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Evaluation of Workflow Management Systems - A Meta Model Approach

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Abstract

The automated enactment of processes through the use of workflow management systems enables the outsouring of the
control flow from application systems. By now a large number of systems, that follow different workflow paradigms, are
available. This leads to the problem of selecting the appropriate workflow management system for a given situation. In this
paper we outline the benefits of a meta model approach for the evaluation and comparison of different workflow
management systems. After a general introduction on the topic of meta modeling the meta models of the workflow
management systems WorkParty (Siemens Nixdorf) and FlowMark (IBM) are compared as an example. These productspecific
meta models can be generalized to meta reference models, which helps to specify a workflow methodology.
Exemplary, an organisational reference meta model is presented, which helps users in specifying their requirements for a
workflow management system.

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