



Lambert Technical Services, LLC

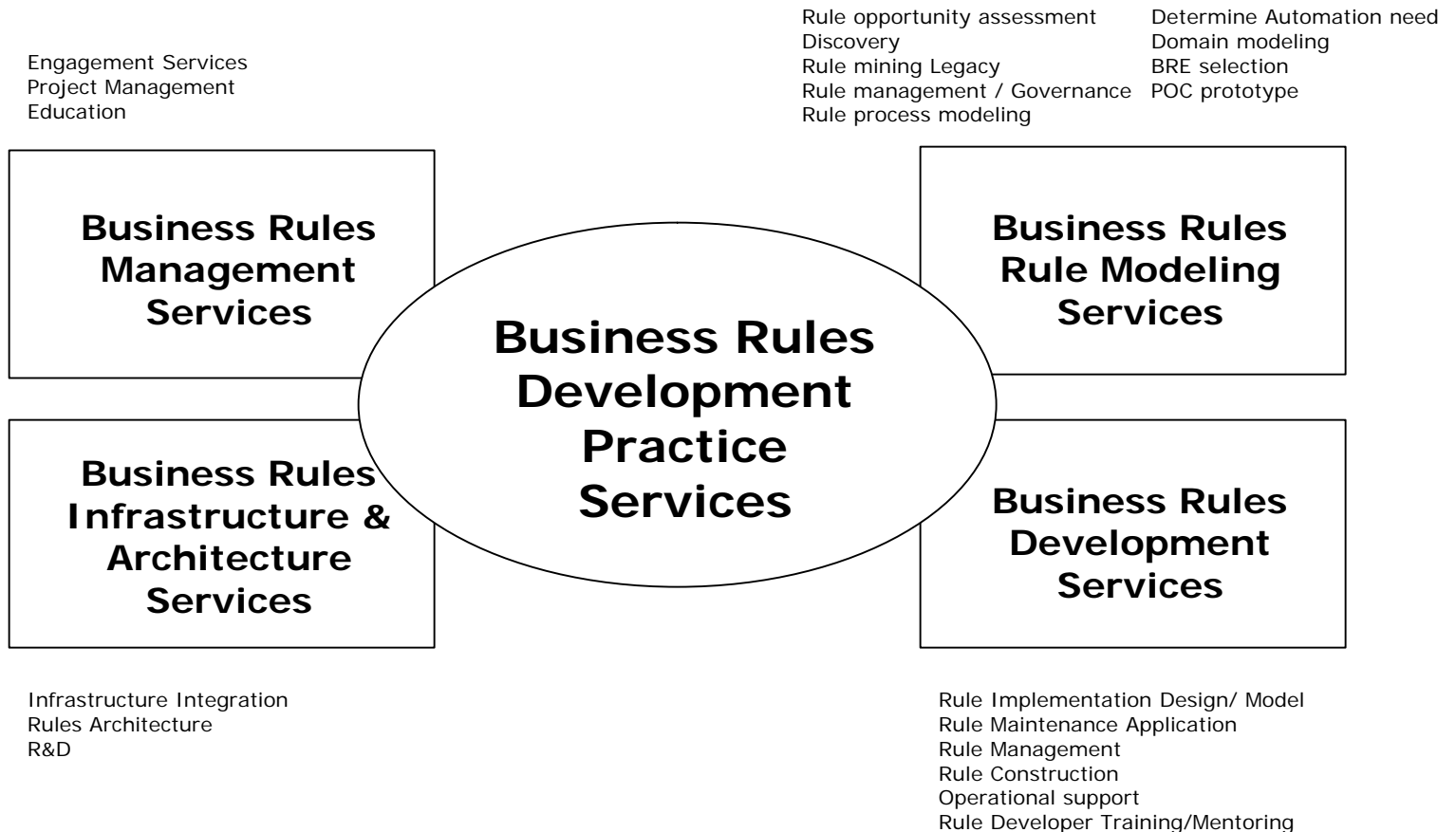
Business Rules Development Practice (BRDP)

State of Tools Marketplace For Business Rules Management

2004



BRDP Services



Business Rules Development Practice – Building Sustainable Business Rules

<http://www.lambert-tech.com/brdp.htm>

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Business Rules Development Practice

What does Lambert Technical Services (LTS) offer thru it Business Rules Development Practice (*BRDP*)?

- BRDP is built with people who have business rules methodology and practical implementation
- BRDP consultants bring an average of 20 years IT experience
- BRDP employs senior rules experts
- BRDP has established BR vendor relationships
- BRDP collaborates with other BR consulting experts
- BRDP has practical BR experience from Rules PM, Architects, object modelers, and designers, to rules developers, Java developers, and operational support



Discussion topics

- ❑ What are your Rules Management Issues, Strategy
- ❑ BRDP –Current activities in Tools Marketplace
- ❑ Best Practices for Business Rules Management
- ❑ Significant Happenings in the Business Rules Tools Industry
- ❑ Perspectives - Gartner's, others, BRDP
- ❑ Business Rules Mgmt Levels of Abstraction and Rule Repositories
- ❑ Key Rule Management Tool Vendors
- ❑ Business Rules Management Tool Assessment Service Offering
- ❑ How to contact BRDP



What are your Rules Management Issues, Strategy?

Have you determined the Scope of Rule Management?

- Have you developed a Rule Management Vision?
- Have you developed Rule Management Requirements (use cases/business process flows, technical reqs, IT reqs)?
- In this process, what are your key issues?
- What is your strategy to implement your Rules Management Vision?



BRDP –Current activities in Tools Marketplace

- Establishing relationships with tools vendors for potential formal partnering
- Three members attended Business Rules Forum 2003 Conference – 11/2003 – Nashville
- Reviewing evaluation versions of tools
- Interaction with Rules Management Vendors on new ideas/new features
- Exploring establishment and sponsorship of local BR Users Group (possibly as SIG of COOUG)
- Exploring establishment of a technical collaboration forum for Business Rules architects/designers/developers with BRCOMMUNITY.COM
- Tracking OMG BR SIG activities



LTS Business Rules Best Practices Survey

- LTS has commissioned a national survey on best practices for business rules implementations
- The companies participating in the survey have a varying degree of experience in implementing business rules projects
- Survey results to-date have uncovered a number of best practices as well as other findings and conclusions
- The survey is being extended to include a number of additional companies



Rules Management Overview

Rule management is a complete process for capturing, maintaining and reporting on business rules and all rule-related information for the benefit of all *rule stakeholders* (KPI)



Survey Results - Best Practices for Business Rules Management

Findings

- Business rules management vendor tools are evolving in the areas of repositories, traceability, and methodology integration
- Automated Rules testing tools need to mature for both business user and IT use

Requests

- A standard B.R. metadata format across vendors – allowing best-of-breed compatibility between B.R. tools and engines
- The B.R. management functions needs additional vendor focus and investment to support implementation efforts



Significant happenings in the Business Rules Tools Industry

- BRE vendors are expanding their products to include more rule management features
- OMG Business Rules Special Interest Group has a roadmap for 5 RFPs (*2 issued*)
 - *Business Semantics of Business Rules*
 - *Production Rule Representation*
 - Business Rules Management
 - Business Modeling
 - Business Rules for Legacy Transformation
- BPM (Business Process Management) Tools are integrating BREs (Business Rule Engines) to provide rule-driven processes
- “Big three” (MS, IBM, Oracle) are 18-24 months away from implementing a BRE (and BPM suite) tools strategy. (Gartner)



Gartner's Perspective

- While Gartner has published a vendor rating for the BRE market, it expects to watch other areas of activity. The areas of
 - business rule architectures,
 - business rule methodologies,
 - and **business rule management**appear to be additional vendor tracking opportunities.
- Business agility will continue to drive the need for friendly BRE changes in a real-time fashion, **growing the use of flexible rule technology**.
- Future issues with rules will revolve around 1) rule management and 2) overzealous reactive change.
 - As many 'stovepipe' applications roll out variable rule capabilities, **the need for central rule management and traceability** from origin to the latest version in force will emerge.
 - Proactive planning may mean investing in a **centralized business rule management system (BRMS) and scenario planning** to avoid some potential issues.

Business Rules Market Resurrection Continues
by Jim Sinur, Gartner September 2003

<http://www.brcommunity.com/b168.php>



Other perspectives

Bizrules.com

- Large companies are looking for upstream and downstream tools
 - No standards exist today for documenting business rules
 - Rapidly changing market, no clear solutions at this time
 - Some clients wish they could mix and match authoring/execution tools
 - The “perfect” BRE/ES tool will handle visual rule modeling, rule documentation/repository, rule simulation, rule execution, business processes **and** business rules

BR Forum Conference 11/2003 A Step by Step Guide to writing rules for BPM and BRE tools –
Rolando Hernandez



BRDP Perspectives

Objective: Sustainable Business Rules

- ✓ Rules that can be managed, maintained, supported, and hold up over time.
- ✓ Provide the necessities of the business and can be nurtured as business changes.
- ✓ They remain affirmed as valid and can be strengthened with new facts.

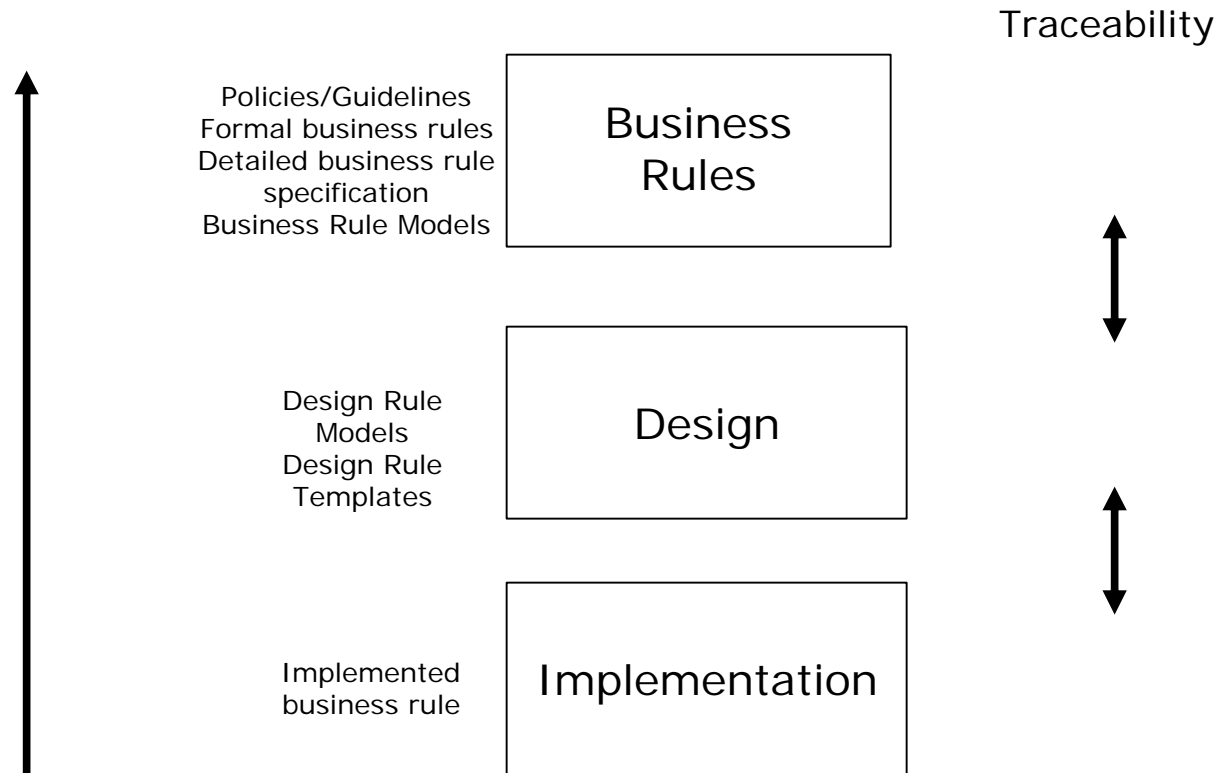
Achieved via:

- For now, use best of breed Rule Management tools that meet most rule mgmt reqs in conjunction with BRE tools including Rules Maintenance Applications.
- In the future, with mature Rule Management tools that integrate with BRE tools including Rules Maintenance Applications.

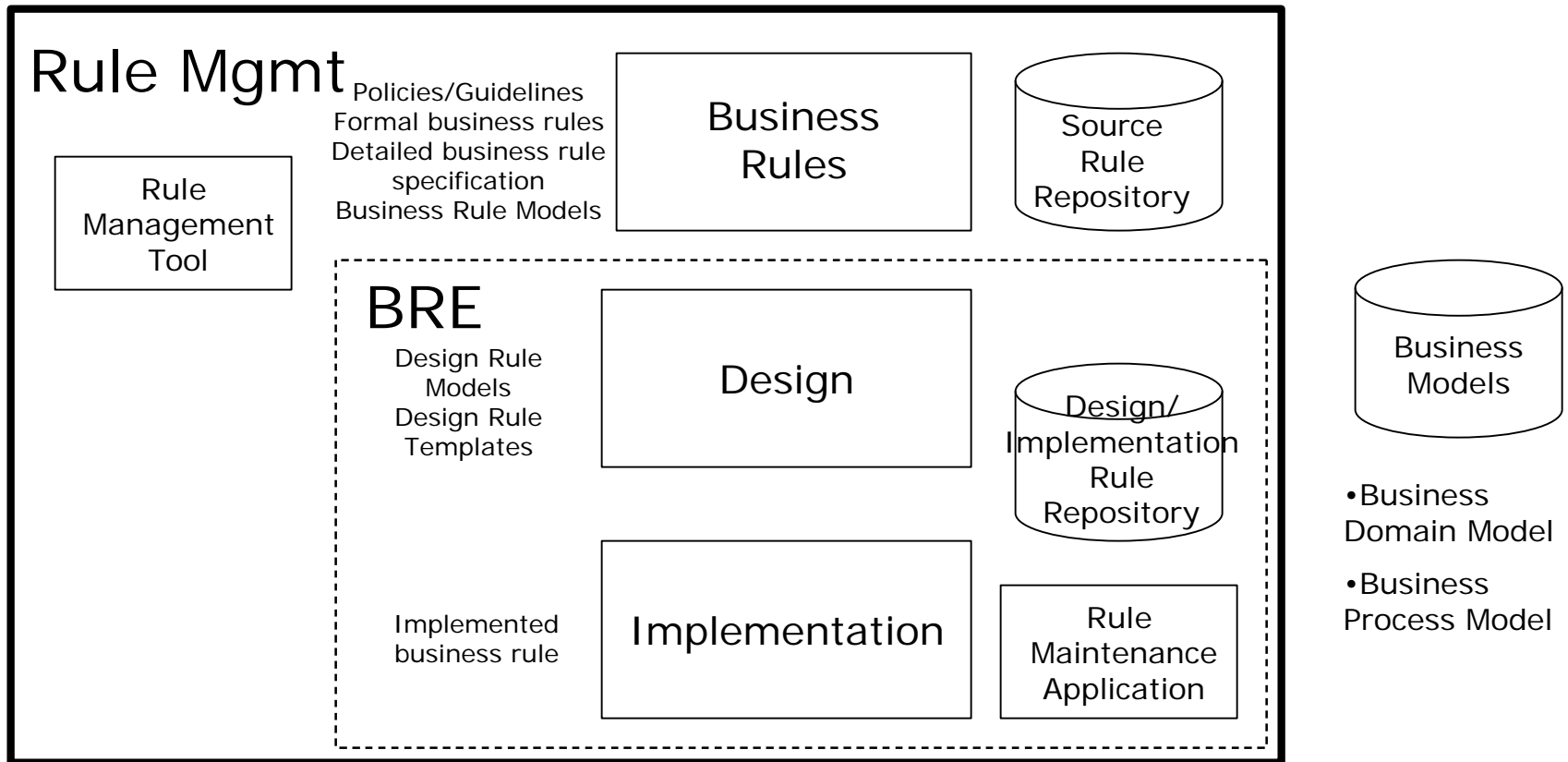
Characteristics of Sustainable Business Rules :

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Understandable | • Manageable | ▪ Adaptable |
| ▪ Verifiable | • Securable | ▪ Extensible (Extendable) |
| ▪ Valid | • Auditable | ▪ Expandable |
| ▪ Traceable | • Maintainable (Low | ▪ Testable |
| ▪ Reusable | maintenance for IT and | ▪ Query able |
| | Business) | |

Business Rules Levels of Abstraction



Levels of Abstraction and Rule Repositories





Key Rules Management Tool Vendors

Contact BRDP for more information on this topic.

See last slide for contact info.



Business Rules Management Tool Assessment

One of the first technology decisions to be made in a Business Rules Approach is the evaluation and selection of a Business Rules Management tool. This type of tool will help enable to the business side for:

- both the short term in defining and documenting business rules
- as well as long term in sustaining business rules.

Lambert Technical Services – BRDP can assist in the assessment process

- from reviewing rules management vision, requirements, and methodology
- thru the evaluation, selection, and implementation of a business rules management tool.

BRDP constantly monitors the rules management tools marketplace as well as rule management vendor new offerings, upgrades and enhancements.

One of BRDP's objectives is to provide an independent focus for this type of assessment to help you enable your business thru sustainable business rules.



Business Rules Management Tool Assessment Service offering

1. Determine Scope of Rule Management
 - Verify Rule Management Vision
 - Verify and Validate Rule Management Requirements (use cases/business process flows, technical reqs, IT reqs)
2. Preliminary Review of available tools on the market
3. Select Evaluation Candidates
4. Develop Evaluation Scorecard
5. Conduct Evaluation and Provide recommendations
6. Conduct Pilot, Licensing of Tool, Customizations, Training, Technology transfer
7. Conduct Conversion, Implementation, Feedback to vendor



Business Rules Development Practice (BRDP)

**For more information on *BRDP* Services or the
LTS Business Rules Best Practices Survey :**

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