Why they’re hot, and why you should care.  

by Mark Thellken

A Business Process Management System, as its name implies, is software that proactively manages how applications, people, and business partners behave in holistic end-to-end processes across one or more enterprises. The superior architecture is based on a customer defined process model. This model is published as a process engine as an executable “supervisory application”, which serves as the “brain” of the process. The process orchestrates the services required to fulfill the processes, whether they be from an application, person or 3rd party organization. Since the process model is 100% customer defined, the executing process accurately reflects how management wants the business to run. Since the solution is built from the top-down, driven by a process model, both the LOB and IT management can close the gap between strategy and execution. This is unlike conventional middleware products such as EAI, Workflow, Application Servers and the like. And, buyer beware; there is a whole spectrum of BPM products that are based on tried and tested technologies with a new vendor. But the effort to sift through the imposter and select a true BPM is worth the effort.

The payoff for companies comes in the form of control, speed, and agility; as well as lower total cost of ownership associated with the resources required to implement, deploy and to improve automated business processes.

Business control requires predictable execution of business processes and knowledge of how well the processes are performing against expectations. The process engine of the BPMS ensures that processes execute according to the process models and captures and catalogs process information at every step. This information is analyzed and displayed in tables and graphs to provide the business process owner a picture of operational performance. The business control realized by fixing broken processes restores margins and keeps customers.

The need for quick wins and fast ROI is counter intuitive to the use of conventional middleware products. They’re far too complex. Business Process Management Systems aren’t. That shouldn’t be. Businesses should expect 2X to 3X improvement in speed of implementation when deploying a BPMS. If a BPMS requires messaging middleware to integrate applications, those kinds of implementation expectations are impossible.

The only certainty in business is change. The ease to change and re-deploy processes to improve margins, meet customer requirements or attract business partners may be the most important capability provided by a Business Process Management System. The measured improvements in business agility realized when using a BPMS are almost beyond belief. The ability to achieve phenomenal speed to change is inherent in the architecture of a true BPMS.

Fuego 4 is the leading Business Process Management System. It offers a top down, process centric approach to solution design, development and implementation. Fuego 4’s superior architecture offers process management application integration, business to business integration, and workflow in one “solid state” product.

Businesses that deploy a true BPMS to address their pain will be very well positioned for gain. In today’s environment there are many opportunities to address pain. Thankfully, BPM systems offer nothing in opposition. In fact, the BPMS mantra should be “Think big, star small, but act fast.” Following that mantra, any enterprise can soon begin to reap the benefits offered by a BPMS at little to no risk in 60 days or less.

Fuego would welcome the opportunity to prove it to you.

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To improve the supply chain efficiencies of its polymer business, Odebrecht launched an ambitious supply chain management implementation— including supplier connections, demand forecasting and planning, transportation and logistics— based on Fuego’s Business Process Management System. Odebrecht deployed Fuego’s Business Process Management System to address a gap in the process flows, data flows and workflows between the various enterprise applications and to provide line of business managers greater visibility into the executing processes. The company has recognized a 20% increase in on time delivery, a 21% improvement in demand forecasting and a 15% reduction in transportation costs.

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