

IBM Software Demos

WebSphere Portal Composite Application Workflow

{Introduction: Show login screen with running stock ticker}

IBM WebSphere Portal includes a Composite Application Workflow Builder. This tool allows departmental users to easily create simple, role-based workflow-driven applications which require no programming or complex administration. In this demonstration we will see how such an application is utilized by **Mike Lockerbee**, a human resources manager, who has just hired **Bruce Baker** as a Software Support Specialist.

{Action: Log in and navigate to the Composite Applications Library}

< 0:28>

Mike logs into the corporate portal and navigates to the Composite Applications Library, which contains application instances of templates. An application unlike a template, has specific users or groups assigned to each application-role. For this application workflow, the application roles are: hiring managers, second line managers and office managers.

{Action: Click the application link, name the workflow and click the New button}

<0:53>

Mike clicks to open the Manage New Hires application and then creates a new Workflow instance.

Composite Application Workflows define tasks that are presented to the user in dynamic pages, which are just like regular portal pages, but are initially invisible. Portlets are placed on these pages to provide relevant information needed to make a quick and accurate decision. The dynamic pages are shown to specific users when a task is assigned to them at some point in the workflow.

{Action: Click the Manage New Hires tab to refresh the screen}

<1:24>

Mike refreshes the page and sees the first task in the workflow that was assigned to him, the task of adding an employee to Enterprise Information System.

{Action: Click the Add Employee to EIS link}

<1:33>

Next, he clicks the task link and is presented with three portlets on a dynamic task page.

The two out-of-the-box portlets on the right are placed by the workflow on each task page.

The Current Task portlet enables the user to select a transition or simple completion of the current task.

The Related Content portlet allows users to attach files or documents to be available to all subsequent tasks in the workflow.

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On the left we see a custom portlet created by IT to add a new employee record to the corporate ERP system.

{Action: Select **Bruce Baker** from the drop-down menu}

<2:09>

Here, **Mike** selects **Bruce** from a list of New Hire candidates and assigns him to the Software Support department.

{Action: Click the Add Content button and attach a resume}

<2:16>

He attaches a link to **Bruce's** resume, which was added to the Portal Document Manager Library earlier. The Portal Document manager provides a central document repository for team collaboration.

The Workflow Builder portlet that was used to create this workflow, extends the portal's composite application and template model, allowing Portal applications to be saved as templates for easy customization, deployment, and 'reuse' by different user communities. The Workflow Builder uses the process portal infrastructure, which leverages the Business Process Choreographer to allow people to interact with business processes.

{Action: Press the Complete Step button}

<2:54>

Mike completes the current task in the workflow by pressing the Complete Step button and is returned to the workflow list.

{Action: Click the Manage New Hire tab}

<3:02>

Refreshing the page, he is presented with the next step in the workflow because the second task was defined to be assigned to the Hiring Manger that initiated the process.

{Action: Clicks the Purchase Equipment link}

<3:13>

Mike now clicks the Purchase Equipment link to open the current task. He selects a new laptop with an appropriate disk and a carrying case. Once the requisition is submitted he notices that the request exceeds the \$2000 limit which is set in the portlet supplied by IT. He chooses the Request Approval path in the workflow, which assigns the next task to a second line manager.

{Transition: New login screen for **Debbie Green**}

<3:49>

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Switching to the screen of second line manager, **Debbie Green**, we see her logging into the portal. On the portal banner she sees a new pending task and clicks the link.

Debbie sees the pending task and proceeds to claim and review it. She retrieves all pending requisites, and reviews the current office budget, and based on that information, approves the purchase request for the new hire.

{New login screen for **Ben Harper**}

<4:21>

Next in the workflow, we see office manager **Ben Harper** log into the portal. Like **Debbie**, **Ben** sees the pending task and proceeds to claim and review it.

Ben addresses the request for a desk for **Bruce Baker** and makes the assignment from available inventory, completing the task.

{Transition: Back to **Mike's** screen}

<4:48>

Back on **Mike Lockerbee's** screen, he selects to view all tasks rather than only the open tasks assigned to him, and now sees the completed workflow.

Mike opens the Details panel and reviews all the workflow steps. Since this workflow is now complete, he removes it from the Workflow List portlet and logs off.

{Conclusion Remarks: Show login screen with running stock ticker}

<5:10>

In this demonstration, we have seen how a composite application workflow aligns workflow tasks with organizational roles and enables users to see only the tasks assigned to them along with relevant information from across the company. This helps ensure faster decision-making and avoids tasks being lost in crowded in-boxes. It also extends the value of Service Oriented Architecture by tying human facing workflows into the portal's composite application infrastructure.