

# RED HAT COMPETITIVE BRIEF

JBoss Enterprise BRMS compared to IBM WebSphere Operational Decision Manager (Formerly IBM ILOG)

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## INTRODUCTION

Business Rules Management Systems (BRMS) have never been more important to application development and delivery organizations. In today's world of constantly changing market and regulatory conditions, these organizations face relentless demands to deliver more agile solutions that can quickly accommodate changes to business policies and procedures. As a result, the BRMS has become a key component of a modern IT infrastructure.

A BRMS enables an organization to:

- Automate decisions for rapid business action
- Directly express policies and decisions in terms that both business experts and IT professionals can readily understand
- Make rapid changes to policies, procedures, and rules
- Empower its business experts to manage change directly, rather than requiring them to hand off changes to often overloaded IT resources

JBoss® Enterprise BRMS from Red Hat® is a full-featured, open source business rules management system that combines rules and event processing in a single product. It includes a powerful rules engine and rule authoring tools together with a management system and repository, all developed by the Drools open source community. JBoss Enterprise BRMS makes it possible to manage and automate the business rules that drive IT applications, such that business analysts and application developers can ensure that encoded rules correctly implement business policies and comply with external regulations.

1 [WODM Competitive Comparison Checklist](#),  
[2011 IBM Corp.](#)

## COMPARE TO THE LEADING PROPRIETARY SOLUTION

JBoss Enterprise BRMS offers features on par with proprietary business rule management systems. For example, compare the functional areas identified by IBM for its WebSphere Operational Decision Management system (WODM, previously IBM ILOG). Below, you'll find some key JBoss Enterprise BRMS capabilities to help you fill out IBM's WODM Competitive Checklist<sup>1</sup>:

### COMPETITIVE CHECKLIST

Category	Sub-category	JBoss Enterprise BRMS capabilities
Business	Ease of use	Out-of-the-box, web-based rule authoring environment designed for business experts
		Interactive, guided rule editor
		Rule templates that enable business experts to publish rule prototypes for reuse
		A customizable business vocabulary that allows rules to use domain-specific terminology
		Domain Specific Language - a natural language syntax that allows rules to be expressed in business terms.
		Graphical business rule metaphors, such as advanced decision tables, with a choice of authoring environments - either online or via Microsoft Excel

Category	Sub-category	JBoss Enterprise BRMS capabilities
	Transparency	Centralized repository for business rule and event definitions
		Customizable navigation and display of the repository
		Powerful search facility to query the repository for rules and associated metadata
		User defined rule metadata for context and governance
	Control	Role and user-based access control
		Version control at rule definition level, and tools for comparing versioned snapshots of collections of rules
		QA test environment enabling business experts to verify correct operation of rules prior to deployment and after changes
IT	Functional	Eclipse-based development environment
		Automated refactoring of business event and rule projects when object model is modified
		Selective synchronization between the development environment and the repository and business user environment
		Highly extensible with a modular architecture and a comprehensive API library
		Proven, documented implementation methodology
	Architectural	Portable across major operating systems, including AIX, HP-UX, Linux, Solaris, Windows
Strategic	Vendor	Portable across Java EE containers, including JBoss Enterprise Application Platform, IBM WebSphere, and Oracle WebLogic
		Designed for service-oriented architectures (SOA). Interoperates seamlessly with the JBoss Enterprise SOA Platform
		The world's most widely deployed runtime engine for rules and complex event processing
		Pluggable repository. Can use any JCR compliant repository
		The stability and financial health of Red Hat
		Successful client deployments across every major industry
		Accelerated time-to-market: BRMS Quickstart engagements from Red Hat Consulting
		Comprehensive training courses from Red Hat University
		Award-winning service-level agreement (SLA) based worldwide support
		Comprehensive technology portfolio covering the entire operating system and middleware stack
		Flexible financing options

As you can see, Red Hat and JBoss Enterprise BRMS easily match the capabilities of IBM and WODM.

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**CLASS-LEADING FUNCTIONALITY FROM JBOSS ENTERPRISE BRMS INCLUDES:**

- Integrated rules, complex event processing, and business process management – everything business users need in one package
  - Unparalleled extensibility – everything application developers need to integrate with their IT middleware environments, storage infrastructures, etc.
  - Highly scalable and cloud-ready – Start small with a departmental solution, then grow to the enterprise and beyond to the cloud
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Did you know that between the JBoss Drools community project v5.1 and Red Hat's JBoss Enterprise BRMS v5.1, there were **150+ bug fixes, five security fixes, and several performance enhancements?**

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## THE ADDED BENEFITS OF JBOSS ENTERPRISE BRMS

Now consider the additional benefits of JBoss Enterprise BRMS from Red Hat:

- The cost advantage:

The Red Hat subscription pricing model is IT-budget friendly and can save millions compared to license fees for proprietary solutions like IBM. In a typical example, JBoss Enterprise BRMS produced savings of 93% over three years compared to WODM, equivalent to more than \$1.5M. See the cost comparison below.

- The innovation advantage:

JBoss Enterprise BRMS benefits from the many innovative developers worldwide who contribute their work to the open source community, including those from the Drools and jBPM JBoss Community projects. JBoss Enterprise BRMS will be among the first to offer new groundbreaking capabilities as the technology emerges.

- The open advantage:

JBoss Enterprise BRMS is open, standards-based, and distributed under the GNU General Public License (GPL). You are not locked in. If you are not satisfied with Red Hat's support, platform certifications, stability, patches, updates, and legal indemnification, you are free to switch to another vendor and retain every penny of your investment.

- The flexible advantage:

Unlike proprietary offerings, you do not have to license a bloated suite of packages for your entire organization in order to get started with business rules. With Red Hat, you can start with a small investment to transition a single group, knowing that you can grow all the way to enterprise solutions at your own pace. You do not need to buy everything for everyone at once.

- The popular advantage:

Drools is the most widely used open source business rules engine, and the subject of three published books. Many application development organizations leverage Drools in support of proof-of-concept and small-scale deployments. The chances are high that your IT organization is already familiar with the technology and is ready to deploy JBoss Enterprise BRMS for production use, greatly reducing time to value for new projects.

- The Red Hat advantage:

Worried about relying on open source products for mission-critical applications? With Red Hat you can relax, knowing that those products are backed by the support and services of a leading enterprise software vendor. Red Hat's award-winning technical support organization is there to keep you running 24/7. Red Hat thoroughly tests and certifies software distributions to deliver as promised in your environment, and will keep you protected with the latest updates and security patches. Red Hat will deliver true enterprise solutions and support, all within your subscription.

With JBoss Enterprise BRMS, you get the capabilities of IBM WODM, plus the advantages of the open source way.

## COST COMPARISON

Let's compare the three-year cost of IBM WODM versus JBoss Enterprise BRMS:

For this example, we have assumed a deployment on three Dell PowerEdge servers, each with a single Intel Xeon 6500 dual-core processor.

From IBM's [Processor Value Unit Calculator](#), these servers each account for a total of 70 IBM Processor Value Units per core.

From published [IBM list pricing](#):

IBM WebSphere Decision Center Processor Value Unit (PVU) License + SW Subscription & Support 12 Months (DOIIZLL)	\$1,450
IBM WebSphere Decision Server Processor Value Unit (PVU) License + SW Subscription & Support 12 Months (DOG8OLL)	\$1,330
Total Cost per PVU:	\$2,780

We've chosen IBM Decision Server and Decision Center, which together provide comparable capabilities to JBoss Enterprise BRMS as discussed above.

### ENVIRONMENT SUMMARY

Total Servers:	3
Cores per Server:	2
Total Cores:	6
IBM PVUs per Core:	70
Total PVUs:	420

### PRICING SUMMARY

IBM license cost per PVU:	\$2,780
IBM software support:	20% of license cost (excl. yr 1)
JBoss Enterprise BRMS 1 Year Subscription (up to 16 cores):	\$36,000

**THREE-YEAR COST COMPARISON:**

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	IBM (420 PVU's)	JBoss (16 cores)	IBM (420 PVU's)	JBoss (16 cores)	IBM (420 PVU's)	JBoss (16 cores)
License Cost:	\$1,167,600					
Maintenance Cost:			\$233,520		\$233,520	
Subscription Cost:		\$36,000		\$36,000		\$36,000
Total Cost:	\$1,167,600	\$36,000	\$233,520	\$36,000	\$233,520	\$36,000

**JBoss Enterprise BRMS saves \$1,526,640 over three years.**

The JBoss Enterprise BRMS subscription fee includes up to 16 cores. This user could more than double the processor count without incurring any additional fees to run JBoss Enterprise BRMS. Contrast with the additional three-year cost of adding 10 cores with IBM: \$2,724,400.

Note that Red Hat subscription costs are well below the IBM maintenance fees, making adoption of JBoss Enterprise BRMS a worthwhile undertaking, even for existing IBM users.

## **SUMMARY**

Red Hat JBoss Enterprise BRMS is the leading open source business rules platform and delivers features on par with proprietary solutions from IBM. Organizations choosing JBoss Enterprise BRMS, however, will experience faster time to value, much lower TCO, and can leverage the innovation of the world's most active business rules and business process communities.

Red Hat is committed to driving the adoption of open source solutions in the enterprise, through the provision of enterprise grade technology, support, and services.

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### **ABOUT RED HAT**

Red Hat was founded in 1993 and is headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Today, with more than 70 offices around the world, Red Hat is the largest publicly traded technology company fully committed to open source. That commitment has paid off over time, for us and our customers, proving the value of open source software and establishing a viable business model built around the open source way.

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### **SALES AND INQUIRIES**

**NORTH AMERICA**  
1-888-REDHAT1  
jboss.com  
sales@redhat.com

**EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST  
AND AFRICA**  
00800 7334 2835  
europe.redhat.com/jboss  
europe@redhat.com

**ASIA PACIFIC**  
+65 6490 4200  
apac.redhat.com/jboss  
apac@redhat.com

**LATIN AMERICA**  
+54 11 4329 7300  
latam.redhat.com/jboss  
info-latam@redhat.com