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Comments from Procession Partner in relation to the IBM toolset.

I've discussed this with the guys at Procession and done a little research myself on the comparison with IBM tools. I agree with you that, at first glance, the IBM capabilities appear to have some similarities - however I would like to point out the following:

The first important difference is that in the build of an application the human interaction in the IBM tool set is still quite complex whereas the Procession interface is intuitive and designed specifically for the Business Analyst – rather than the professional programmer.

Whereas there is still a compile phase (albeit hidden) in the IBM process the Procession process does not require a compile phase at all – the code building is inherent in the core design of Procession architecture and in effect never changes. Hard to believe, I know – but never-the-less true – having the advantage that changes/updates can be implemented immediately using business analyst skills alone.

One of the weaknesses in the IBM toolset is that, despite considerable effort to be business process centric their design still relies to a large extent on specialist IT knowledge – whereas Procession “puts people first” – the source of the information – and is world class in Human Interaction task driven design (goal directed). This aspect allows solutions to extend into the current unstructured arena where information is created. The further the reach the greater automation and resultant savings in operational costs. The only way to see this is actually to see it!

Procession cost per function point – in commercial application design and particularly in prototyping is considerable quicker thus cheaper to the point which with experience (including reusable libraries of sub processes, forms and calculations) could get to 20% of the IBM equivalent product.

In Software Agility terms, this lack of compile process, the complete data-centric nature and the direct development of the application by the business analyst/user community means that the application can be changed immediately the business requires process changes without disruption – The changes can often be made by the person responsible for the change in business process or where more complex by the business analysts thus completely negating any interpretation errors.

The Dynamic Task™ capability in Procession recognises the need to dynamically alter a process as circumstances in the business change – we believe there is no other software available which can do this. In addition the Living Process® (within pre-agreed parameters to retain both data and compliance integrity) allows users to build processes at run time!

We are convinced that the Procession product does indeed differentiate itself from the IBM toolset in several distinct ways.

