From idea to simple solution

Introduction

Be Informed offers software to translate complex administrative processes to clear and well-defined models. With Be Informed Studio you can build a fully functional business application in seven steps:

1. Define the solution
2. Create the high level business design
3. Design the products
4. Design the registrations
5. Design the cases
6. Preview the application

Defining the solution

Be Informed uses a goal oriented approach to business modelling, using pre- and post-conditions on activities rather than a predefined process flow. This results in a much more flexible process in which no explicit exception flows are needed for each exception that is to be expected. Another advantage is that you can start with a very simple, basic solution and gradually expand it in a controlled and efficient way.

Start by making a rough sketch of the situation, including the activities, types of registrations and required decisions within the process. Define the following building blocks for your solution:

- The products that the organization delivers to its customers.
- The registrations that the organization uses to describe what information is used, produced, registered and maintained.
- The cases that are handled within the organization. In this context, a case is a specific situation, a set of circumstances or an initiative that requires a set of actions to achieve an acceptable outcome or objective.
- The portals that the organization uses to communicate with its customers.

Before you start, create a new project in Be Informed Studio by choosing File > New > Be Informed Project.

Creating the high level business design

The first step in creating a business solution, is to create the high level business design.

The business design consists of the main components of the solution - the products, records, files and portals - and serves as the basis for the operating model. While the high level business design initially only shows the Be Informed components, the operating model adds the architectural context to it. This step is omitted here since we will develop a simple standalone solution.
To create the outline of our application - and with that our high level business design - we use templates that will create the necessary projects, models and concepts for our products, registers, cases and portals:

1. Create a project for your product models by right clicking in the Project Explorer and choosing New > Generate from Template.

![Generate from Template](image1)

2. Choose Product and then click Next >

![Select Template Definition](image2)

3. Choose New project and give the project a meaningful name. Then click Next >.

![Select Template Destination](image3)
4. Type in the name of the product and click **Next >**, then fill in a description of the product and click **Finish**.

5. You have now created a project for this product, including a model with the product concept.

6. Repeat step 1 through 5 for every product, register, case and portal that you want to create.

7. To view the high level business design, select the **Context** view below in the screen. Click on one of the concepts in the created models. Now you can view the current state of the high level business design:

**Designing the products**

Products are characterized by a unique set of properties and conditions. These properties and conditions, including the context of a case, can be used to make decisions and perform classifications and calculations. Decisions, classifications and calculations are modeled as constraints of a product.
Here, we focus on designing a decision. Decisions are key elements in a Be Informed solution. They define and automate rules that can be used within one or multiple cases. The outcome of a decision is either yes or no (true or false). In this example, we model one decision: the decision whether an applicant is eligible to a life insurance.

1. Start by opening the model in which you defined the overview of your products.
2. Now add a Decision concept to the model and relate it to the appropriate Product concept with the has constraint relation.

![Diagram of Decision and Product relationship](Image)

3. Now add the relevant conditions to the model.

![Diagram of Applicant income and age requirements](Image)

In this example the “Applicant is eligible for the product” is true when the applicant has income and is of age. By using a combination of conditions and grounds (values, calculated values and formulas) it is possible to automate complex decisions.

**Designing a register**

Registers are used to describe what information is used, produced, registered and maintained. This is done in terms of objects, associations, properties and transactions. A register can be used within multiple cases.

1. Start by opening the model in which you defined the overview of your registers.
2. Now add an Object concept to the model and name it. Objects can be referred to from within cases. So a granular approach to objects is preferable over an approach with a lot of registration data in one overall object.
Relate the **Register** concept with the **Object** concept with a **registers** relation.

3. Now add object properties by dragging property concepts in the model. Properties describe the object. At least one **Identifying Property** concept is needed. In addition you can add properties like name, address, date, amount and general descriptions.

![Diagram showing property relations between Register and Object concepts]

Use the **has key property** relation to connect to the **Identifying property** concept, use **has property** for all other concept types.

**Designing a case**

The case management domain describes the way cases are handled. The case is presented as the top concept, which performs a number of activities: the steps you take to process a case.

1. Start by opening the model in which you defined the overview of your cases.
2. Now add the activities as individual concepts to the model.

![Diagram showing activity relations between Case and other concepts]

Use the **performs** relation to connect the case to the activities.

3. Drag two reference concepts into the model: one for the earlier created **Object** concept and one for the **Decision** concept.
Relate an activity to the **Object** concept with the **creates** relation. Use the **decides** relation to relate to the **Decision** concept.

4. The final step is to add a condition to the model.

Add the **requires available** relation between **Decide on eligibility** and **Customer**. This ensures that the **Decides** activity can only be performed when the **Customer** is registered.

**Previewing the application**
Preview the application by opening the url [http://localhost:8080/beinformed/webui/webapp/](http://localhost:8080/beinformed/webui/webapp/) in one of the supported browsers.
You now have created a fully functioning business solution. By default, the preview shows all portals, documentation and the model overview in separate menu items. It also shows the cases and objects. Changes made in the modeling environment are instantly visible in the preview. By adding more activities, products, decisions, registrations and interaction options, you can gradually expand your solution.