

Understanding Business Rules: *Theory and Application*

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This presentation examines the treatment of rules under SBVR (Semantics of Business Vocabulary and Business Rules), a 2007 OMG standard. SBVR, which is based in semantics and logic, supports documentation of terminological ontologies plus behavioral guidance. It also formally defines a general business-oriented classification of guidance. Mr. Ross explains the SBVR categories of guidance, providing relevant examples.

Various treatments of rules have been suggested for different purposes. For example, some treatments (e.g., production rules) feature an “If-Then” syntax. Are these treatments suitable for direct use by business people and analysts? If not, what treatment is appropriate? What makes a treatment of rules ‘semantic’? What are the practical concerns for using rules directly to run the business and to encode and deploy its operational business knowledge?

Then, based on real-life experience with developing business rules for large problems, Mr. Ross identifies why alternative treatments of rules, especially using If-Then syntax, break down at scale. He suggests what approaches are needed to effectively capture, express, manage and deploy literally 1000s of rules in a business.

- The elements of business guidance.
- What ‘rule’ means in the real world and why that is important.
- SBVR on business rules.
- Why no ‘action’ in expressing business rules.
- The imperatives of scalability and large-scale re-use.
- Rethinking IT practices for the knowledge economy.