



What's New in ActiveVOS 6.1

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2009

ActiveVOS 6.1 Overview

ActiveVOS™ 6.1 delivers new levels of productivity for creating BPM applications. Already the most complete, compatible and affordable BPM system available, ActiveVOS 6.1 enhances its offering for business analysts, operations staff and managers while breaking new ground in developer productivity. Special effort has been made in ActiveVOS 6.1 to make developers productive immediately by allowing them to use the methodology that suits them best and by preserving their current skills and knowledge.

ActiveVOS 6.1 achieves this by reducing the amount of prerequisite knowledge required by a developer. A developer that understands WSDL and XML Schema knows all that is required to begin developing compelling, production BPM applications. SOA development languages like BPEL are elegant, open ways to orchestrate services into business process applications. But until now, developers had to overcome significant conceptual obstacles to be able to effectively take advantage of these modern development tools. ActiveVOS 6.1 eliminates these barriers while maintaining 100% compatibility with standards. No other BPM system has yet to achieve this perfect balance between capability and ease-of-use.

IT operations teams can also take advantage of new server exception management capabilities that significantly increase operational resilience.

ActiveVOS 6.1 delivers:

- **Breakthrough developer productivity**
 - Developers do not need to be BPEL experts
 - A new Participants View in the visual designer creates orchestrations naturally, as developers would expect
- **Any-order BPM development**
 - Top-down/bottom-up iterative development – develop as you think instead of how the BPM tool requires one to think

- New property sheets automatically generate process constructs, speeding up development and easing the learning curve for new developers
- Linked navigation
- **Automatic development**
 - BPEL prepare and assign activities are automatically generated – ActiveVOS 6.1 knows what is needed, and saves time by filling it in automatically
 - Automated public/private interface generation
- **Improved data manipulation and ease of development of complex processes**
 - Optimized XPath XML manipulation
 - XQuery templates for XML assignment
- **A better BPM development environment**
 - Support for Eclipse 3.4
 - New Subversion source code management support in addition to CVS
- **Improved operational resilience**
 - New auditable Process Rewind exception management capability
 - New process monitors and graceful server shut down

These exciting new features are described below.

ActiveVOS 6.1 Features

Addressing the BPM Development Challenge

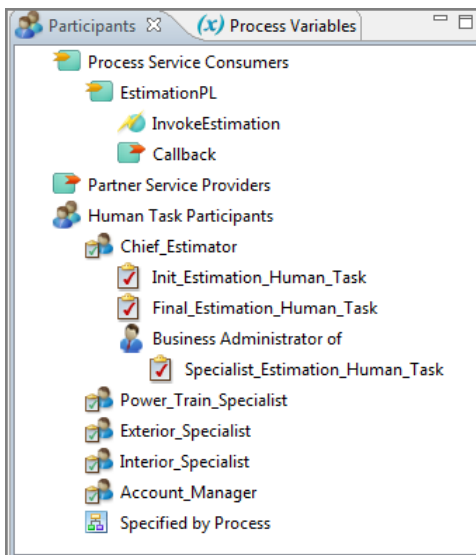
ActiveVOS 6.1 revolutionizes the way developers approach BPM development. ActiveVOS 6.1 removes barriers to the more natural top-down or bottom-up design and ensures that development in ActiveVOS is neither prescriptive nor predefined.

Breakthrough developer productivity

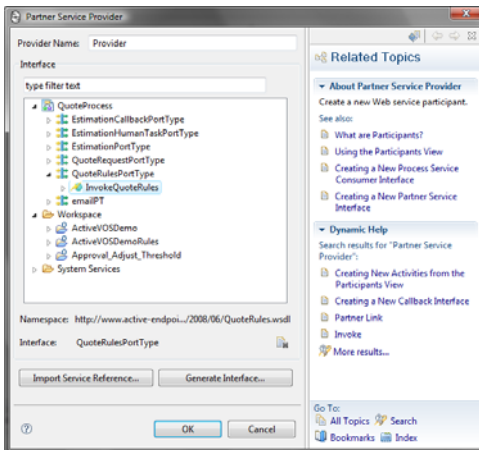
To ensure the mass adoption of BPM – and its SOA-based standards – a lower bar for entry is required, especially for developers learning the core SOA language of BPEL. While elegant, BPEL has concepts like bi-directional nature of service interaction that confuse new users. ActiveVOS 6.1 has **removed the need to understand the subtleties of the Partner Link Type**. ActiveVOS 6.1 can **automatically generate these constructs** greatly speeding development. ActiveVOS 6.1 offers a level of BPM maturity that previous-generation BPM systems have lacked.

ActiveVOS 6.1 paints a clearer picture of the participants in an orchestration. The objective was to make it possible for developers to quickly discern which interfaces an orchestration exposes to its *consumers and producers*. In addition, since people are a critical part of BPM applications, the developer needs to identify *human tasks* relationships in the orchestration.

ActiveVOS 6.1 introduces a breakthrough **Participants View** that shows the relationships among and between orchestration consumers, producers and human tasks. The Participants View fundamentally transforms how these relationships are presented. The result is that developers can simply drag a participant onto the canvas and ActiveVOS 6.1 *automatically* creates the necessary BPEL constructs required to use that participant in a BPM orchestration.

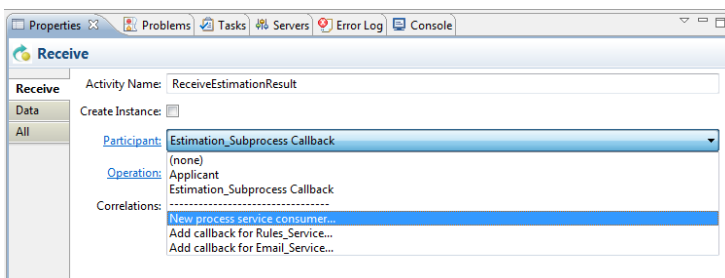


Any-order BPM development



Since BPM applications today are services-based, previous development tools required developers to know details of the services to be used, such as the interface the process is going to expose, to get started. Another example: developers might also need to have access to partners' WSDL definitions to get started. This is not the most natural way to develop applications. Instead, it frustrates developer productivity by forcing unnatural constraints on the project. It should not matter whether you know at the start of the project the interface your process is going to expose. Having your partner's WSDL interface should not be required to get started. You should be able to add the details as you obtain them from your partners or define them for the process.

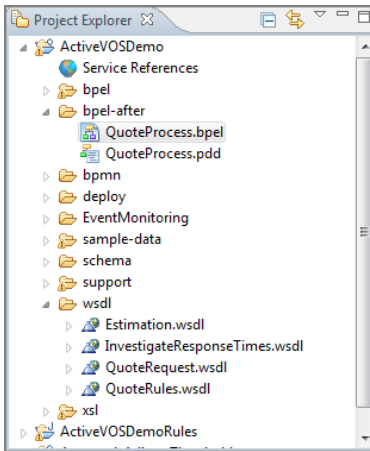
ActiveVOS 6.1 does away with modal "wizards" that expect the developer to have all the information at hand when starting development. If the information is not readily available, the project stalls. Today's Java developers do not use tools that work this way – and they resist adopting BPM tools that take them back to earlier generations of technology just to be able to do services-based BPM applications.



ActiveVOS 6.1 lets developers provide the details at hand and leave blank what is not known yet. **New property sheets that allow the creation of variables, process service consumers** and more were added to make it easy to iterate. **Linked navigation from the property sheet** to the associated artifact such as a WSDL, a task definition or partner definition has been added to quickly navigate to relevant content.

Because any-order development may mean a required item is missed, ActiveVOS 6.1 helps a developer understand what is missing before the project is completed. ActiveVOS 6.1 **automated builders and static analysis tooling** assess the project and assess missing components.

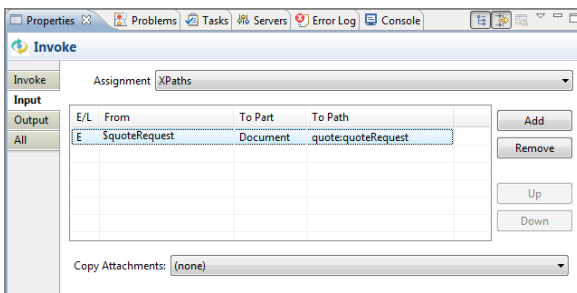
Automatic development



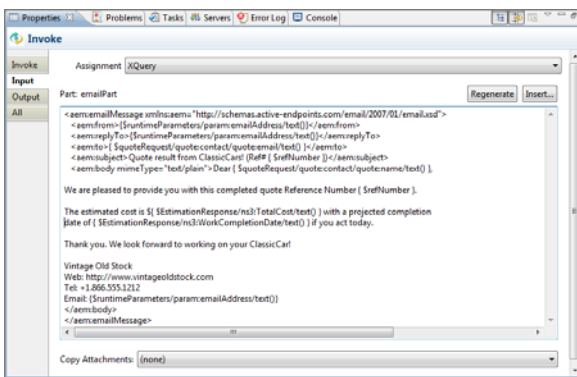
ActiveVOS 6.1 **steers the developer towards best practices.**

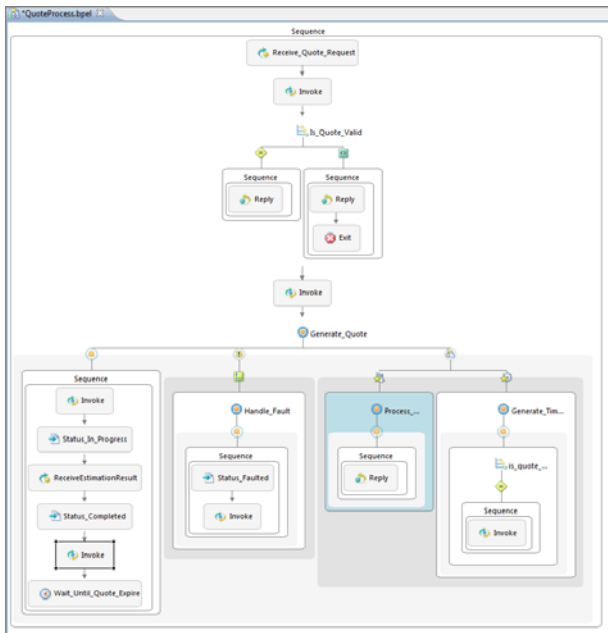
ActiveVOS 6.1 makes sensible choices for the developer that are also 100%-standards compliant. And while these items are automatically generated, they are not unintelligible machine gibberish. Anyone familiar with the orchestration will be able to understand what the system created. To achieve this, ActiveVOS 6.1 automatically **generates public and private WSDL interfaces** for developers. Public WSDLs are those interfaces you share with your partners. The private details of a service orchestration found in the Private WSDL do not need to be share with partners. ActiveVOS 6.1 understands this best practice and automatically generates the correct interfaces for the developer.

Improved data manipulation and ease of development of complex processes



Data manipulation is a core feature of any application. In SOA-based BPM applications, data manipulation is done via the XPath and XQuery standards. Developers typically understand these tools, but they need to be significantly easier to use. ActiveVOS 6.1 **optimizes XPath XML manipulation** by guiding the user through simple and granular assignments. For **XQuery**, ActiveVOS 6.1 significantly improves its use as a **template**. A developer only needs to fill in the blanks using an intuitive click and insert operation. With ActiveVOS 6.1 whether the need is one or two assignments or the need is to map the entirety of a complex structure, developers will find it both natural and easy to do so.



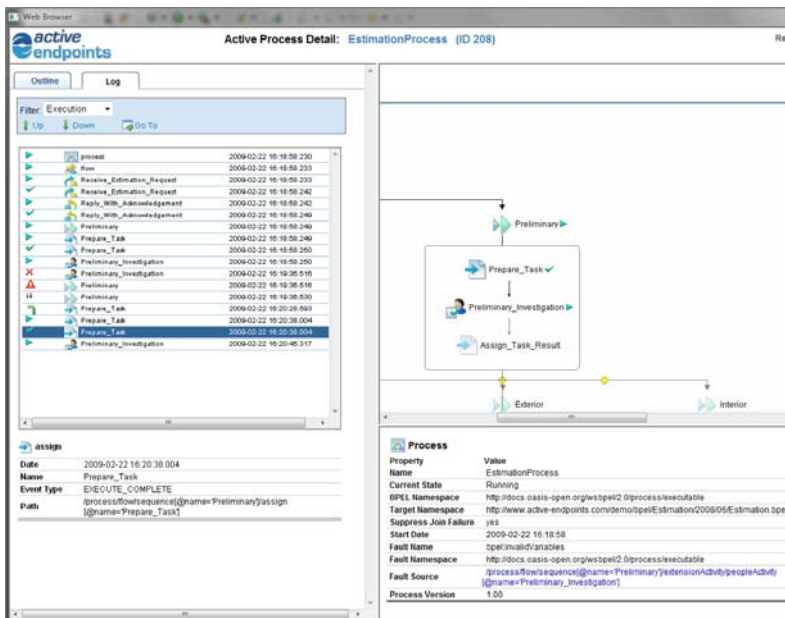


As the leader in BPM systems, ActiveVOS has many users with applications in production. These real-world ActiveVOS orchestration projects typically have tens of activities and sub-processes, and in some cases hundreds of activities. As a result of this real-world experience and customer feedback, ActiveVOS 6.1 **significantly reduces the clutter of required BPEL Assign activities** on the design canvas and the ActiveVOS Server's console process view. By moving the XML manipulation work and the presentation of the input and output parameters of activities ActiveVOS 6.1 allows users to focus on the real order and structure of their BPM application, instead of having to filter through the clutter.

Better BPM Development Environment

ActiveVOS 6.1 now **supports Eclipse 3.4** and **bundles Subversion in addition to CVS** clients for source management.

Operational Resilience



Date	Event Type	Path
2009-02-22 16:20:38.004	EXECUTE_COMPLETE	/process/flows/sequence[@name='Preliminary']/assign
		/@name='Prepare_Task'

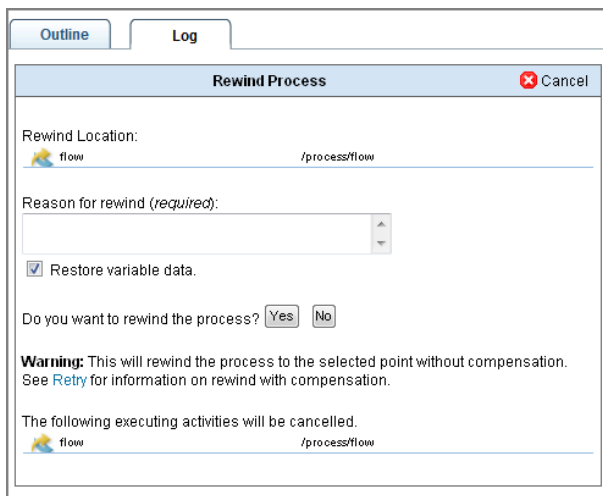
Property	Value
Name	EstimationProcess
Current State	Running
BPEL Namespace	http://docs.casita-open.org/estpspe2.0/process/executeable
Target Namespace	http://www.active-endpoints.com/demo/estpspe2.0/Estimation20080905/Estimation.bpel
Suppress Join Failure	yes
Start Date	2009-02-22 16:18:58
Fault Name	Speimain/variables
Fault Namespace	http://docs.casita-open.org/estpspe2.0/process/executeable
Fault Source	/process/flows/sequence[@name='Preliminary']/extensionActivity/people4/duty
	/@name='Preliminary_Investigation'
Process Version	1.00

As a result of customer feedback, ActiveVOS 6.1 implements a new capability that gives organizations unprecedented flexibility in managing running, in-flight processes: **process rewind**. Prior releases of ActiveVOS had the ability to retry an activity, a scope or the entire process. ActiveVOS 6.1 adds a new, unique capability: the ability to rewind a process to a specific activity and redo the work without having to invoke any of the built-in compensation logic.

Production ActiveVOS customers occasionally faced an interesting problem: while the invocation of a service may have seemingly been successful, the reality is entirely different. This

“computer versus reality” mismatch could leave processes in a state that

does not actually reflect the true status of the business. Another example is when a failure of a back-end system means that certain steps of the process needed to be “redone” without impacting work already performed. Simply put, no BPM application at design time can anticipate all of the operational issues and errors handling required



To allow businesses to respond to this challenge, ActiveVOS 6.1 now includes the ability to go back in time using the **process rewind** capability to replay the process from a given point of the process and then skip forward as required. Process rewind is, of course, auditable and permits organizations to handle any operational issue *as they are encountered*. Combined with existing exception management capabilities including, suspending a process on uncaught faults; correcting, retrying or completing suspended activities; monitoring and alert services; and root cause analysis capabilities, no other BPM system comes close to delivering the operational resiliency of ActiveVOS 6.1.

Process failure can materialize in many different forms. To limit the effect of a database failure for example, ActiveVOS 6.1 introduces a new **monitor** that will identify the problem and **gracefully shut down** the server after initiating alert services to warn operators of the need to correct the problem.

About Active Endpoints

Active Endpoints (www.activevos.com) is the leading developer of visual orchestration systems. Active Endpoints' ActiveVOS empowers line of business project teams to create applications using services and industry standards, making their businesses more agile and effective. ActiveVOS promotes mass adoption of SOA-enabled applications by focusing on accelerating project delivery time with a standards-based, easy-to-use system. Active Endpoints is headquartered in Waltham, MA with development facilities in Shelton, CT.

To find out how Active Endpoints can help your business, visit <http://www.activevos.com>, call +1 781 547 2900 and press 1 for Sales, or email us at info@activevos.com.