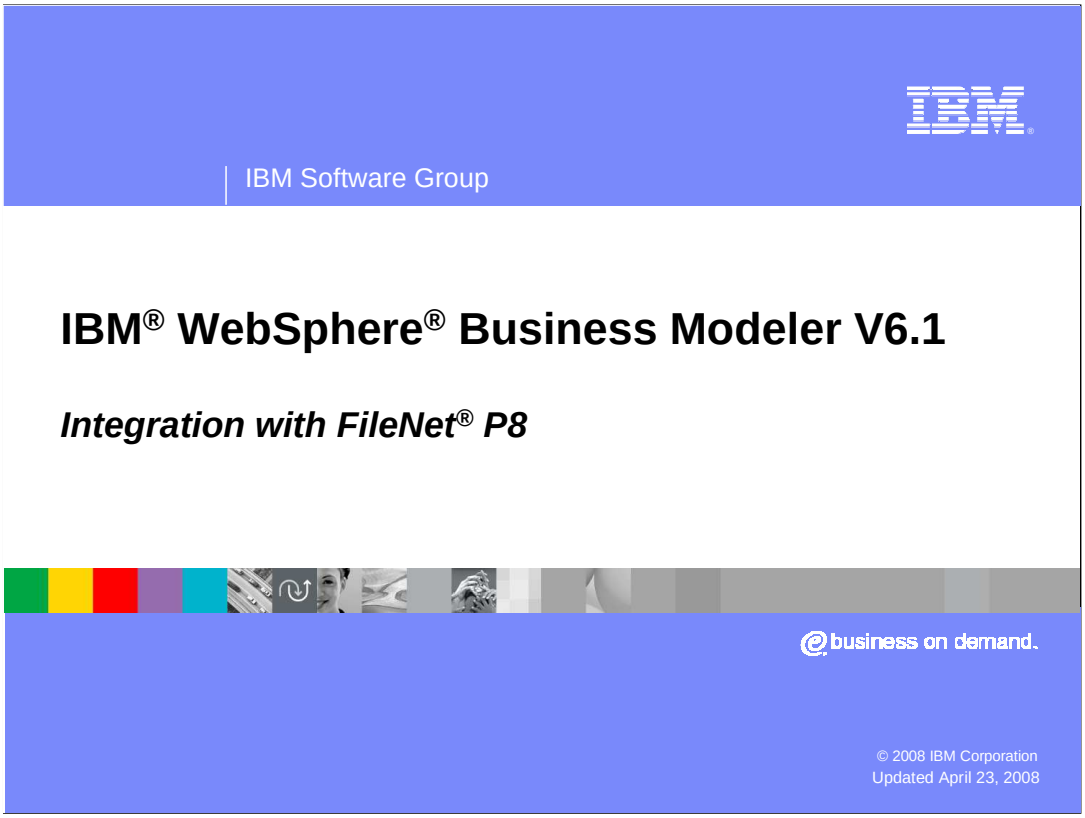
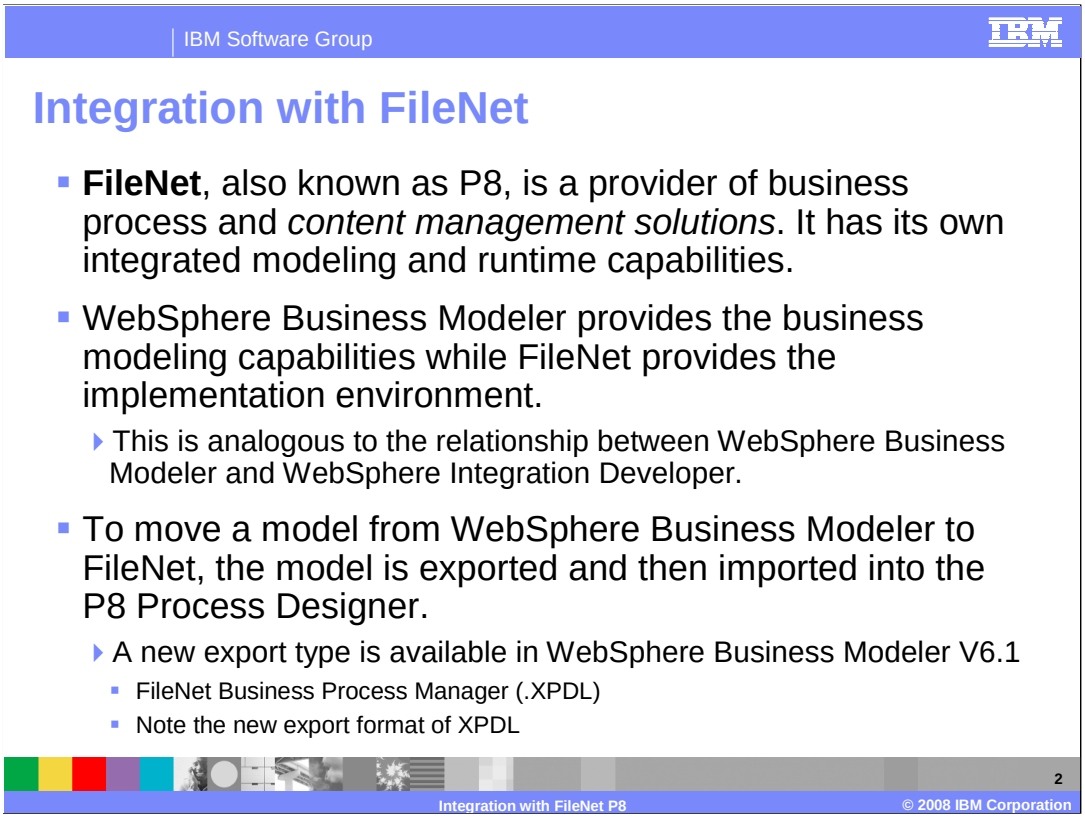


This presentation will discuss the FileNet support that is available with WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1.

It is not the intention of this presentation to be a tutorial on FileNet P8.

To learn more about FileNet P8, refer to the FileNet product description.



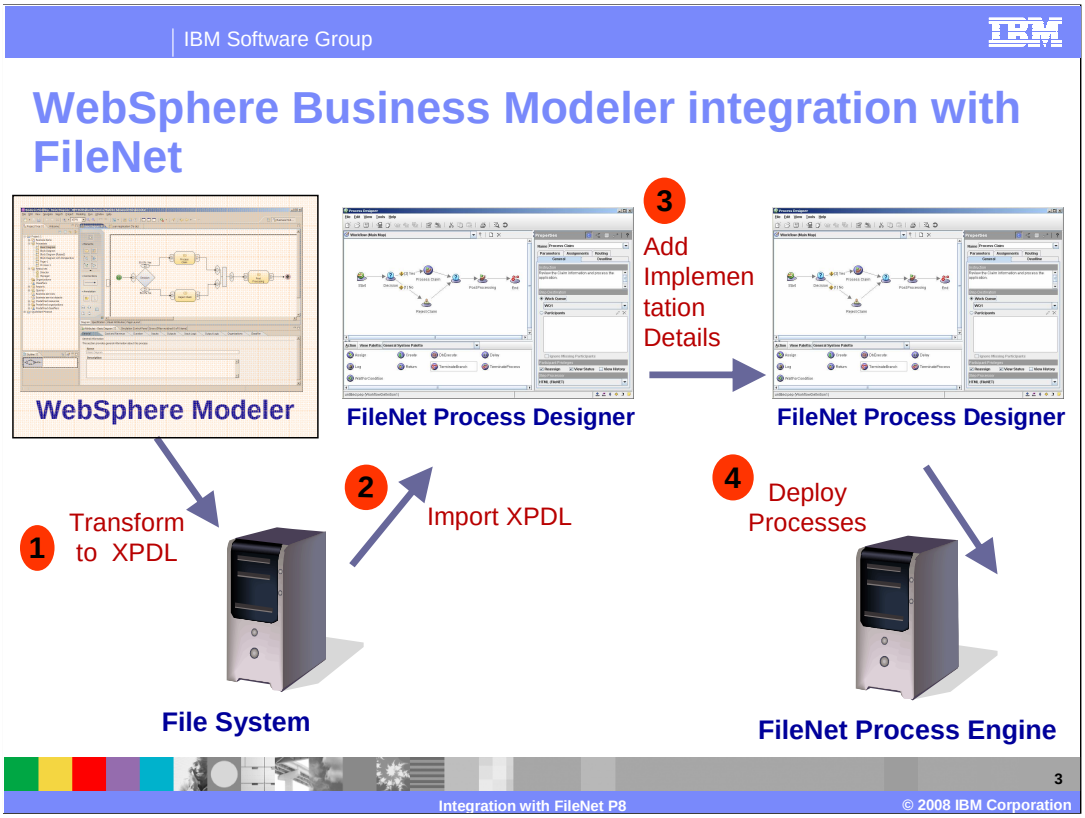
FileNet is a recently acquired acquisition to the IBM family of Information Management products. It was purchased by IBM in October of 2006. FileNet provides a runtime environment for content management along with the necessary development tools. Content management is a special case of business process management and therefore the associated flows need to be available to the business analyst when they are developing business process models.

WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1 provides the capability for the business analyst to export the business process flow in a format that can be imported into the FileNet process designer. Using the FileNet process designer the FileNet specific implementation details can be completed and the FileNet model can then be deployed to the FileNet runtime.

With this feature a new export format is also introduced, XPDL.

XPDL is used to store and exchange the process diagram. It allows one tool to model a process diagram, and another to read the diagram and edit it, and another to "run" the process model on an XPDL-compliant BPM engine.

XPDL is not an executable programming language like BPEL, but specifically a process design format that literally represents the "drawing" of the process definition.



Here you see a graphical representation of the application development process with FileNet as the target implementation.

The first step is to model the business process using WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1. As with the other specialized deployment environments, there are certain features in WebSphere Business Modeler that cannot be used. These features are discussed in subsequent slides.

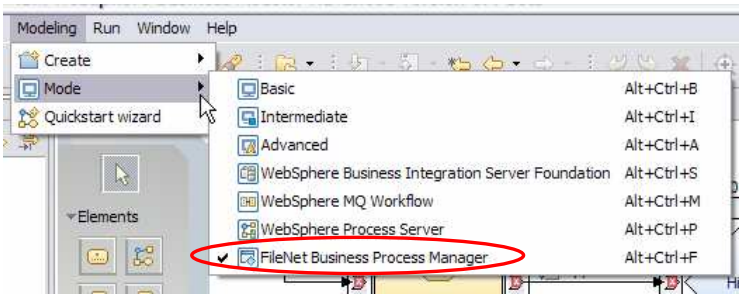
The next step is to export the model using the “FileNet Business Process Manager” export type.

Notice that there is some transformation that occurs as part of the export to XPDL.

After importing the XPDL file, the implementation details are added and then the implementation is deployed to the FileNet process engine.

New modeling mode for FileNet integration

- Assisted modeling through a new modeling mode.
  - When *switching to* FileNet mode, validation is triggered and the use of unsupported constructs are reported
  - When in FileNet mode, the unsupported features are not available
    - The unsupported features are not not available.
    - Prevents you from using constructs unsupported by FileNet.
    - Supports modeling in a “FileNet like” friendly fashion.



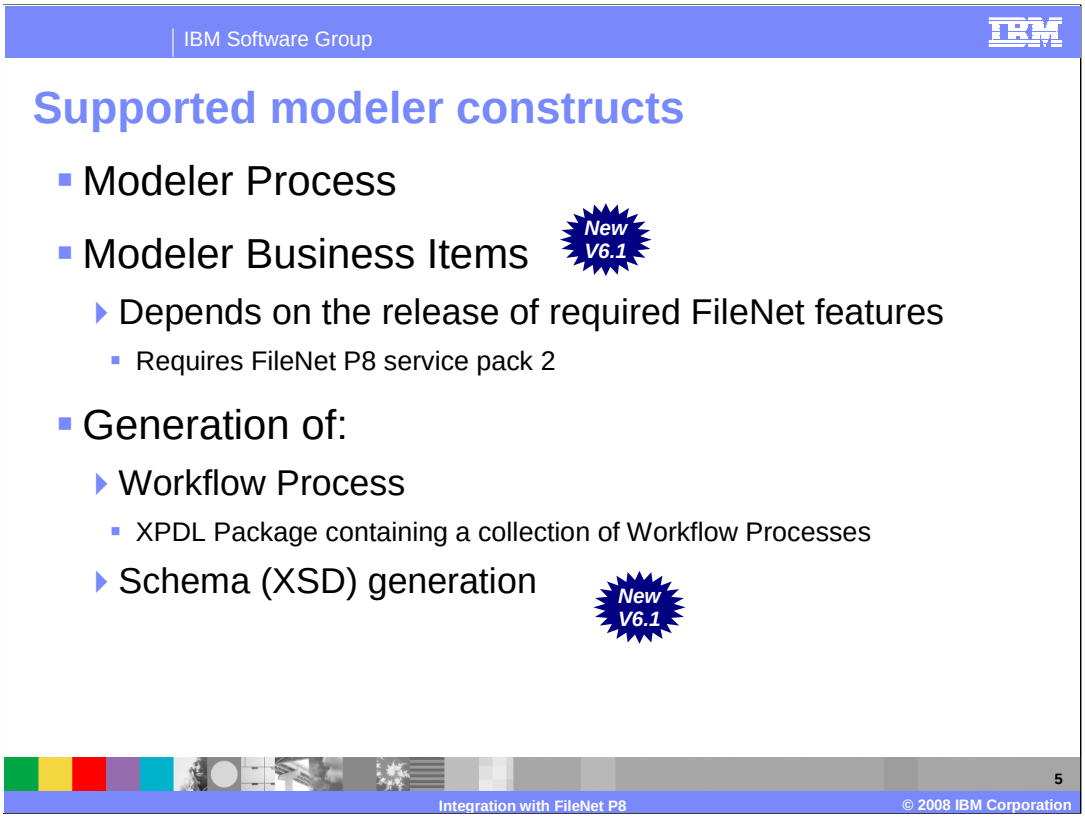
There are certain features in WebSphere Business Modeler that cannot be used when the target runtime is FileNet P8.

This is managed with the introduction of a new modeling mode for FileNet Business Process Manager.

Using the FileNet Business Process Manager modeling mode, you are prevented from using the unsupported features. If you switch to the new modeling mode after you have already started modeling then the validation will detect any unsupported features being used and you will be notified in the errors view. The validation is done when you save your work.

If you plan to use the FileNet P8 Platform as the runtime platform for models developed in WebSphere Business Modeler, you should begin modeling in FileNet Business Process Manager mode. If you have already created a model in another mode, you can switch to FileNet Business Process Manager mode and then fix the errors that the Errors view shows you before you try to export the model.

Using the FileNet Business Process modeling mode helps you bridge the differences between the modeling paradigm of WebSphere Business Modeler and the modeling paradigm of FileNet P8.

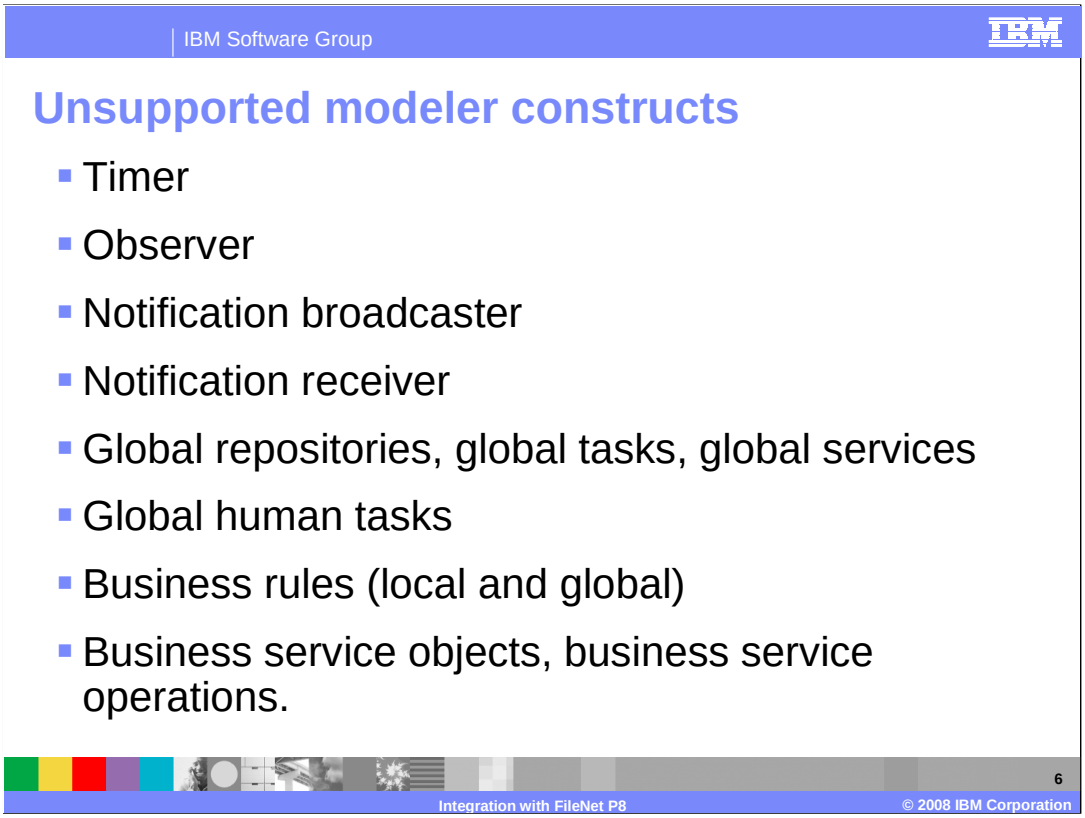


FileNet support was initially delivered as a support pack for V6.0.2. Not all the features were delivered at that time.

With WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1 you can now export the business items created in WebSphere Business Modeler.

In WebSphere Business Modeler, business items have a greater variety of types than FileNet P8 supports. For this reason WebSphere Business Modeler exports business items as XML data fields that reference type definitions in XSD files. While this use of XML data fields might not be typical for many FileNet P8 users, it has the advantage of preserving the rich amount of details that can be modeled within WebSphere Business Modeler

Use of the new business item support requires FileNet P8 service pack 2.



In WebSphere Business Modeler, there are numerous elements for which an equivalent in FileNet P8 does not exist or the equivalent is too

semantically different to use.

These elements are unsupported in the FileNet Business Process Manager mode and are not available in the palette.

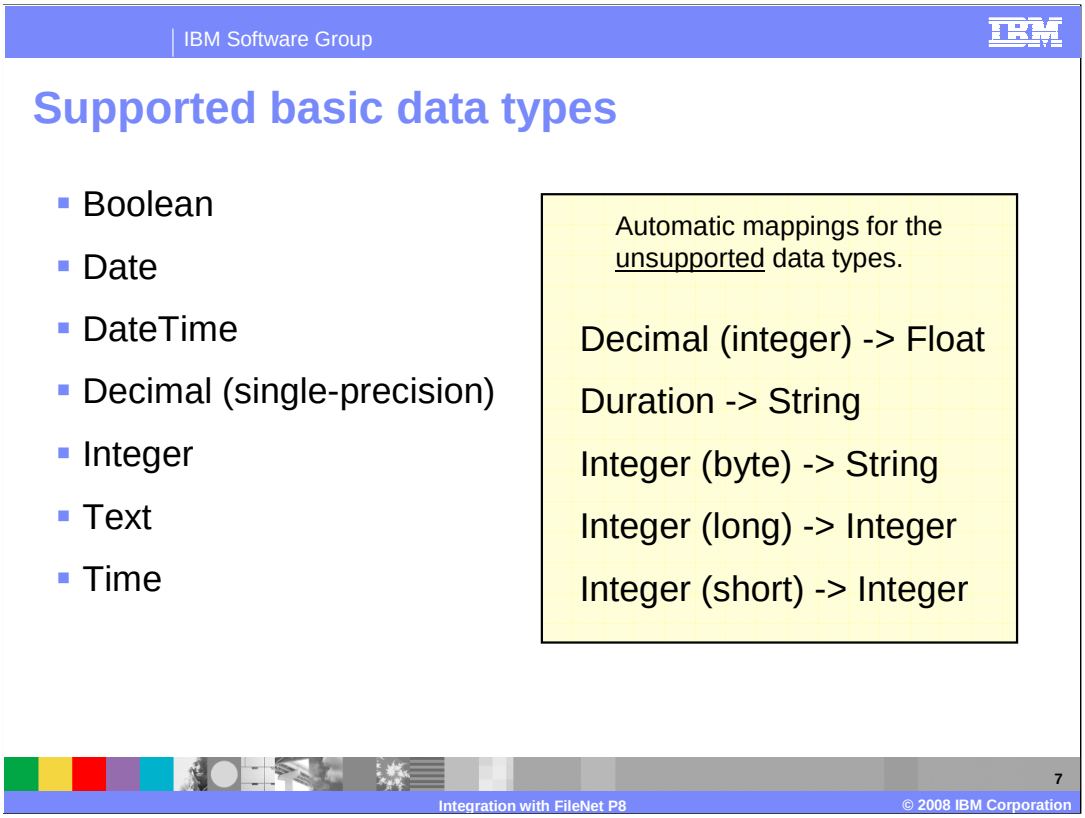
If you have already created these elements in the model, WebSphere Business Modeler marks them with an error indicator and provides

a message in the Errors view. The messages have a ZXP code.

If you export a process containing unsupported elements, the FileNet Business Process Manager export transforms the unsupported

elements into XPDL activities.

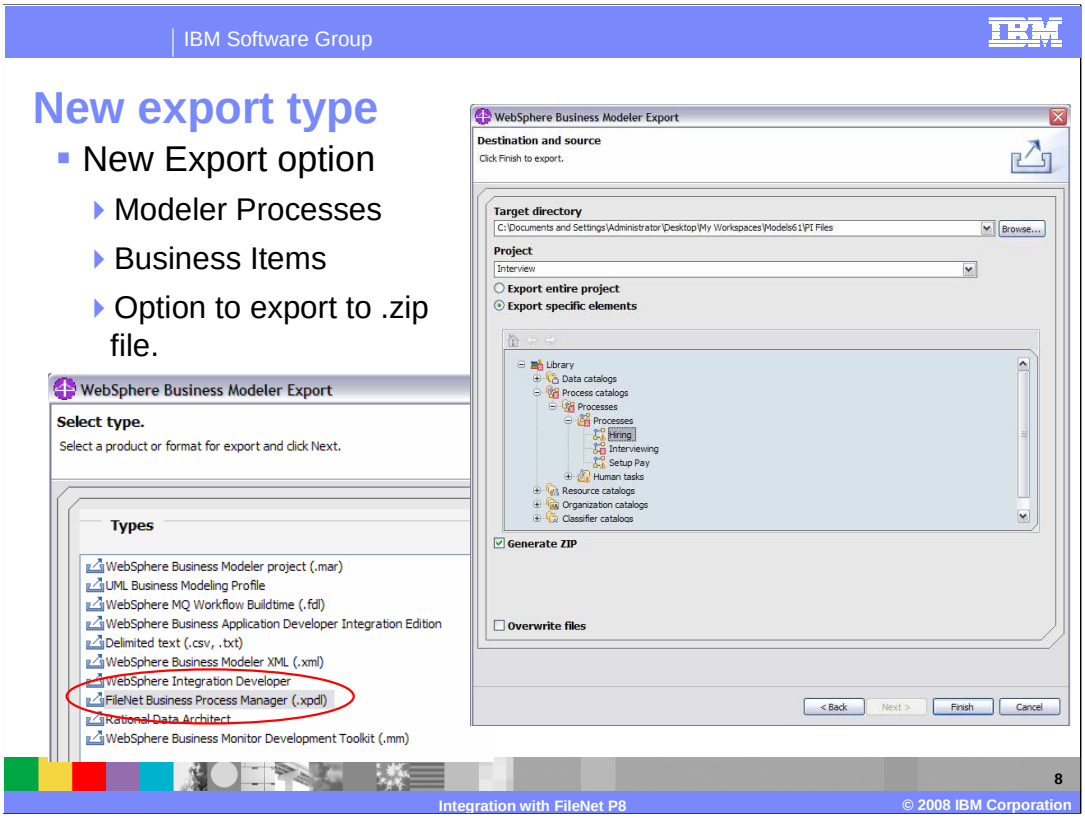
When you open the process in FileNet P8 Process Designer, these activities display as connected general steps.



In WebSphere Business Modeler, there are several basic data types for which an equivalent in FileNet P8 does not exist.

The supported basic data types are listed here.

The unsupported data types are available for you to select; however, when you save your process model, the validation performed by the FileNet Business Process Manager mode will mark them with a warning. If you export an unsupported data type, the FileNet Business Process Manager transforms it into the appropriate supported data types in the XPDL file.



A new export type is available. To export your model so it can be imported into FileNet P8, right mouse click on your project and select export from the pop-up menu. Then select the FileNet Business Process Manager (.xpdl) export type.

Best practices when modeling for FileNet

- Use of Repositories to model Modeler data flow
  - FileNet variables
- Use Map to initialize the process input variables.
- Discourage the usage of Modeler Merge for data flows
- Build symmetrical process.
- Documented in the WebSphere Business Modeler V6 documentation
  - Help -> WebSphere Business Modeler Advanced -> Exporting Models -> Exporting to FileNet P8

In WebSphere Business Modeler, data flow is modeled within business processes with one process element passing data to another through a connection.

In FileNet P8 data flow is modeled using process-level variables that are referenced by the steps for the process.

To bridge the two paradigms, in WebSphere Business Modeler you use repositories to contain the data and connect the repository to each process element that needs that data.

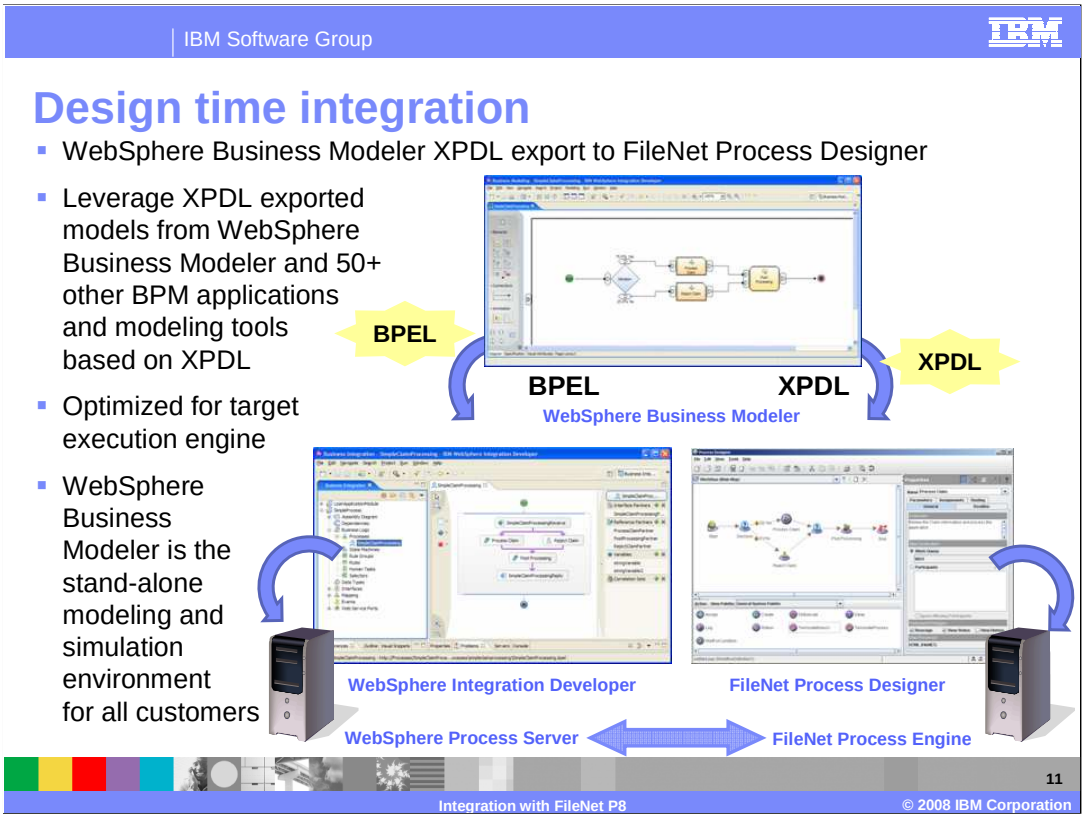
To support this, map elements perform a special role in the FileNet Business Process Manager mode. Each process can only have one supported map element and if the process does, the map must be the first element in the process flow. The purpose of the map is to initialize repositories with data. If a map appears anywhere else in the process, it is an unsupported element. Flow control elements (decisions, forks, joins and merges) within a WebSphere Business Modeler process either merge into an adjacent step as routing information or export as general steps in the FileNet P8 process.

Documentation

- Detailed information about the FileNet P8 support in WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1 can be found in the information center.
  - Available on line.

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/dmndhelp/v6r1mx/topic/com.ibm.btools.help.modeler.doc/doc/welcome/dochome.html

To learn more about the specifics of the FileNet P8 best practices you can go to the online help that is available with the product or you can browse the publicly available information center. The information is the same for both.



The picture shown here is helpful when trying to understand how the various products fit together.
At the top is WebSphere Business Modeler, where the business models are created. The business models are abstract and theoretically devoid of implementation details.

There are several possible target runtime platforms. Shown here are WebSphere Process Server and FileNet P8. Others include MQ workflow and WebSphere Business Integration Server Foundation. Each target runtime has its own development tools where the implementations can be prepared and deployed.

The goal of WebSphere Business Modeler is to provide a mechanism for exporting the business process model in a form that can be consumed by the development tools for the target platform.

Summary

- Business models created with WebSphere Business Modeler can be used with FileNet
- WebSphere Business Modeler provides the business modeling capabilities while FileNet provides the implementation environment
  - This is analogous to the relationship between WebSphere Business Modeler and WebSphere Integration Developer
- To move a model from WebSphere Business Modeler to FileNet, the model is exported using XPDL and then imported into the P8 Process Designer

Support for FileNet P8 in WebSphere Business Modeler V6.1 follows the same basic model as integration support for other runtime platforms.

This support includes a platform specific modeling mode to guide the business analyst toward FileNet modeling best practices, documentation of the best practices and a new XPDL export type.

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