

Case Management

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Agility

"An agile organization is one that can *sense* opportunity or threat, *prioritize* its potential responses, and *act* efficiently and effectively."

Sensing

being aware of own organisation and its operating environment (customers, competitors, macroeconomy) and changes of these

• Prioritizing

coherent set of goals and priorities at all levels of the organisation

• Acting

execute business processes exceptionally well and adapt them quickly as business needs change

Analogy: Agility of a Sports Team





adapted from (Cauley 2010)

- A good player must
 - sense what is happening
 - prioritize best next action
 - act effectively
- A playbook defines moves
 - but: moves depend on the opponent
- Playbook corresponds to
 - Business process model
 - decision model

but must allow for flexibility

Analogy: Sports Team Ag



Agility in different levels:

- revise playbook after game(s):
 Define new moves/processes
 - > enterprise/process level (BPM)
 - ➤ design time
- adapt strategy in the midst of game: choose other moves/planning
 - process level
 - run time
- flexibly modify move reacting on opportunity or threat
 - task level
 - run time

Agility at Design Time vs. Agility at Run Time

Agility at design time:

- Reaction on changing environment
 - adapt process definition
 - modify decision models
 - business transformation
 - business-IT alignment

Agility at run time:

- Reaction on specific events
 - determine which activities need to be performed
 - determine whether additional steps are required
 - determine who should perform a task
 - select appropriate resources/information





Work Patterns of Knowledge Workers Percent of the Day Spent in Different Modes

Most of a knowledge worker's day is spent working toward an identified outcome, yet the means for achieving this cannot be predetermined



Classification of Processes

structured process	case	ad hoc process
 structured process flow 	 process flow can partly be structured 	 process flow cannot be structured – new tasks on the fly
 activites known in advance 	 activites partly known in advance 	 tasks on the fly activites partly known in advance
 many repetitive elements 	 some repetitive elements 	 few repetitive elements
 no degree of freedom for people wrt process flow 	 some degree of freedom for people wrt process flow 	 very high degree of freedom for people wrt process flow
< can be	cannot be modelled	

Case Management

Case management is the management of *long-lived collaborative processes* that require *coordination of knowledge, content, correspondence, and resources* to achieve an objective or goal. The *path of execution cannot be predefine*d. Human judgment is required in determining how to proceed, and the state of a case can be affected by *external events*.

- Synonyms for Case Management are
 - Adaptive Case Management (ACM)
 - Dynamic Case Management (DCM)

Case Management vs. Business Process Management

• Structured BPM

- demand a process model
- completely defined in advance
- Case Management
 - collection of activities
 - number and identity cannot be fixed
 - human judgment, external events, and business rules determine which acitivities need to be performed – either picked from a predefined menu or conceived on the fly

Case Management Processes

Case management processes: common in many industry segments, where activities and documents required depend on the circumstances of each case

- Benefits Administration
 - Examples: welfare assistance, student financial aid, grants programs, disability benefits
- Underwriting
 - Examples: commercial lending, life and disability insurance
- Project Management
 - Examples: launch of a new product/service, major IT system upgrade
- Dispute Resolution
 - Example: customer demands a refund

Case Management as Part of Routine Work

- Case Management can also occur in routine processes
- Examples
 - Distinguishing between routine and non-routine cases, e.g. for credit assessment, claims management
 - Doing something extra for the customer, e.g. offering an insurance product during claims management
 - Dispute resolution: Processing payments is a conventional structured process, but when a customer disputes a charge or demands a refund, case management is usually required

Content is Central for Case Management

- Activities create information and add it to the case.
- Ability is required to jump forward, jump backward, re-do or otherwise perform work in a sequence that cannot be determined in advance
- The state of the Case is determined by the content within the case, not in which task the case is at any time



Source: Nathaniel Palmer

ACM – Event-driven, Content- and Context-Aware

- BPM focuses on activities in a flow
 - All the possible paths and permutations are defined in advance
 - As an activity occurs, the state of the process changes.
- ACM focuses on events and outcomes
 - Activities to reach completion cannot be predetermined completely
 - At the start, when an event occurs, a case file is opened
 - Events, Content and Context determine activities
 - The state depends on the content of the case file.



How Case Management (bottom) Differs From Structured Workflows (top)





Rather than a path determined by a predefined workflow, the case flow evolves based on content added to the case folder Source: Nathaniel Palmer

Case Management

Case File

- The Case File is a virtual folder ultimately providing the permanent record of a case
- The case folder provides overall coordination of the case as a whole. Just as you cannot predefine all the tasks needed to complete the case, you cannot specify in advance all of the documents required.



Documents • Images • Email • Reports • Voice Mail

Multiple Channels / Systems of Engagement

Source: Nathaniel Palmer

Business Process Management vs. Case Management

- BPM
 - deterministic
 - task-centric
 - state-driven
 - structured
- The function of BPM is to provide transactional thread across multiple systems of record.

- ACM
 - non-deterministic
 - content-centric
 - user-driven
 - unstructured
 - collaborative
- In ACM the case folder and the case itself is a system of record.

"standard procedures, practices, and policies"

"what needs to be done to resolve this case."

Differences from Conventional BPM

- Case Information Managed as Documents
 - case-related information is received and managed in the form of business documents rather than structured data
- Case Activities Added at Runtime
 - Some tasks and processes may be defined in advance, but ad hoc tasks—whether selected from a pre- defined menu or defined from scratch—are a critical distinguishing element
- Case Advancement through Events
 - External events include messages whose contents are added to the case folder, Internal events include assignments and business rule to create and assign tasks.
- Case Context through Shared Case Folder
 - All case information, which is required for human judgment about advancement or resolution of the case, is typically available in the form of a shared case folder.

Planning

- Case management is often directed by a human—a Case manager or a team of Case workers—with minimal predefined encoding of the work to be performed.
- Planning at run-time is a fundamental characteristic of Case management.
- Case management planning is typically concerned with determination of which Tasks are applicable, or which follow-up Tasks are required, given the state of the Case.
- Cases are directed not just by explicit knowledge about the particular Case and its context represented in the Case File, but also by
 - explicit knowledge encoded as rules by business analysts,
 - the tacit knowledge of human participants, and
 - tacit knowledge from the organization or community in which participants are members

Rethinking Knowledge Work

- ACM is ultimately about allowing knowledge workers to work the way that they work the best.
- Case management support combines
 - workflow,
 - content management (ECM, DMS, CRM, ERP)
 - business rules,
 - portal and collaboration tools,
 - social media
 - outside information systems

which collectively allow for the completion of an entire case.

Example of a Case Management System: Case 360



Task Panel in Case 360

- Tasks that are expected to be part of a case can be predefined in the case template.
- Other tasks may be added at run-time either from a list of predefined tasks are defined on the fly



Content Management in Case 360

- Case360 includes a complete document repository supporting checkin/check-out, versioning, storage migration etc.
- The Contents panel lists documents attached to the case as well as placeholders for documents required by the case

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Example of a Case Folder in Case 360

	Contents Tasks History							
UNDERWRITERS WORKBENCH	Content Status Assigned Deadline ∇							
UNDERWRITING ASSESSMENT SHEET	Personal Information *							
UNDERWRITER Richard Stanton FULL NAME Mike Jackson CANCER O YES O NO	♥ Personal Information ★ Started &							
MODIFIED TIME DATE OF BIRTH 7/24/1945								
MODIFIED BY SONORA RISK AMOUNT \$750,000 ALC. / DRUG O YES O NO	[♥] Lifestyle Questionnaire , Not , No							
REIMSURANCE © AUTOMATIC PLAN Variable Universal Life FH (OK?) O YES © NO	□ ∇ Medical Information 🛣							
O FACULTATIVE INT / EXT REPL none								
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A case folder not only provides access to content but also to tasks, history, discussions.

Tool Support for ACM

- Case Folder
- Case Templates: Model for a particular type of case
- Ad-hoc tasks and documents
- Support for conventional processes
- Document awareness
- Event-triggered automation
- Performance visibility