

.Workbench overview v1

On this page we explore the Be Informed Workbench.

The Be Informed Workbench is a tool that enables norm engineering; the capture of policies, legislative sources and their explicit interpretations in models which are part of the business design. The Workbench has three purposes:

- It offers knowledge workers the tools to efficiently collaborate while interpreting a new regulation and determining its impact.
- It enables the sharing and reuse of interpretations within and between organizations.
- It allows full traceability from an implementation back to the interpretation and original regulation.

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The why of the Workbench

We created the Workbench to help with the exponentially growing impact of regulations (in all its myriad forms) on both society and businesses. An impact resulting from the sheer volume of regulations, their frequency of updates and their complex interdependencies, including the interplay with company policies, contracts, and technical certifications. This impact is further complicated by the fact that regulations are converted into policies by a process of interpretation. This process of interpretation often occurs in the mind of knowledge workers, and is lost for purposes of upstream and downstream traceability.

Together with our existing platform, the Workbench now provides unique support for the automation and traceability of this knowledge intensive work, especially in heavily regulated domains.

It allows you to:

- perform policy management at scale;
- to deliver fully traceable and compliant applications and systems;
- to support multiple domain specific languages in the relevant policy ecosystem; and
- to unlock, embed and reuse the resulting explicit interpretations in a wide ecosystem of application services, applications and organizations.

The Be Informed Workbench empowers the interpretation process while also preserving full upstream and downstream traceability. Together with the goal-oriented reasoning and dynamic processing realized through the Be Informed Studio, we can offer efficient and compliant applications and services, both internal and external.

Workbench features

The Workbench offers several features aimed at analyzing, corroborating and capturing the explicit interpretation of relevant regulations:

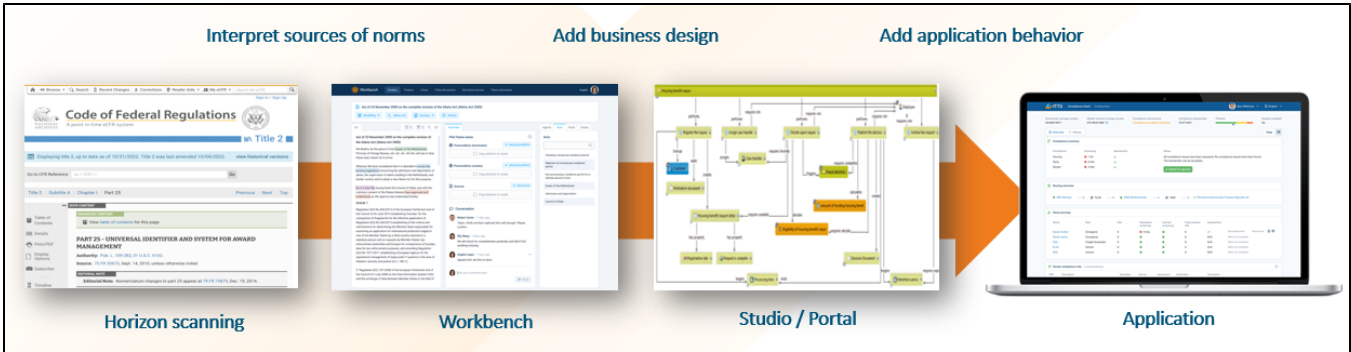
Work management: The Workbench enables you to import existing sources and interpretations, allocate tasks, manage the flow of work, and monitor timelines.

Annotate regulations: The imported source, as a body of text specific Domain Specific Language. Important parts are highlighted what needs further investigation.

We will now explore the overall concepts and flow of the Workbench. For more on the actual norm engineering within the Workbench, see [Working with the workbench](#).

Workbench flow

The Workbench offers the ability to annotate and interpret relevant sources of norms and capture their explicit interpretation in a formal language. The resulting (reusable & shareable) explicit interpretations are then employed within our existing inference and decision engine, thus becoming an integral and persistent part of the resulting services and applications. All this allows us to deliver fully traceable, transparent and compliant systems.



The general process of the Workbench can be summarized as follows:

1. A need to capture (or update) regulations regarding a specific business task or analysis arises.
2. One or more Workbench 'dockets' are created with a specific goal in mind (or an existing docket is continued).
3. The relevant regulatory sources from the Source register are determined. Sources which are not already available in the register have to be formalized and published in the Source register as .formalsourcexml files.
4. Relevant sources are selected for a docket.
5. Norm engineers analyze and interpret the relevant regulation in a formalized Domain Specific Language (DSL). They capture the explicit interpretation in DSL frame models.
6. Each frame is automatically and persistently linked to the relevant section of the source where it is based upon.
7. Eventually a docket contains all the modeled frames relevant to the dockets goal. The result can be reviewed and exported as a frame bundle. You can also export source bundles from the source register, containing the sources the frames refer to.
8. Both bundles can be imported in other tools, such as the Documentation portal, or the Be Informed Studio where the captured and modelled regulation can be integrated with the business design.

Source of norms: This can be any documentation that contains a rule, a norm, a criterion, et cetera. The information is typically captured in a body of text, not as structured data. Typical examples are laws and other government regulations or business instructions.

Formalized source: A source formatted in a specific .xml format which the Workbench can understand.

Source register and source bundles: A source register is where formalized sources are managed and published as bundles for organizational use, general use or commodification. Source bundles are a separate entity from frame bundles.

Norm engineering: The interpretation and translation of relevant aspects of a source into normative models. The frame model retains the relation to the original sources. This model can then be reviewed, published or used in automated services.

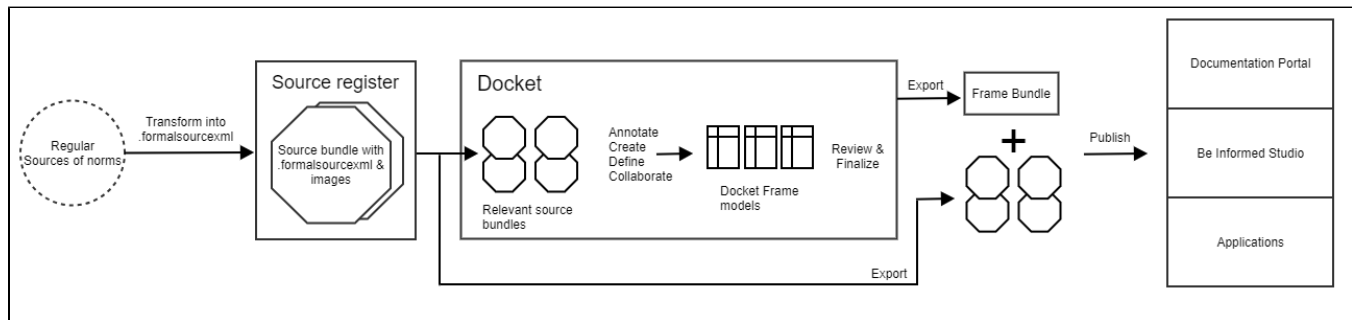
Frame: A frame is a modeled regulation captured in a specific vocabulary. The frame types are determined by the chosen DSL.

DSL: Domain Specific Language. In the context of the Workbench a specific vocabulary and syntax used for interpreting a specific knowledge domain, such as immigration law.

Docket: A docket is where you collect, engineer and record all the proceedings and filings of the modeling. A reviewed and approved docket is published as a versioned frame bundle.

Frame bundle: A frame bundle contains the modeled, explicit interpretation of the relevant regulation in a machine readable .json format.

This flow can be visualized as follows:



This process should not be seen as a one-way-street. Selecting sources, defining docket and modeling frames is often done in iterations.

Source registers

The frame bundles created through the Workbench are informed by, and are related to, the relevant sources of norms. To this end, sources have to be structured in the Formal Source XML and have to be made available in a source register.

More information: [Sources and the source register](#)

Dockets and norm engineering

A Docket is where norm engineers annotate sources, collaborate on interpretations and define and capture the frames. Each docket will result in a bundle of modeled frames (and thus modeled regulations). These frame bundles (together with their source bundles) can subsequently be employed in the Documentation portal, the Be Informed Studio or third party systems and applications.

More information: [Working with the workbench](#)

Documentation portal

The Documentation portal is a documentation catalog that enables publishing bundles of interpretations and other models to a broader audience and collect feedback. Its main goal is ensuring the accuracy, completeness, reliability and therefore usefulness of knowledge captured through the Workbench and Studios. Care is taken to organize and present complex information in such way that makes it useful and accessible. It allows navigating across models and sources, all in context of each other. Users can provide feedback by creating issue tickets.

More information: [Documentation portal](#)

Further reading

- [Getting started with the workbench](#)
- [Working with the workbench](#)
- [Workbench terminology](#)