BRE Selection Checklist

Questions to ask before you buy a Business Rules Engine

DecisionRules

Ease of use & team readiness

3 questions

- [ ] Can our team actually use this?
  Coding skills required, or can business analysts manage rules independently?
- [ ] How long until we are productive?
  Realistic onboarding time: days, weeks, or months?
- [ ] Who will maintain this?
  Dedicated developers, or can domain experts handle day-to-day changes?

Financial reality check

3 questions

- [ ] What is the true total cost?
  Beyond licensing: implementation, training, maintenance, and support costs.
- [ ] How does pricing scale?
  Per user, per API call, or flat enterprise pricing? What happens as you grow?
- [ ] What are the hidden costs?
  Custom integrations, professional services, infrastructure requirements.

Technical fit

3 questions

- [ ] Will it work with what we have?
  Integration with your CRM, ERP, databases, and existing systems.
- [ ] What about our compliance requirements?
  Does it meet industry certifications (ISO 27001, SOC 2, GDPR, HIPAA)?
- [ ] On-premise or cloud?
  Data sovereignty requirements, or can you leverage cloud economics?

AI maturity & regulatory fit

4 questions

- [ ] Is the AI documented and self-serve, or just marketed?
  A docs page with setup instructions is a real product. Ask for the docs URL during the demo.
- [ ] Who pays for the AI compute?
  Vendor-included capacity, or do you bring your own API key? BYO-AI shifts cost onto your team.
- [ ] Can the platform explain a single AI-driven decision?
  A confidence score, the reasoning, and the source evidence in human-readable form.
- [ ] Does the platform have a native MCP server?
  Useful if your engineering team works inside an MCP-compatible IDE.

Growth & future-proofing

3 questions

- [ ] Can we grow with it?
  Auto-scaling capabilities, performance at volume, multi-region support.
- [ ] Does it have AI capabilities?
  Actual AI-assisted rule creation and optimization, not just marketing buzzwords.
- [ ] What is the vendor roadmap?
  Are they investing in new features, or is this a legacy product on life support?

Risk management

3 questions

- [ ] What happens when we need help?
  24/7 support? SLA guarantees? Or community forums and best effort?
- [ ] How stable is the vendor?
  Are they a startup, an established player, or part of a larger company?
- [ ] What migration support is available?
  Dedicated specialists, a Professional Services team, or DIY documentation?

19 questions across 6 areas. Tick each box and jot notes as you evaluate vendors.

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