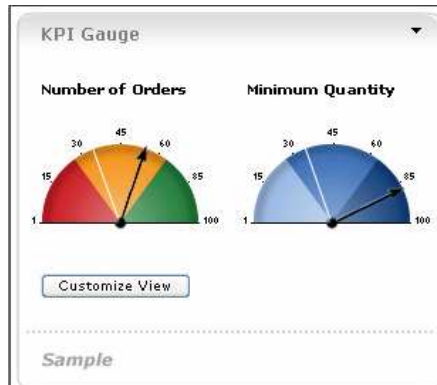
For every monitored value created, there must be a supporting metric. With WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1.2, the required metric is automatically created when the monitored value is selected.

The first screen capture in the upper left shows the aggregate metrics before a monitored value has been selected. The second screen capture on the upper right depicts the decision to monitor the processing cost for the “Approve standard application” human task. When the selection is made, the supporting metric is automatically created as shown in the third screen capture on the bottom.

Every metric that is automatically created to support a monitored value is also given a visual cue in the form of an icon overlay. If the monitored value is cleared, then the supporting metric is also removed.

Undated dashboard samples

- KPI Gauge
- Simple KPI



Two new KPI visualizations have been introduced and are shown here, the KPI gauge and the simple KPI.

KPI data filter operators - support lists

The screenshot displays the 'Business Measure Details' window in IBM Business Monitor. A warning message at the top states: 'The KPI "Measure 2" for the element "Hiring" does not have a type specified, so the KPI will require further editing in the WebSphere Business Monitor development toolkit.'

The main interface is divided into several sections:

- Business Measure Information:** Name: Measure 2; Type: KPI (selected); Description: (empty).
- KPI Calculation Information:** Includes options for 'Specify the underlying inst.', 'Specify how to calcul', 'Instance metric to ac', and 'Aggregation Function'.
- KPI Data Filter:** A checkbox 'Specify data filters to limit the values included in the calculation for this KPI' is checked. Below it is a table for defining filters.

A 'Values to Include' dialog box is open, titled 'Specify the list of values'. It contains a list of filter values with 'Add' and 'Remove' buttons. The current list includes 'NC' and 'VA'. Below the dialog, a table shows the configured filter:

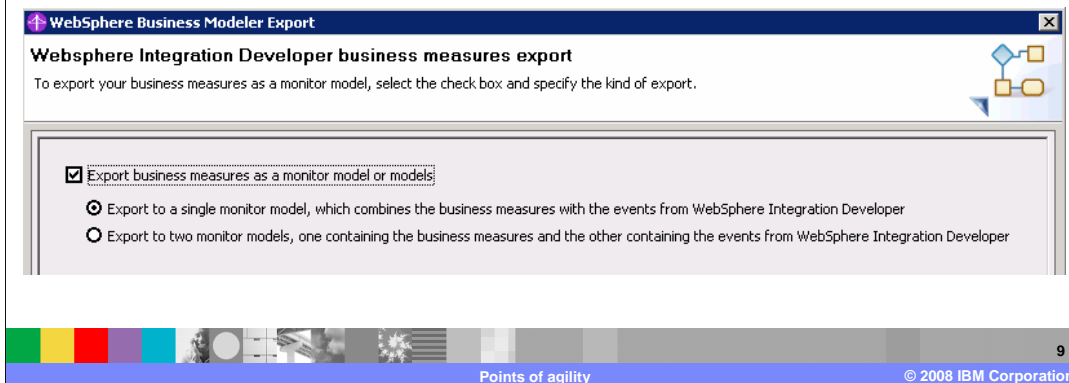
Data Filter Name	Instance Metric	Operator	Values to Include
State	Location	in	NC; VA

At the bottom of the slide, the text reads: 'Points of agility © 2008 IBM Corporation'.

The KPI data filtering capability has been extended to include lists in the operations. In the case shown here the operator is “in” and the filter is configured to include specific states. This filter will only work with data from Virginia and North Carolina.

Generating monitor models.

- Shown here is the option for the single or two-tiered option for generating a completely operational monitor model.
- Part of the normal export to WebSphere Integration Developer V6.1.2



In version 6.1.1 of WebSphere Business Modeler and WebSphere Integration Developer there was only one option for generating the monitoring model.

A commonly used pattern for constructing monitoring models is to separate the business measures from the life cycle and infrastructure events. The business measures typically come from the business model and the other events are generated by the integration developer in WebSphere Integration Developer. With version 6.1.1, this complex multi-tier solution has to be constructed and maintained manually by the integration developer.

Having good separation of concerns is essential from an architectural perspective but the double tier architecture is hard to construct and maintain. With version 6.1.2, the difficult work of constructing the two tiers and the communication channels between them, is done automatically when the two-model export option is selected.

Business rules as a point of agility

- Business rules can be created in WebSphere Business Modeler or in WebSphere Integration Developer
- Business rules written in WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1.2 are deemed as 'business relevant', those created in WebSphere Integration Developer are not
- Any business rule created in WebSphere Business Modeler 6.1.2 and beyond will have special tag *IBMSystemBRPOA*
 - ▶ Used to expose the business rule to the *Business Space* widgets
 - ▶ Only seen in the XML file
 - ▶ Based on the rule set
 - Changes made in WebSphere Integration Developer to rules in the tagged set will also pick up the *point of agility*
 - ▶ Applies to both local and global business rules

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Points of agility

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A new user interface framework called the business space is being introduced across the board with the WebSphere Business Process Management suite V6.1.2. The purpose of the business space is to provide an environment that enables the business leaders to deploy, monitor and make changes to the business processes without going through the entire application upgrade cycle. One way to change the behavior of a business process is through the use of business rules. This technology is available with WebSphere Process Server version 6.1.2 but it typically falls into the realm of the IT administrators.

With the introduction of the business space a new class of business rules, called business relevant, is created. Only the "business relevant" business rules are available in the business space. Business rules that originate from WebSphere Integration Developer are deemed infrastructural business rules and are not of interest to the business leader working in the business space.

The WebSphere Process Server runtime distinguishes between the two kinds of business rules by a system defined property embedded in the XML definition of the rule set. It is important to note that the *IBMSystemBRPOA* tag is part of the rule set definition. This means that if the business rules originated from WebSphere Business Modeler and are updated in WebSphere Integration Developer, the changes are visible in the business space.

The point of agility tag is transparent to the business leader and applies to both local and global business rules.

IBMSystemBRPOA

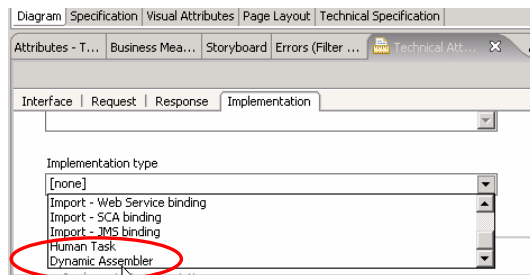
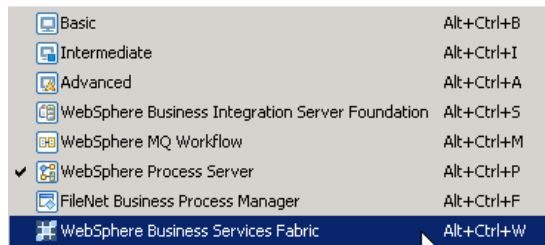
- Embedded in business rule and business rule group

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<brg:BusinessRuleGroup xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instanc
  <Description>Automated Business Rule</Description>
  <PresentationTimezone>local</PresentationTimezone>
  <OperationDef name="CheckGrade">
    <Selector>com.ibm.wbiservers.common.selection.GenericSelector</Selecto
    <ParameterDef xsi:type="acd:CodeParameterDef">
      <JavaCode>&lt;![CDATA[//@generated:com.ibm.wbit.selector.ui.Current
return new java.util.Date();]] &gt;</JavaCode>
    </ParameterDef>
  </OperationDef>
  <Interfaces>
    <Interface xsi:type="acd:WSDLPortType" portType="CheckGradeInterface:
  </Interfaces>
  <Property type="SystemDefined" name="IBMSystemBRPOA" value="true"/>
  <BusinessRuleGroupTable>CheckGrade:CheckGrade</BusinessRuleGroupTable>
  <References/>
</brg:BusinessRuleGroup>
```

Shown here is an example of a business rule definition with the embedded point of agility tag.

WebSphere Business Services Fabric

- Set the mode.
- Set the technical attribute.
- Elements
 - ▶ Local task
 - ▶ Global task
 - ▶ Global service
 - ▶ Imported external service
- Warning on export to WebSphere Integration Developer that *Fabric Composition Studio* is required.



The final piece of the agility story is the integration with the WebSphere Business Services Fabric.

WebSphere Business Services Fabric provides an end-to-end platform for the rapid assembly, delivery and governance of industry-focused composite business services in a service-oriented architecture (SOA).

There are two facets to the WebSphere Business Services Fabric support in WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1.2.

First there is the modeling mode, as shown in the screen capture on the top. The new modeling mode enables specific fabric checks and triggers the warning message on export.

Secondly, it provides the ability to indicate that a specific task or service will require dynamic assembly, that is to say, it is dynamically assembled by the WebSphere Business Services Fabric framework. Dynamic assembly is indicated through the technical attributes of the given task or service.

If the WebSphere Business Services Fabric modeling mode is on, then a warning is displayed on export, indicating that the export package depends on the fabric composition studio.

Summary

- Points of agility
 - ▶ Places to make changes dynamically
- WebSphere business measures
- WebSphere business rules
- WebSphere Business Services Fabric



Places within the business process that can be easily monitored and modified by business leaders are known as points of agility.

WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1.2 features points of agility around the business measures, the business rules and WebSphere Business Services Fabric. These new features in concert with the introduction of the WebSphere Business Space, place the power to effect change quickly and easily, in the hands of the business leaders.

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