

# JBOSS ENTERPRISE BRMS: THE POWER OF JBOSS DROOLS. THE ASSURANCE OF RED HAT.

#### OPEN SOURCE AND ENTERPRISE READY?

Open source has been a major contributor to the marketplace, offering an open, collaborative development model with contributions from a wide variety of developers and organizations. The JBoss Drools community exemplifies that ethos, as applied to business rule management software. The community's combination of easy access and usability—as well as the absence of license fees—has helped development teams get started quickly on their application initiatives. The open source model also allows the Drools project to evolve much more quickly in terms of new features that are delivered more quickly than would be possible with a closed source, proprietary offering. Let it be said, the vitality and vibrancy of the Drools community is unsurpassed in the industry.

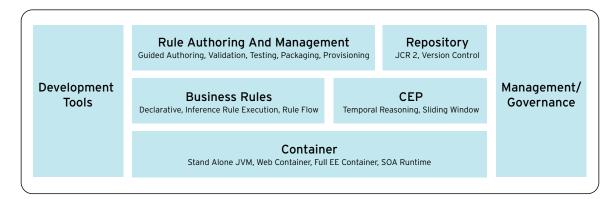
However, focusing only on the short-term savings from open source projects and ignoring the potential long-term risks and costs of deploying unsupported community projects in production is worthy of careful consideration by enterprise customers. Drools comprises a number of different projects, including Drools Expert, Drools Fusion, and Guvnor. The use of community project components places the burdens of productization, integration, testing, and certification on the developer—and in some instances—the end

user. Therefore, as strong as the technology foundation for Drools may be, IT organizations still can incur significant costs related to unexpected downtime and additional developer hours that are required to self-support and maintain business rules applications. For production applications, that may well present problems that the enterprises will wish to avoid.

So what is the best way to combine the innovation and vibrancy provided by the Drools Community with the testing, certification, and maintenance releases necessary for stable, reliable use of open source middleware in production? The answer for many organizations is the JBoss Enterprise BRMS platform, a subscription that offers a range of benefits, including patches and updates, SLA-based support, multi-year maintenance policies, and the Red Hat Open Source Assurance. With JBoss BRMS, you can confidently deploy applications in production with the assurance of long-term stability, supportability, and maintainability. It helps to reduce both development risk in terms of time-to-market, as well as operational risk once a system has been placed into production.

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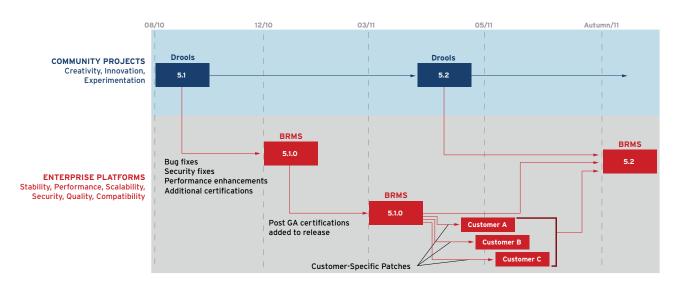


#### THE COMMUNITY-TO-ENTERPRISE PROCESS

The technology foundations for Drools and JBoss BRMS are the same. But once the Drools community releases a new version, it stops work on it and focuses on the next version. That is good for the long-term health of a product that must respond to continually evolving market requirements. It ensures that the product pipeline will deliver important new features, unencumbered by the minutiae of product support. But it also means that new features and functionality may not be carried forward to the next community project version, and backwards compatibility is not ensured. There is also no guarantee that community project versions, features, or functionality will ever make it into an enterprise platform. In effect, community project versions can become a dead branch as soon as the next version is released.

The figure below provides a snapshot of Drools and JBoss in the context of their respective 5.X releases to illustrate the respective rolls of the community and enterprise platforms and benefits offered by an enterprise subscription. JBoss BRMS incorporates the core Drools technology, but adds long-term support, patches, and updates, and backwards compatibility within the lifetime of each major platform release. Additionally, an Eclipse-based developers' tool (JBoss Developer Studio) provides a single integrated development environment for all JBoss platforms, providing IT operations staff with a single, easy-to-use tool to manage development, testing, deployment, and monitoring of rules solutions.

#### FIGURE 1: AN EXAMPLE OF THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES FOR JBOSS DROOLS AND JBOSS ENTERPRISE BRMS



Using JBoss BRMS in production reduces testing and validation time, minimizes troubleshooting and downtime, simplifies management, and enables IT to refocus resources on higher-value projects. IT organizations, systems integrators, and ISVs alike benefit from the stability, scalability, lower TCO, reduced risk, and professional support.

The following table summarizes some of the key points of comparison between the Drools project and the JBoss BRMS platform.



	JBOSS ENTERPRISE BRMS	DROOLS COMMUNITY PROJECT
Long-term stability	Provides up to five years of maintained, supported code with backward compatibility	<ul> <li>Drools project features may or may not make a subsequent project release/version or make it into JBoss BRMS</li> <li>APIs may change between releases</li> <li>Backward compatibility not assured</li> </ul>
Out-of-box experience	<ul> <li>Different community projects are integrated and delivered via a single code distribution</li> <li>Integration with complementary JBoss products (EAP, EWP, EWS, SOA-P) is assured</li> <li>Maintainability is improved with automated software updates, alerting and management, including the JBoss Operations Network</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>As individual projects are released, responsibility rests with the developer to ensure they work togethear</li> <li>Integration with other systems is solely the responsibility of the implementor</li> </ul>
Patches and updates	<ul> <li>Subscriptions include a single patch and update stream for all components.</li> <li>Patches, security updates, and hot fixes are certified.</li> </ul>	Community projects are not patched, but rather are replaced altogether with new releases, which co-mingle new features and fixes Some fixes may never be included Recreating patches requires developers to replicate the build process from original source code
Enhancements	<ul> <li>Release process is structured and supported with major and minor release notes, as well as migration documentation</li> </ul>	Code is released to community for testing and feedback, with several releases likely needed before finalization  Enhancements are co-mingled with patches and fixes
Security	Formalized security resolution process, with issues identified, tracked, and resolved by the Red Hat Security Response Team	No formal security response process to assure that issues are resolved
Support	<ul> <li>Industry-leading customer and developer support available</li> <li>Offer SLAs, defect escalation, and end-of-life policy management</li> <li>Includes access to customer support portal (recognized as one of ten best support sites) together with product knowledgebase</li> <li>Escalated support delivered by code developers</li> </ul>	• Support is available via public forums
Quality assurance	Rigorous QA with performance and scalability test- ing completed for every release	No formal QA process     Testing restricted to number of specific configurations
Compatibility	<ul> <li>Testing and certification on variety of leading JVM/ operating systems and databases</li> </ul>	No compatibility certification
Consulting	Expert consulting from Red Hat professional ser- vices team to advise on how best to architect and implement rules-based solutions	Third-party vendor consulting services available, but "caveat emptor"
Legal Assurance	The Red Hat Software Assurance offers indemnifi- cation and safeguards from certain legal risks	• No legal assurance is offered.



## **SUMMARY**

JBoss Enterprise Middleware is designed to deliver the benefits of community projects without the potential risks and costs of deploying non-supported software in production. An enterprise subscription supported by Red Hat provides the comfort that deployments can deliver value over time. In the case of business rules, IT organizations

and independent software vendors alike can greatly benefit from adopting the enterprise version of Drools, JBoss Enterprise BRMS, for deployment in production applications. JBoss BRMS combines the vitality of open source with the security of a Red Hat subscription, a combination that provides assurance to both the technical and business constituencies within the organization.

# JBOSS SALES AND INQUIRIES

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