

SAP Buys Yasu Technology: One Less .NET Rule Engine?

On October 17, 2007, SAP announced plans to acquire India-based business rule engine provider Yasu Technologies. SAP plans to embed Yasu's QuickRules business rule engine into SAP NetWeaver®. NetWeaver is an SOA platform, which SAP calls a composition platform, and is the core technical platform for SAP's building partners. SAP's intent is to use the embedded QuickRules engine to give customers the ability to create and manage business rules within their applications. According to SAP, the acquisition will enhance their BPM offerings and provide customers with a means to improve regulatory compliance.

SAP is evolving the NetWeaver infrastructure to include BPM-enabling features, including modeling functionality via an OEM relationship with IDS Scheer, and the Yasu acquisition will provide some additional functionality towards that end. Customers looking for a single-vendor infrastructure solution from a large vendor may put SAP on their short list. Other organizations looking for BPM technology will prefer lower cost, more tightly focused solutions true to the core intent of business process management..

The acquisition supports a trend long predicted by industry analysts: the business rule engine market will consolidate as vendors are acquired by or merge with other vendors seeking to improve their ability to author and update frequently changing business logic.

This acquisition is good news for InRule Technology®. While NetWeaver has a rich set of features and functions, it is unlikely that firms would purchase the large, unembeddable NetWeaver platform simply for its QuickRules functionality.

Most important, the acquisition underscores analysts' assertion that rule technology is a core component for building flexible, adaptable applications and software products, and demonstrates the high degree of interest in acquiring rule technology to extend and enhance software products and development platforms.

"I wish SAP well with this acquisition and I'm pleased that it highlights something we've been saying for years: rule engines are a core and vital component in technology to support the business," said Paul Hessinger, CEO of InRule Technology. "Speaking from several years' experience in the OEM market, making QuickRules a component of NetWeaver will make it difficult to embed it into other OEM solutions. And should QuickRules survive as a stand-alone product, there is some doubt about SAP's desire to keep the .NET version up to the standards of business rule engines optimized for .NET, such as InRule®."