

**Enhance and Extend  
the Power of  
SharePoint**

InRule Technology® is committed to leveraging and extending the investments that IT organizations have made in Microsoft technologies by supporting and enhancing the capabilities of those Microsoft technologies. InRule can extend the value of an organization's SharePoint investment by providing business logic automation and decision management capabilities for SharePoint-based applications: InRule can manage critical business decisions that are governed by various SharePoint elements including documents, processes, and workflows.

SharePoint applications that use InRule require custom .NET components to link the two together. While InRule does not yet provide out-of-the-box interoperability with SharePoint, its business logic automation and business decision management functionality extends SharePoint via event handlers and workflows. It is InRule Technology's position that InRule can and will provide extensive additional value to SharePoint applications. As a first step, InRule Technology is providing code samples and our ROAD (Rules Oriented Architecture and Application Design/Development/Deployment) Services group can assist in the creation of these components and/or provide prescriptive guidance for an InRule user to build them.

**SharePoint 2010:**

**The New Application Development Framework for .NET**

SharePoint 2010 is an application framework for Web-based software that includes collaboration, content management, search, reporting & analytics, and web site infrastructure capabilities. SharePoint 2010 also provides a series of composites, a rich set of application building blocks, tools, and services. Because it is based on ASP.NET, SharePoint 2010 is easy for .NET developers to learn; and because it provides additional capabilities, SharePoint 2010 will be the platform of choice for many new applications currently being written in .NET code. For more information on when to use SharePoint for .NET applications, [download](#) the Microsoft SharePoint 2010: Developer Platform White Paper<sup>1</sup>.

With its rich capabilities, easy adoption by .NET developers, and a presence in more than 50% of medium and large businesses, SharePoint will become the application framework for many new applications. Given that both InRule and SharePoint operate on user-interface and back-end enterprise data using the .NET platform, it is inevitable that some organizations will look to combine the features of InRule and SharePoint when designing their IT solutions.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=5184cb27-98d9-4cc0-bb0b-4b24d5b62db6&displaylang=en>

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## The Value of Using InRule with SharePoint

Including InRule as an extension to SharePoint can help organizations provide additional value:

- **Enhancing the power to make business decisions based on document and line of business data** – InRule allows for the integration of document metadata with complex business decision logic and back-office data stores. InRule can import and operate directly with SharePoint list data and SDK objects. InRule also offers several out-of-the-box rule actions that are not out-of-the-box features in SharePoint. These InRule actions can be manipulated by business analysts without writing any code.
- **Author and Implement Complex Rules** – SharePoint offers simple business analyst tools for creating rule-like structures and workflows, but it does not allow for implementing chains of complex rule sets that drive many real business decisions. SharePoint's OOB back office integration features are often difficult to configure and only apply to a small set of real-world problems.
- **Deploying Rules without Code Changes**– SharePoint has no features for maintaining or deploying complex rules. Most changes to business logic require clumsy modifications to production metadata or code changes to custom components. InRule can provide a clean platform for managing business logic changes without risking production data loss or incurring downtime.
- **Managing Business Rules** – Because SharePoint does not allow complex rules to be managed as shareable assets, changes must be managed within code. InRule enables the management of rules from development through production with granular permission, check-in/check-out and version control.

**Sample Use Case for InRule with SharePoint: Document Validation and Routing**

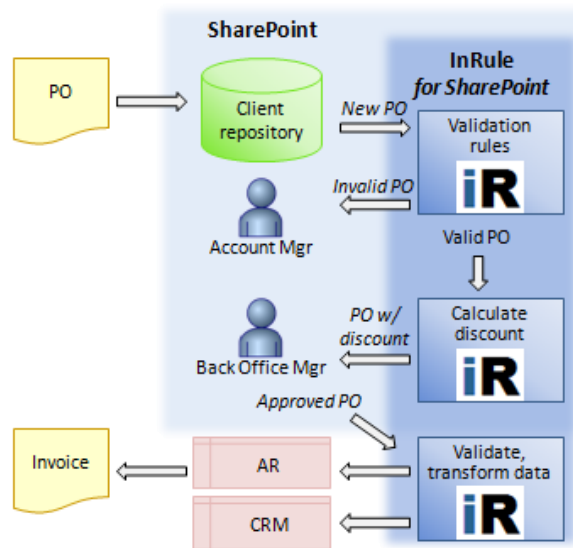
A company requires that all purchase order documents be collected in a series of client-specific repositories for future auditing. After a document arrives at a repository, it must be validated based on the originating client, and then routed for review and approval by a manager.

Each client has specific data that is checked during validation, such as whether they are current on payments or are eligible to receive discounts based on repeat business. If the order is found to be invalid, it is routed to an account manager to be reviewed with the client. If the order is valid, a discount is calculated and applied; then the order is routed to a back office manager to be approved and filled.

When an order is approved, records are added to the accounting and CRM systems and an invoice document is generated and routed back to the client.

In this example, InRule can be used to author complex rules for validation and discounts that run each time a document is inserted or modified within the repository. These rules can be run from a SharePoint event handler that has been registered on the repository. InRule can also be used to make decisions from within SharePoint workflows to route the document to the appropriate manager.

When an order is approved, InRule can again be called to validate, transform, and store data in the CRM and accounting systems. Once a SharePoint solution is in place to route document data through InRule, complex decision logic and calls to the back end systems can be modified and redeployed by business users without changing hard-coded components or incurring down time.



**SharePoint and  
InRule: Functionality  
Comparison**

InRule’s features and capabilities extend and enhance the functionality of SharePoint.

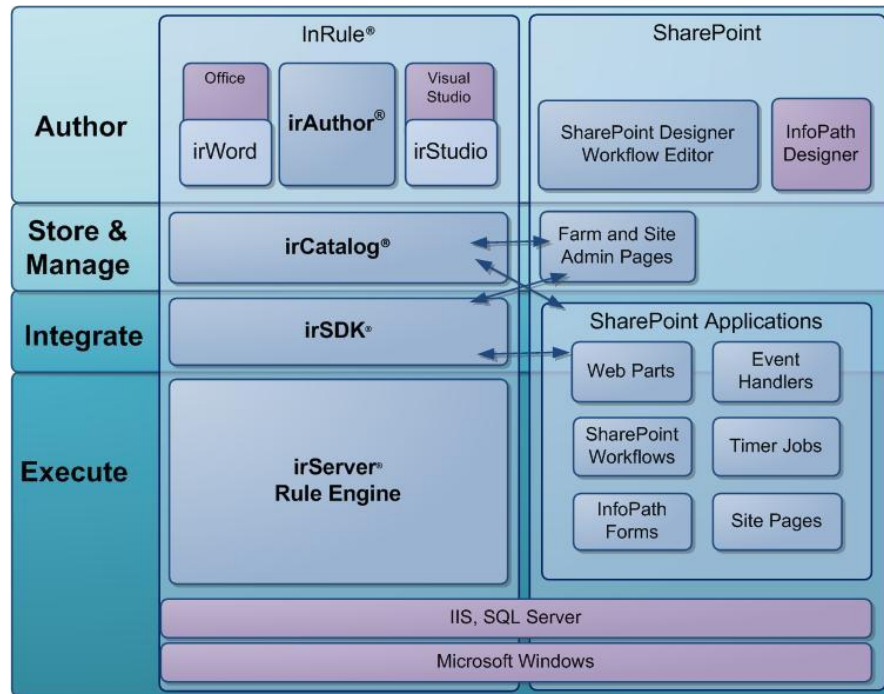
Feature	SharePoint 2010	InRule	SharePoint + InRule
Document and Content Management	✓		✓
Workflow and Business Process Management	✓		✓
Web site infrastructure	✓		✓
Collaboration	✓		✓
Enterprise Search	✓		✓
Business Reporting and Analytics	✓		✓
Support for Azure	✓	(tba)	(tba)
Simple rule authoring	✓	✓	✓
Automate complex business logic		✓	✓
Role-based rule management		✓	✓
Rule Authoring for Business Analysts & Users		✓	✓
Decision Tables		✓	✓
Business Language Authoring		✓	✓
Rule Templates		✓	✓
Authoring in Microsoft Word, Visual Rule Flow		✓	✓
Complex calculations, 140+ built-in Functions		✓	(tbd)
Rule sharing, rules as a decision service		✓	(tbd)

**InRule  
Interoperability  
with SharePoint**

Much like InRule, SharePoint is built on the .NET Framework itself and exposes most of its functionality through an SDK that is available to developers. All SharePoint applications are also .NET 3.0/4.0 applications that can be extended with custom code. Since both products have been designed to be customized by developers, there is a natural path to integration.

The following are some integration points where InRule can extend SharePoint's capabilities:

- List Event Handlers – InRule can be called to validate or route list items, such as documents or data records.
- BPM/Workflow Integration – InRule can be used to start or be called from SharePoint workflows. SharePoint workflows are built on Windows Workflow Foundation.
- Dynamic UI – InRule can be called from InfoPath forms or WebParts to drive user interfaces that interact with input data.



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