BRE Selection Checklist

Questions to ask before you buy a Business Rules Engine

DecisionRules

Team & Implementation

2 questions

- [ ] **Can our team manage rules independently?**
  Ask the vendor to demonstrate how a business analyst would modify a rule. At which stage is developer involvement required?
- [ ] **How long will it take to launch?**
  Clarify what your team can do autonomously after the demo and what will require training or ongoing vendor support.

Cost & Integrations

2 questions

- [ ] **What will it truly cost over time?**
  Calculate total expenses for three years: licensing, integrations, support, internal team effort, and any required AI provider costs.
- [ ] **Will it work with our existing systems?**
  Verify compatibility with your databases and APIs, deployment options, and where your data will be stored.

AI Capabilities & Decision Transparency

3 questions

- [ ] **What can the AI actually do?**
  Provide your own document to the assistant: ask it to create a rule, modify it, and suggest test cases. If an MCP server is available, check which of these actions can be performed via ChatGPT or Claude.
- [ ] **Can we explain individual decisions?**
  Run a single case and request to see the input data, output result, rule version, and reasoning behind the decision. If AI was involved, ensure its explanation is also available.
- [ ] **How do we audit and verify changes?**
  Request a re-run of saved test cases and ask for a log showing who changed the rule and when.

Scalability & Evolution

3 questions

- [ ] **Can the platform scale with our growth?**
  Ask for a demo using data volumes close to your expected load and inquire about scaling capabilities.
- [ ] **Do we see how decision outcomes evolve?**
  Look for built-in analytics that track decision trends over time—not just technical logs of system calls.
- [ ] **Where is the product headed?**
  Review what the vendor has released in the past year and ask about their roadmap for features critical to your business.

Support & Real-World Validation

2 questions

- [ ] **What happens when we need help?**
  Clarify SLA terms, migration support, and confirmation of required certifications (e.g., SOC 2, ISO).
- [ ] **How does this work in real companies?**
  Look beyond vendor case studies for accounts from the teams using the product. For example, in a BCS interview, First Response Finance explains how DecisionRules fits into its Athena platform. Compare stories like this with DecisionRules' case studies and reviews on G2 or Capterra.

12 questions across 5 areas. Tick each box as you evaluate vendors.

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