

**Requirements and Specification, ESOF 328, Spring 2022**  
**Playing by the rules, Chapter 9, Feb. 28**

Business rules (also called business logic) – policies, laws and industry standards

- Establish vocabulary
- Impose restrictions
- Trigger actions
- Govern how computations are carried out

Business rules originate outside any software application

For companies, its best to have a master repository of business rules rather than business rules specified within a SW SRS

**Business rule taxonomy**

Fact – True statement about the business at a specified point in time

- In some cases, these appear in data models
- Focus on facts that are ins cope for the project, try to connect each fact to
  - the context diagram’s inputs and outputs,
  - system events,
  - known data objects, or
  - specific user requirements

Constraint – Statement that restricts the actions a system or its users are allowed to perform

Can be helpful to express roles and permissions in a matrix

Action enabler – rule that triggers an activity if specific conditions become true

Can be helpful to express as a decision table (see Figure 12.6, Chapter 12)

Inference (inferred knowledge or a derived fact) – a new fact created from other facts

Computation – transfers existing data into new data using a formula or algorithm

- Also, beneficial to put in a table
- Watch out for overlapping boundaries (example 1-5 and 5-10) which creates ambiguity

Make business rules atomic

Documenting business rules:

TABLE 9-4 Some sample business rules catalog entries

ID	Rule definition	Type of rule	Static or dynamic	Source
ORDER-5	If the customer ordered a book by an author who has written multiple books, then offer the author's other books to the customer before completing the order.	Action enabler	Static	Marketing policy XX
ACCESS-8	All website images must include alternative text to be used by electronic reading devices to meet accessibility requirements for visually impaired users.	Constraint	Static	ADA Standards for Accessible Design
DISCOUNT-13	A discount is calculated based on the size of the current order, as defined in Table BR-060.	Computation	Dynamic	Corporate pricing policy XX

Static or dynamic – how likely the rule is to change