Subject: Explicit OR-Split
Posted by ljkbrost on Fri, 05 Feb 2010 02:04:04 GMT
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Hi,

I'm playing around with the workflow and would like to emulate the following:

[Add Request] -> (Start) -> [Triage] --{status=assigned} -> (Work)
--{status=open} -> (Start)
--{status=cancel} -> (End)

Essential the Triage task will have three possible settings. If the status is 'open' send it back to the (start) place. If the status is 'assigned' send it to the (work) place. If the status is 'cancel' send it to the (end) place.

When I try to validate this I get an error message "More than 2 arcs of type 'OR-split (Explicit)' at transition Triage. Is my thinking wrong or is the system limited to 2 or-splits? If it is, how would I implement my 3 splits that I need?

Thanks,

Kyle Brost

Subject: Re: Explicit OR-Split
Posted by AJM on Fri, 05 Feb 2010 16:36:56 GMT
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I have modified the system so that it will allow any number of 'OR-split (Explicit)' entries. They must all have a pre-condition except the last one (when sorted by place_name), as this will be treated as the default if none of the other conditions evaluates to TRUE.

The attached file also contains a small fix to 'std.table.class.inc' which prevented the case from being marked as closed when a token was moved to the END place.

Let me know if this works OK.

File Attachments
1) radicore-update-2010-02-05.zip, downloaded 2228 times

Subject: Re: Explicit OR-Split
Posted by ljkbrost on Mon, 22 Feb 2010 00:28:41 GMT

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Hi Tony,

Took the patch for a test spin and it had a problem. When it's evaluating the multiple 'OR' cases, the arcs are pulled from the DB in alphabetically order. Depending on the order you might get the code to evaluate:

Pre-condition
Default case
Pre-condition

versus

Pre-condition
Pre-condition
Default case

I fixed this by modifying the code to order by 'pre_condition DESC, place_name ASC'. It on line 139 of workflow_engine.class.inc.

Once I fixed that problem the testing was positive. It looks like a good enhancement.

Cheers,

Kyle Brost
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www.softelephant.com

Subject: Re: Explicit OR-Split
Posted by AJM on Mon, 22 Feb 2010 09:51:50 GMT
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Good idea. I'll put the same change in the next release.

Subject: Re: Explicit OR-Split
Posted by AJM on Wed, 24 Feb 2010 15:41:22 GMT
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There is one instance where sorting on pre_condition would not be a good idea, and where sorting just on place_name would be better. Just suppose there are several conditions which could be true, but they need to be evaluated in a particular order so that the first one found to be true is executed - it is possible that by sorting on the contents of pre_condition the wrong condition could be evaluated first. Sorting on place_name would give more flexibility as YOU would decide the order in which the conditions were evaluated. All you would have to do is prefix the descriptive

place name with an ascending variable (such as '1-' or 'A-'). This would give you much more control over the evaluation order.

What do you think?
