

RESEARCH IN THE EMERGING AREA OF IT-ENABLED BUSINESS PROCESS MANAGEMENT

Abstract

The purpose of business process management (BPM) is to define and manage business processes as an asset of the organization, in much the same way an organization's customers, intellectual property, financial and physical assets are managed. As obvious as this might sound, most organizations have not identified their processes, let alone assign ownership or actively manage them. In the late-90's a "third wave" of BPM (BPM3) was introduced that included process modeling conventions and supporting software that could lead directly to automated support of process execution and visibility. There are many ways to characterize this, but one is "model driven execution."

Despite BPM3 being in place for nearly a decade, its commercial and academic uptake has been uneven across sectors and geography. It's strong in the finance, telecom and (increasingly) health care sectors. It's more widely adopted in Europe. It is little known and rarely taught or researched in North American universities while more widely researched and taught in South America, Europe and parts of Asia.

This seminar will offer a brief tutorial on what BPM3 actually does and how it works. Equipped with this brief understanding, BPM3 will then be positioned relative to related concepts such as business rules (BRMS), BAM, SOA, ERP, SOE, and other concepts and technologies that are driving IT-enablement within and between organizations.

Biography

Richard J. Welke
Professor, Computer Information System
Director, Center for Process Innovation

Dr. Welke is director of the Center for Process Innovation, professor and previous chair of the CIS department at Georgia State University (1992-1999). Previous and concurrent appointments include professorships at TU-Delft (Cor Wit Research Professor) and Erasmus University's Rotterdam School of Management (The Netherlands) as well as McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. He was a co-founder of several of the information systems discipline's now-major academic organizations, (ICIS/AIS, TIMS College on IS and IFIP WG 8.2). He was founding editor of the first book academic book series on information systems (Sijthoff & Nordhoff).

He has formed, owned and managed several CASE companies in Canada and the US, and has been the CIO for two large engineering companies and one start-up company in Atlanta, GA. His 100+ papers are published in various books, refereed journals and conference proceedings. He is a frequent speaker at both professional and academic forums on topics related to business process management (BPM), service-oriented architectures (SOA) and methodology engineering. Dr. Welke's current research is focused on IT-enabled business process management and innovation in service-oriented enterprises. His recent research projects include action research at Gartner, Inc., C beyond, Parkmobile and Georgia State University's IS&T department.

He recently completed a study (with Rudy Hirschheim) for the Society for Information Management (SIM) Advanced Practices Council (APC) on SOA uptake and adoption. Recently published research papers are on BAM/CEP (framework and case study), developing generic rules specifications for governance and compliance, and SOA uptake and adoption among "leading" IS organizations.

Earned degrees

State University of New York at Buffalo (*Buffalo, New York*)

Ph.D. in Management Systems, 1975

MBA (with honors), 1970

The University of Michigan (*Ann Arbor, Michigan*)

BSE/Industrial Engineering (Summa Cum Laude), 1967; Tau Beta Pi