

Table of Contents

Preface	1
Chapter 1: Introduction	7
Problems with traditional approaches	7
The solution	9
Advantages	10
Disadvantages	12
When not to use a rule engine	13
Drools	13
Alternatives to Drools	15
Summary	15
Chapter 2: Basic Rules	17
Rule basics	17
Executing rules	19
Rule syntax	23
Rule concepts	23
Variables in rules	23
Types	24
Comments	24
Package	25
Imports	25
Global variables	25
Functions	26
Dialect	27
Rule condition	28
And	28
Or	29
Not	29
Exists	30
Eval	30
Return value restriction	30
Inline eval	30

This	32
Working with collections	32
Rule consequence	33
Rule attributes	34
salience (priority)	35
No-loop	35
Dialect	35
Summary	35
Chapter 3: Validation	37
Banking domain model	37
Problem definition	38
Analysis	39
Design	39
Validation package	41
Object required type rules	44
Testing	45
Minimal account balance rule	49
Student account rule	50
Unique account number rule	52
Implementation	53
Validation service	56
Summary	58
Chapter 4: Data Transformation	59
Process overview	59
Getting the data	60
Loading facts into the knowledge session	61
Writing transformation rules	63
Testing	64
Address normalization	67
Testing the findAddress rule	68
Unknown country	69
Currency conversion	70
One account allowed	72
Transformation results	74
Implementation of the data loading	76
Database setup	76
Project setup	77
iBatis configuration	78
Running iBatis	79
Alternative data loading	80
Summary	80

Chapter 5: Human-readable Rules	81
Domain Specific Language	81
DSL as an interface	84
DSL for validation rules	84
File formats	86
DSL file format	86
DRL file format	87
DSLRL file format	88
DSL for multiple constraints in a condition	88
Named capture groups	89
DSL for data transformation rules	90
Decision tables	92
Advantages of a decision table	95
Disadvantages of a decision table	96
Calculating the interest rate	96
Project setup	98
Testing	98
Comma Separated values	100
Rule Templates	101
Drools Flow	101
Drools Agenda	101
Methods for managing rule execution order	102
Ruleflow	103
Start	104
End	104
Action	104
RuleFlowGroup	104
Split	105
Join	106
Example	106
Rules	107
KnowledgeBase setup	107
Tests	108
Summary	110
Chapter 6: Stateful Session	111
Introduction to stateful session	111
Validation using stateful session	112
Design overview	113
Stateful validation service	113
Integration testing	118
Logical assertions	121
Keeping the validation report up-to-date	123
Collect conditional element	124

Serialization	126
Knowledge session re-creation	126
Testing	128
Session serialization	129
Full session serialization	130
Summary	132
Chapter 7: Complex Event Processing	133
CEP and ESP	133
Drools Fusion	134
Fraud detection	134
Problem description	135
Design and modeling	135
Fraud detection rules	138
Notification	139
Monitoring—averageBalanceQuery	143
Two large withdrawals	144
Sequence of increasing withdrawals	148
High activity	158
Summary	160
Chapter 8: Drools Flow	161
Loan approval service	161
Model	162
Loan approval ruleflow	162
Invalid loan application form	163
Email work item	163
Fault node	165
The size of the loan	168
Test for a small loan	169
Rating Calculation	169
Subflow	170
Subflow diagram	170
Rating calculation subflow test	173
Decisions on rating	174
Testing the 'Rating?' node	175
Transfer Funds work item	175
Work item definition	177
Work item registration	178
Work item handler	178
Work item handler registration	180
Testing the transfer work item	180
Human task	181
Test for the human task	183
Final Approval	186
Test for the 'Approve Event' node	186

Banking service	187
Disadvantages of a ruleflow	188
Summary	188
Chapter 9: Sample Application	189
Users	189
Architecture	189
Technologies used	190
Additional Drools projects used	191
Libraries used	191
Business logic	191
Design	192
Configuration	192
JPA annotations for domain objects	193
JPA configuration	194
Spring Framework configuration	195
Web application setup	197
Tag library	199
Tomcat setup	199
Deployment	200
Repositories	200
Validation	201
Services	203
Transactions	204
Presentation layer	206
Localized messages	208
Customer save form controller	208
Complex Event Processing service	211
Loan approval	211
Loan request form	212
Process persistence	213
Task list	220
Working on a task	222
Loan approval event	225
Summary	227
Chapter 10: Testing	229
How to write unit tests for rules	229
Rule integration testing	230
Rule acceptance testing	230
Creating a test scenario	232
Running a test scenario	234
Running all test scenarios	235

Static analysis of rules	236
Troubleshooting techniques	237
Event listeners	238
Debugging	239
Source of generated classes	241
mvel tricks	241
Summary	242
Chapter 11: Integration	243
Dynamic KnowledgeBase loading	243
KnowledgeAgent	244
External artifact building	246
Building with Ant	246
Drools execution server	248
Interest rate calculation example	249
The server	249
The client	251
Spring Framework integration	252
KnowledgeBaseFactoryBean	253
Standards	255
JSR94 Java Rule Engine API	255
Summary	256
Chapter 12: Performance	257
Rete algorithm	257
Node types	259
Rete node	260
EntryPointNode	260
ObjectTypeNode	261
AlphaNode	261
LeftInputAdapterNode	261
TerminalNode	262
BetaNode	262
More complex example	264
EvalNode and FromNode	266
Retracting or modifying a fact	266
Initial fact	266
Node sharing	267
Example	268
Node indexing	269
AlphaNode indexing	269
Computation complexity	270
BetaNode indexing	271
Example	271

KnowledgeBase partitioning	273
Parallel execution	274
Summary	275
Appendix A: Development Environment Setup	277
Environment setup	277
Dependencies and their licenses	279
Appendix B: Custom Operator	281
Summary	287
Appendix C: Dependencies of Sample Application	289
Index	293
