Business Processes Modelling MPB (6 cfu, 295AA)

Roberto Bruni http://www.di.unipi.it/~bruni

03 - Examples

Insurance claim example

Sect.1.3 of Workflow Management: Models, Methods, and Systems

An example: insurance claim

- 1. recording the receipt of the claim
- 2. establishing the type of the claim
- 3. checking covering of client's policy
- 4. checking the premium (payments up to date?)
- 5. rejection, if 3 or 4 has negative result
- 6. producing a rejection letter
- 7. roughly estimate the amount to be paid, if 3 & 4 have positive results
- 8. appointment of an assessor, if needed
- 9. revision of the amount offered to the client
- 10. recording client's reaction
- 11. assessment of objection: decision to revise 9 or take legal action 12
- 12. legal proceedings
- 13. payment of claim
- 14. filing and closure of claim





Some patterns





Parallel



Choice / Selection





Another selection



Iteration



Ambiguity!





Ambiguity!



Disambiguation





7

estimate

Disambiguation



Disambiguation



Orchestration

Business process models are performed in a single organization by definition

Thus, the **ordering of activities** can be controlled by a **business process management system** as a **centralized** software component run by the organization

This kind of control is called orchestration

Orchestration

Orchestration is about describing and executing a single view point model

The analogy is with the conductor who centrally controls the musicians in an orchestra



Model execution



A process instance



Another instance



Exercise



Travel agency orchestration:

define a series of tasks for booking a flight, a hotel and optionally a car, with the possibility to change dates, to cancel the booking, to confirm the booking. Then, draw a process diagram relating the tasks.

Buyer & Reseller example

Sect.1.1 of Business Process Management: Concepts, Languages, Architectures

Example: Reseller



We move to BPMN-like syntax

Example: Reseller



We move to BPMN-like syntax

A **pool** is a rectangle that encloses a business process

(it can be divided in **lanes** to distribute tasks to different actors)

Example: Reseller



A reseller can use the business process model above to configure the business process management system accordingly

All instances will be executed as specified (after receiving the order, send and ship activites are concurrently executed)

Example: Buyers



Buyer & Reseller



Separately developed processes need to communicate!



Cross-organization interaction

Each business process is enacted by one organization

Business processes can interact with each other

Interacting activities of business processes must be related together

Interacting processes



Interacting processes can exchange information (electronic messages, physically transported objects)

Interacting processes



Message flow is represented by dotted arcs

Choreography

The interactions of a set of business processes are specified in a process choreography

Difference w.r.t. orchestration:

the absence of a central agent that controls the activities in the business processes involved

For the interaction to be realized correctly, the interacting business processes better **be aware** and **agree upon the choreography in advance**

Choreography



Choreography

Choreography is about describing a global model (multi-point view)

The analogy is with the dancers who behave autonomously, but follow their parts in the choreography



Choreography diagram

Choreography diagrams allow for multiple concrete implementations, with different software support

Old-fashioned order: a buyer browses a paper catalogue of a reseller, then fills a postcard and sends it by snail mail and pay by bank transfer

e-commerce: a buyer browses an online web catalogue, fills a virtual basket and an electronic form (billing information) and presses the submit button. The goods themselves may be intangible (e-books, music, video, software)

Interaction issues

As said, interacting business processes must be aware and agree upon the choreography

In such cases, the realization of business processes by participants can change without affecting the overall behaviour

On the other hand, if the change is not done correctly, then some problems may arise

Question time



Work fine together!

 B_1

 R_1

Question time



Still working fine?

B₁

 R_2

Question time



Still working fine?

B₄

 R_2

Exercises

In previous slides, we have seen many variants of business processes for resellers (two) and buyers (four).

Build a "compatibility" matrix with two rows and four columns and mark all the combinations for which some problems may arise during the interaction because activities are not implemented in the expected order.

You are also free to consider other process diagrams, by adding the corresponding rows / columns to the matrix.

	B ₁	B ₂	B ₃	B4
R1	ok			
R ₂	ok			no



Exercise



Coffee break choreography:

Draw the process diagram for a vending machine that accepts a coin, then gives the possibility (1) to get a coffee or (2) to insert another coin and get either a

cappuccino or a tea. Draw the process diagrams for a compatible butler robot and a "problematic" butler robot.