Masterclass BPM and Rule Engines

Research and Reading Preparations for Masterclass Participants

Tiese Barrell

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The masterclass is taking place in the near future! Now is a good time for you to do some preparation, so you can get the most out of your day.

In this document, you'll find some research assignments you can do at your current workplace and reading materials.

Research Assignments

Business Process Management (BPM) is a topic that traverses both the business and technical parts of an organisation. These assignments are meant to discover some things about both parts. Keep in mind that some of these topics might be known by slightly different names and that different people may mean different things by the same terms.

Functional

For these investigation questions, somebody from a business unit is typically a good counterpart to talk to. A product owner or business representative in the IT organisation might also be able to help you.

- Does your organisation practice Business Process Management (BPM)?
- Try to find out if the organisation uses a *Process Architecture* and if so, what it looks like and how it's used.
- Are there people in the organisation tasked to be *Process Owner*? What do they do?

Technical

Somebody in the IT department, such as an architect or (senior) engineer should be able to help you answer these questions.

- Does your organisation automate business processes and/or decisions in any way?
- Which processes/decisions are automated and what is the goal for doing so?
- Can people tell you what is most challenging when they automate processes or decisions?
- Ask if there are process models for the automated processes and see if you understand them.
- If models are available, make an estimate of the percentage of automated vs. manual functions supported by one (or a couple) of the models.

Reading Material

If you'd like to do some reading of your own in preparation for the training, here are a couple of good resources you might have a look at.

We'll be looking into various topics during the training. One of the first ones is the general field of Business Process Management (BPM). It is a field of management that has strong backing from both practice and academic research.

- BPM: A Quick Introduction
- What is BPM? - This is a slightly dated resource as far as technology development goes, but is generally relevant to the BPM field.
- The International BPM Research Conference's Overview of Past Conferences

The ISO standard Business Process Model and Notation (BPMN 2.0) is also on our list for the training day. To familiarise yourself with some of the basic concepts, you can use the following resources.

- Camunda's BPMN Introduction
- Visual Paradigm's BPMN Overview
- Bruce Silver's BPMN Method & Style Book

The full specification for BPMN 2.0 is also available at the OMG's website, for those who like to dive **really** deep into topics ;-)

- BPMN 2.0 Specification at OMG

You can think of the Decision Model and Notation (DMN) standard as a complementary specification to BPMN, although it is an independent specification in its own right. A part of the training will also go into DMN. If you're specifically interested in this topic, you can use the following resources to get familiar with it.

- Bruce Silver's DMN Method & Style Book
- DMN 1.4 Specification at OMG

We'll also take a look at **automating** business processes and decisions, using process engines. It wouldn't be a topic worthy of a masterclass if this part didn't pose its own set of interesting challenges and decisions to be made by implementers. As you can imagine, there are plenty of ideas out there, of which only a few are in the list below.

- All Beginnings are Hard - This is one of my personal blog posts.
- Storing data in automated business processes - This is also one of my personal blog posts.
- Why service collaboration needs choreography AND orchestration
- Practical Process Automation Book - By Bernd Rucker, Co-founder of Camunda

Of course, feel free to explore further as you find interesting material. If you find something you'd like to share or have questions about, please bring it to the training so we can share and learn together.