Basic Rule Modeling

Corticon® Business Rules Modeling Studio 5.3.3



About this Guide



This *Basic Rule Modeling Tutorial* provides an introduction to the Corticon Business Rules Modeling Studio 5.3.

You will learn how to capture rules from business specifications, model the rules, analyze them for logical errors, and test the execution of your rules; all without programming.

Your goal is to create a Decision Service: A group of rules that captures the logic of a single decision-making step completely and unambiguously. In one sense, a Decision Service (when managed with Corticon Studio) is a business-friendly model of your rules (i.e., your decision-making logic). In another sense, a Decision Service is a powerful asset, allowing you to automatically process the rules as a part of business transactions.



Note

The Decision Services that you build using Studio may be deployed as executable, standards-based services available to other software applications via Java, .NET, or SOAP messaging. Corticon Decision Services are in use today across the globe, automating many high-volume decision-intensive processes.

See the **Server Integration & Deployment Guide** or the **Server Deployment Tutorial** for instructions on how to deploy and integrate the Decision Services you build here.



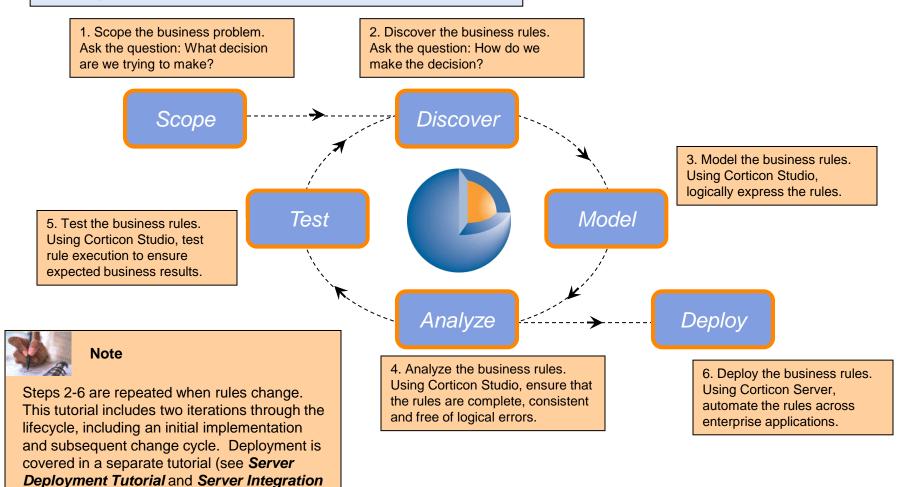
Note

This Tutorial is designed for hands-on use. We recommend that you type along with the instructions and illustrations presented.



The Corticon Decision Services Methodology

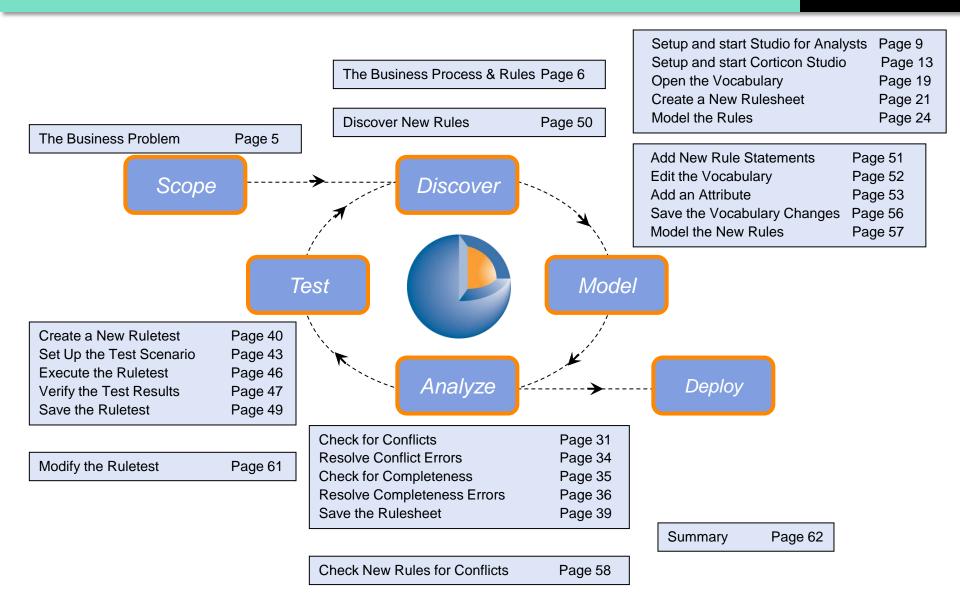
Corticon provides a simple yet powerful methodology for modeling business rules called the "Corticon Decision Services Methodology". This methodology follows the lifecycle of your decision service, and involves the following steps:



& Deployment Guide).

Table of Contents





The Business Problem



Note

The example used in this Tutorial was developed from a business problem in which an air cargo company loads cargo of various sizes and weights into containers, then onto its fleet of aircraft prior to shipment.

To operate safely, the company must ensure that an aircraft is never loaded with cargo that exceeds an aircraft's capabilities. Flight plans are created by the company that assign cargo shipments to containers, then containers to aircraft. Part of the flight plan creation process involves verifying that no plan violates any safety or operational rule.

The air cargo company desires to improve the quality and efficiency of the flight planning process by modeling and automating business rules using the Corticon Business Rule Management System.

The Business Process & Rules



Complex problems such as flight planning are better described in their component parts. The best way to do this is by describing the business process for this problem. From a process diagram, we can easily identify the decision-making activities, which in turn are described by business rules.



Action

First, define your business process as a sequence of activities or steps:





Action

Next, determine which process steps involve decisions. Any step involving a decision is a candidate for automation using Corticon.

In this process, all three steps involve decisions, in addition to physical labor. The **scope** of this tutorial is the "Package Cargo" step, which involves the decision about what container to use for various cargo, based upon such criteria as the cargo's weight, volume and contents.

Today, the packaging decision is made by our shipping personnel based upon their experience. The problem is that some people make better decisions than others, which leads to inconsistent practices. We want to use Corticon to standardize and automate the packaging decision.

The Business Process & Rules



Now that we have scoped our problem, we need to **discover** our business rules.



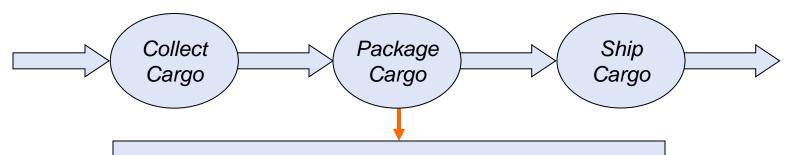
Note

To discover our business rules, we simply ask: "How do we make this decision?"

For this case, we ask "How do we package cargo?" We ask this question to the people who perform and manage this step in the process.

They often provide the answer in the form of a policy or procedure manual, or simply as a set of rules that they follow. Sometimes the rules are embedded in the code of our legacy systems. In other cases, the rules are not documented and found only in the heads of our people.

In all cases, we will capture the discovered rules directly into Corticon Studio.



- Cargo weighing <= 20,000 kilos must be packaged in a standard container.
- Cargo with volume > 30 cubic meters must be packaged in an oversize container.

Corticon Licensing





IMPORTANT

About Corticon licensing

Corticon embeds a timed evaluation license in each Corticon Studio that lets you evaluate Corticon Studio features. Typically, you do not need to do anything to get started.

But, when you start Studio, if you see a **License Warning alert** it means that the license file is invalid, corrupted, or expired. Then, when you create or modify any Corticon files, you get an **Asset Locked Warning**, indicating that you can just review existing files.

Contact your Progress Corticon Technical Support or your Progress representative to obtain a workable license. Place the license file on your Studio machine, then launch Studio.

Choose **Window > Preferences**, then expand **Progress Corticon > Rule Modeling**. Click **Browse** and then navigate to choose your new, valid, unexpired license. When you click **OK**, and restart Studio the license update process is complete.







Action

Open Corticon Studio For Analysts



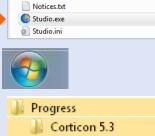
Note

You first need to install the software. Refer to the Studio Installation Guide for detailed instructions.

If you are using Corticon Studio for Analysts (the standalone version), complete the next four slides. If you are using the Eclipse plug-in version (Corticon Designer) jump to slide 12 for setup instructions.



Choose the Start
menu path All
Programs >
Progress >
Corticon 5.3 >
Corticon Studio
for Analysts



configuration

Corticon.ico

features

JRE
plugins

C:\Program Files (x86)\Progress\Corticon_5.3_for_Analysts\Studio for Analysts

New folder

Corticon Studio for Analysts

Note

A

For further details and reference information not presented here, you can choose **Help > Contents** and Index from the Studio menubar or click the icon on the Studio toolbar.

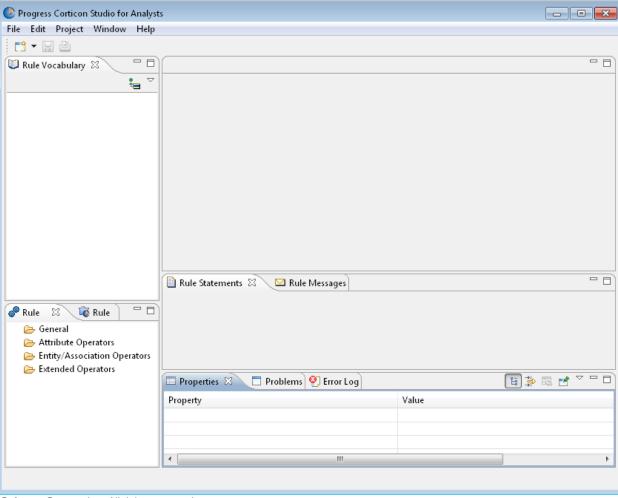


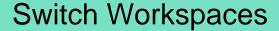
Corticon Studio for Analysts Orientation



Note

When starting Corticon Studio for Analysts, the screen will look similar to this:



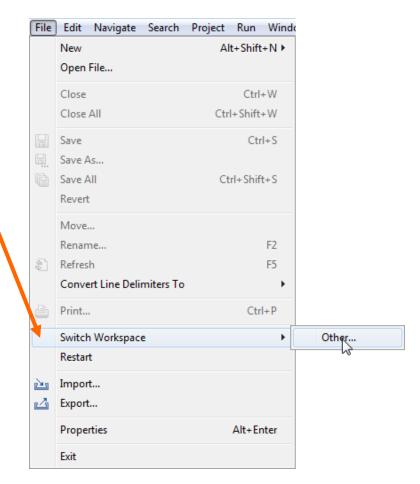






Action

Your initial workspace will be empty. Switch to a new workspace (where this Tutorial's sample files are located) by choosing **File > Switch Workspace** from the Studio menubar.



The Rule Projects Workspace



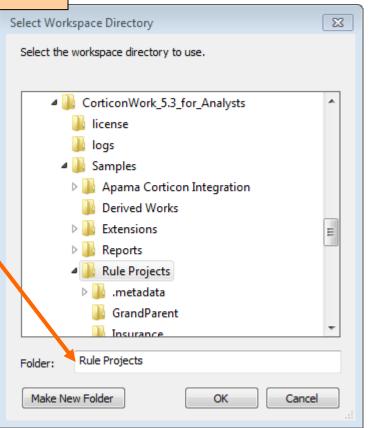


Action

In the navigation window that appears, browse to your Corticon *work directory* and select **\Samples\Rule Projects**. Be sure **Rule Projects** appears in the Folder field at bottom. Click **OK**.

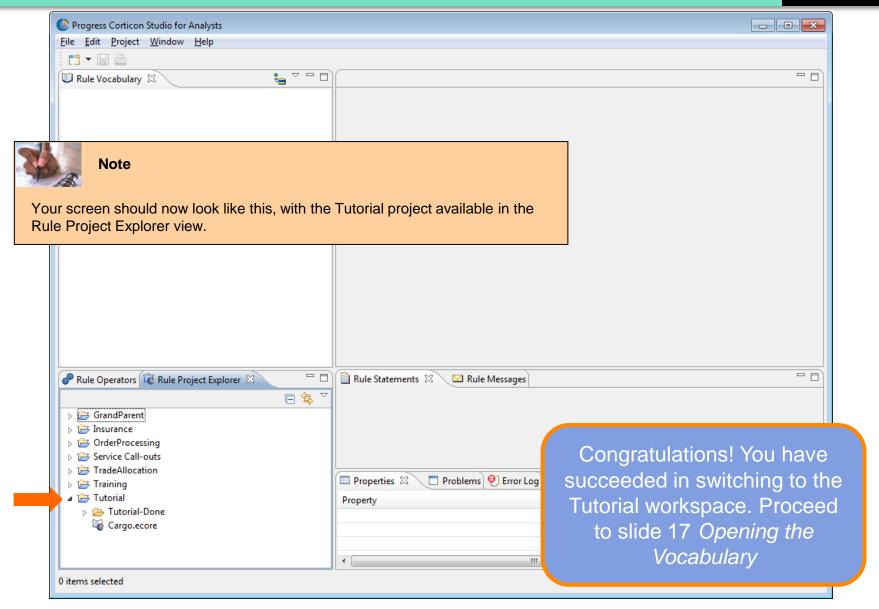
Corticon Studio will automatically close and restart, with the new workspace open in the Rule Project Explorer window.

Congratulations! You have succeeded in switching to the Tutorial workspace. Proceed to slide 17 Opening the Vocabulary





Tutorials in Rule Project Explorer



Tutorial set up with full Corticon Studio



Action

Open Corticon Studio



Note

You first need to install the software. Refer to the Studio Installation Guide for detailed instructions. Double click on the **Corticon Studio** eclipse.exe file in your Corticon installation directory "<Install Dir>/ Studio/eclipse/eclipse.exe"



OR

Start menu
path All Programs >
Progress > Corticon
5.3 > Studio >
Corticon Studio



If you are using Corticon
Studio, complete the next four
slides. After that the
instructions will be the same
for both Studio installations.

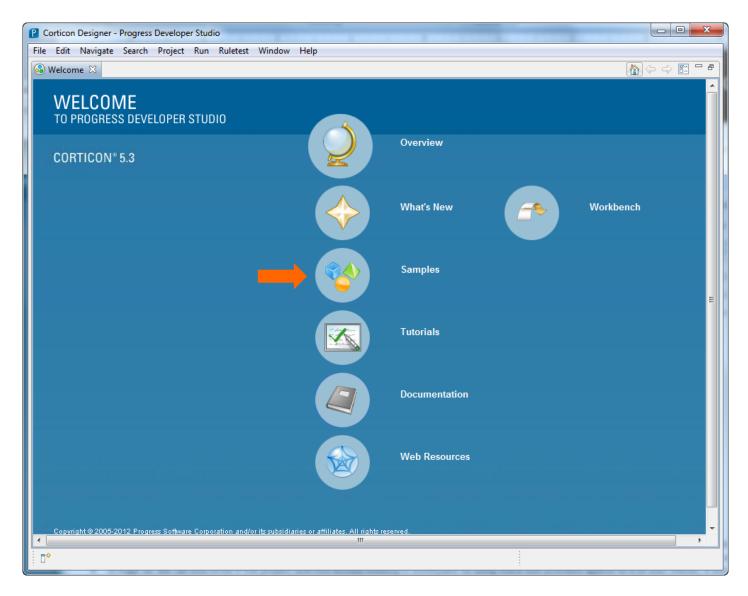


Note

For further details and reference information not presented here, you can choose **Help > Contents** and Index from the Studio menubar or click the icon on the Studio toolbar.

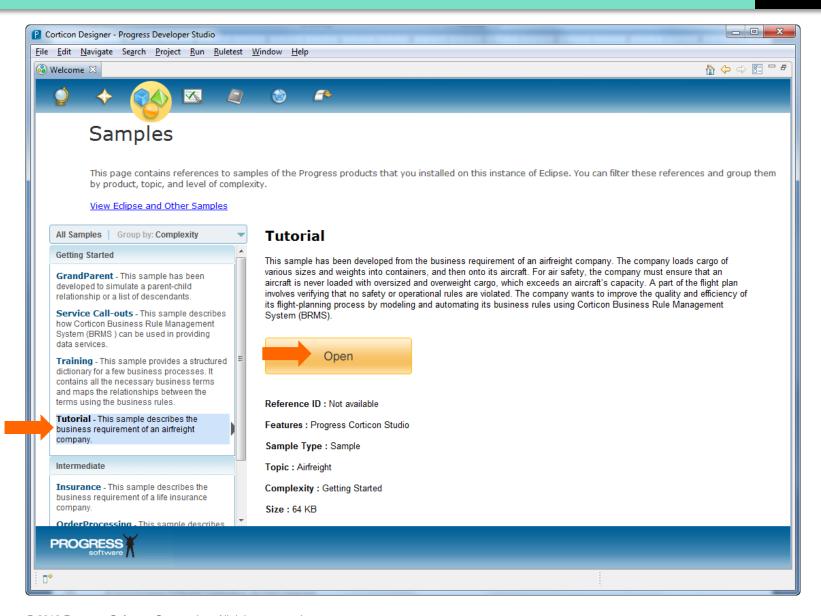
Select **Samples** from the Progress Developer Studio Welcome page





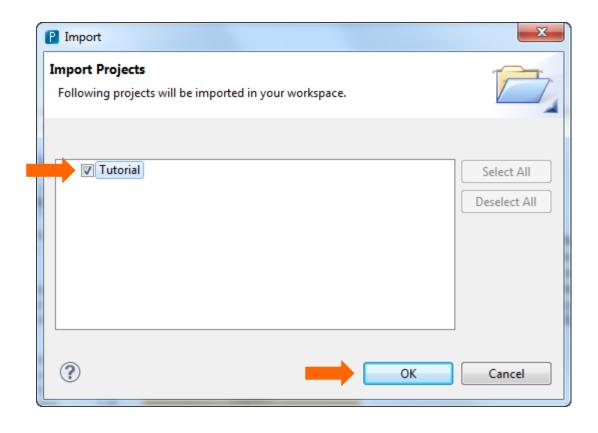






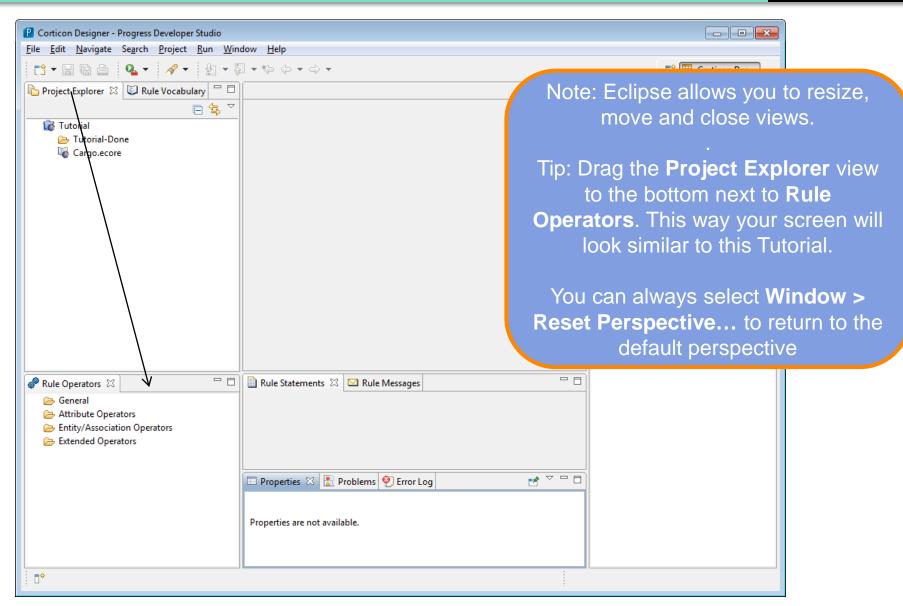




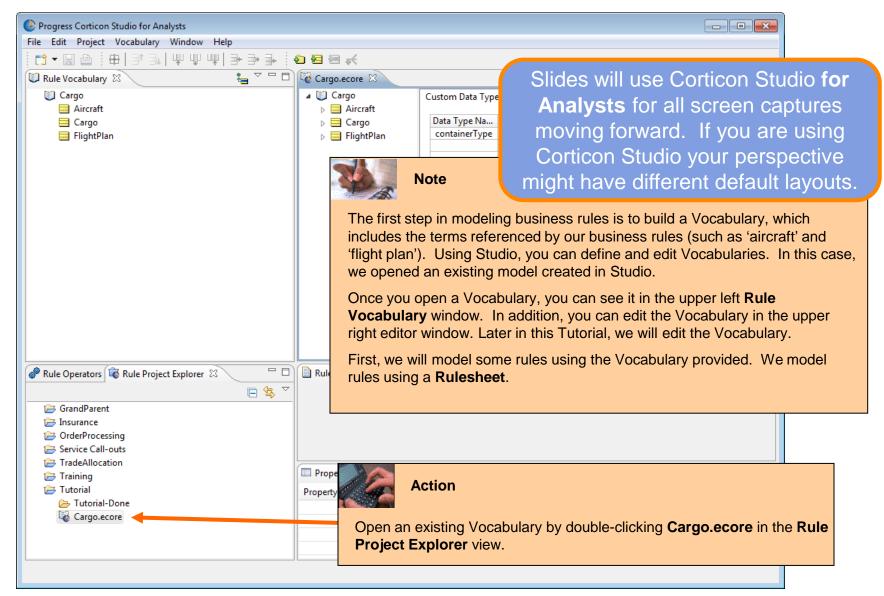




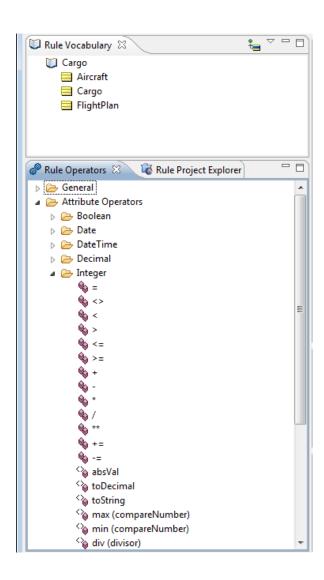




Open the Vocabulary



Open the Vocabulary





Action

Take a moment to explore the **Rule Operators**, which are located in a tab to the lower left, adjacent to the **Rule Project Explorer** tab.



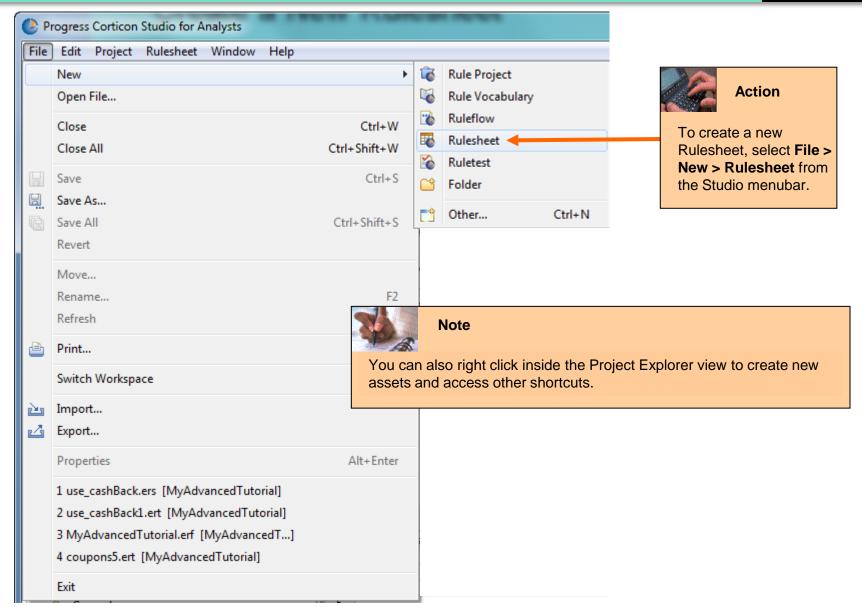
Note

While the **Rule Vocabulary** contains our nouns (the things we reference in our business rules), the **Rule Operators** contain our verbs (the actions we take in our business rules).

Corticon Studio comes with a rich set of operators for manipulating data, similar to the Excel function library. In addition, programmers can also extend Corticon's built-in Operator Library by implementing a documented Corticon Operator API (e.g., to perform a new statistical function or to make a call out). See Appendix D of the *Rule Language Guide* for more information.

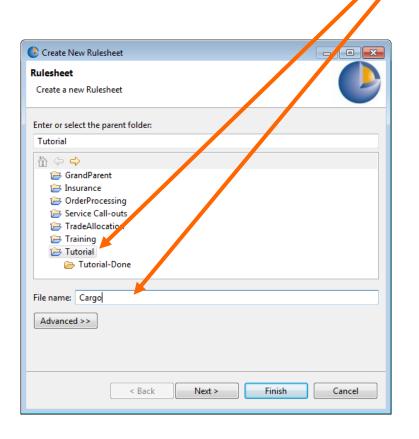


Create a New Rulesheet



The "Create New Rulesheet" Wizard



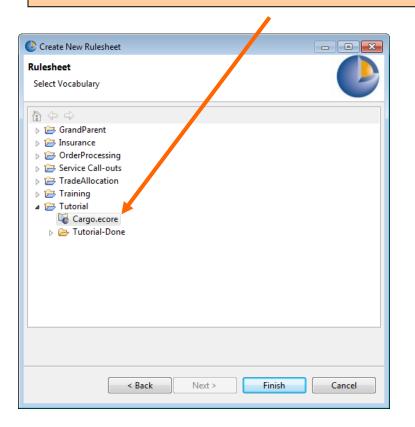




Action

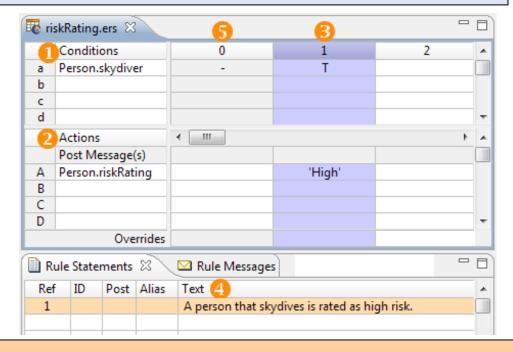
Select **Tutorial** as the **Parent Folder** and enter **Cargo** as the **File name**. Click **Next**.

Now, select **Cargo.ecore** as the Vocabulary to associate with your new Rulesheet and click **Finish** to complete the process.



Orientation to Corticon Rulesheets

This is an example of a Corticon Rulesheet, the metaphor used to model your business rules. Based on a decision table, the Corticon Rulesheet has been extended to allow the modeling of any business rules logic from simple to complex inferencing problems. This tutorial models only simple rules. See the *Advanced Rule Modeling Tutorial* and *Rule Modeling Guide* for some complex examples.



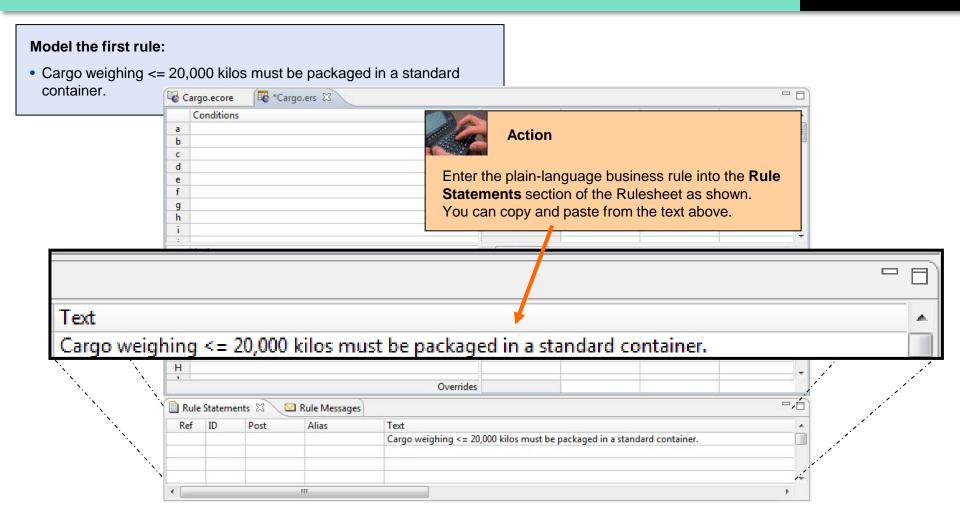


Note

Rulesheets contain sections for specific parts of rules. Sets of Conditions (label 1) and Actions (label 2) are tied together by the vertical columns on the right to form rules. For example, rule column 1 (label 3) is read as "if a Person's skydiver value is true, then assign 'High' to that Person's riskRating. We say that this column provides the model or implementation of the rule statement (label 4). Column 0 (label 5) is used to define calculation rules that contain Actions, but no Conditions (see *Rule Modeling Guide* for examples).

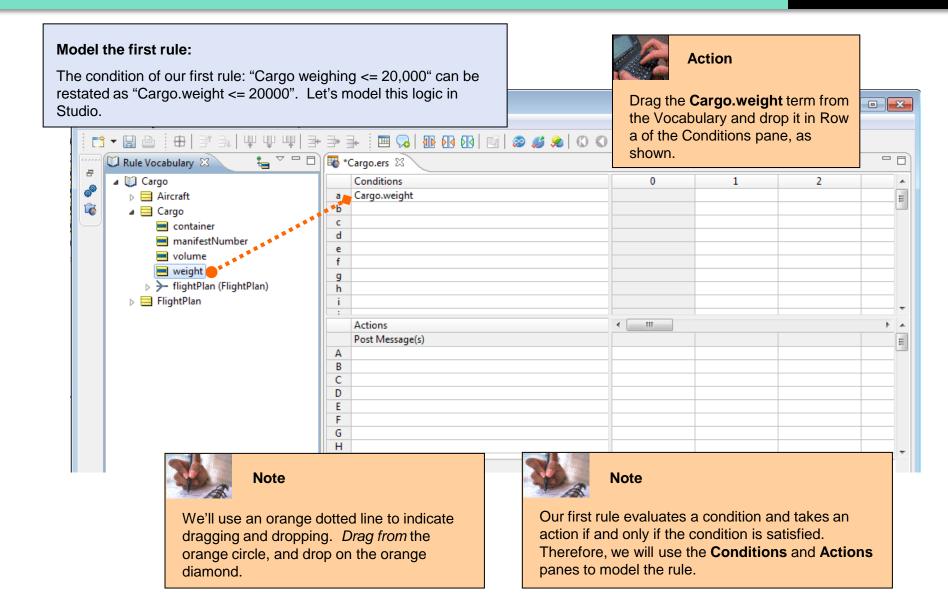






Model the Rules – Step 2





Model the Rules – Step 3

Continue modeling the first rule:

• Cargo weighing <= 20,000 kilos must be packaged in a standard container.



Action

Next we type a value expression for cargo weight in cell 1a (row a, column 1).

Type **<=20000** in the cell.

Don't use commas in value expressions because commas are reserved to indicate multiple values.



Model the Rules – Step 4

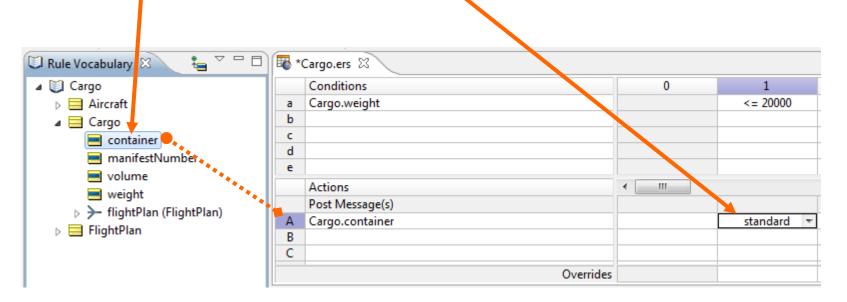


Action

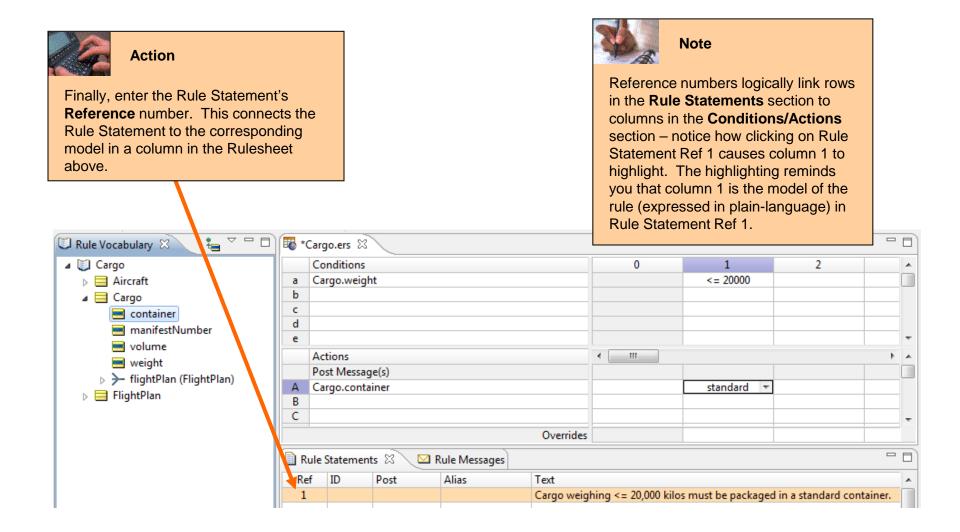
Now drag the appropriate term from the Vocabulary and drop it in row A of the **Actions** section.

Next, define the action for rule 1 by selecting "standard" in the drop-down menu within **Actions** row A of column (rule) 1. The drop-down menu options were defined in the Vocabulary, which we will edit later.

This action assigns the value of "standard" to the Cargo.container attribute.



Model the Rules – Step 5



Model the Rules - Step 6

Model the second rule:

• Cargo with volume > 30 cubic meters must be packaged in an oversize container.



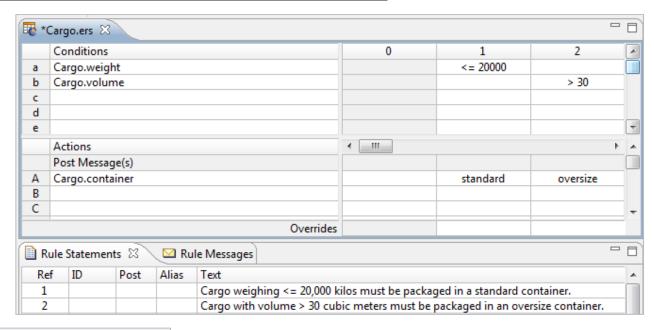
Note

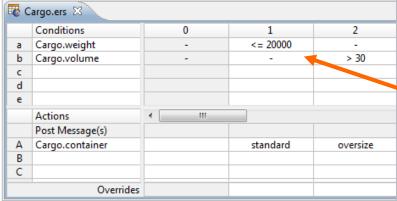
When completed your Rulesheet should look like this...



Action

Finally, save your Rulesheet by selecting **File > Save** from the Studio menubar (or clicking the Save button).







Note

When saved, Studio places a dash in the empty cells, meaning that the condition is ignored.

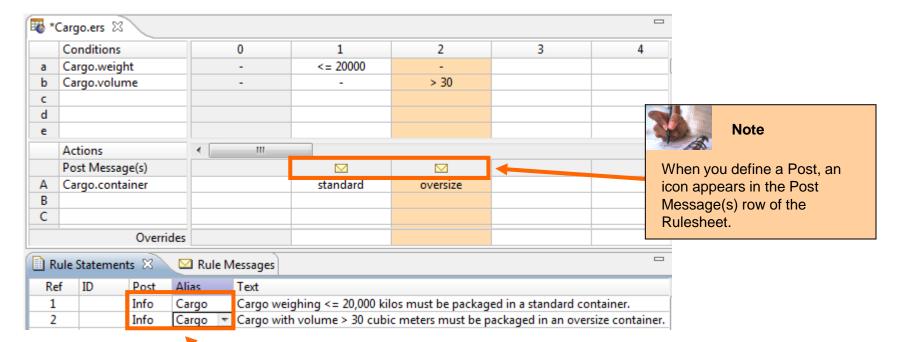
The conditions and actions in a column are "anded" together. For example, rule 1 reads: "Cargo weighing less than or equal to 20,000 kilos, ignoring volume, must be packaged in a standard container."

Model the Rules – Step 7



Note

Next, we will "Post" the Rule Statements to the "Cargo" entity. This will provide an audit trail during rule execution, which you will see during rule testing. To preview the end result of a post, see slide 46 for green *Info* posts.





Action

To Post, select the appropriate Severity Level from the drop-down box in the **Post** column. (in this case, select "Info"). You must also select an **Alias** for the Rule Statement to post. The Alias defines what Entity the Rule Statement is posted to (in this case, select "Cargo", which is the only option).

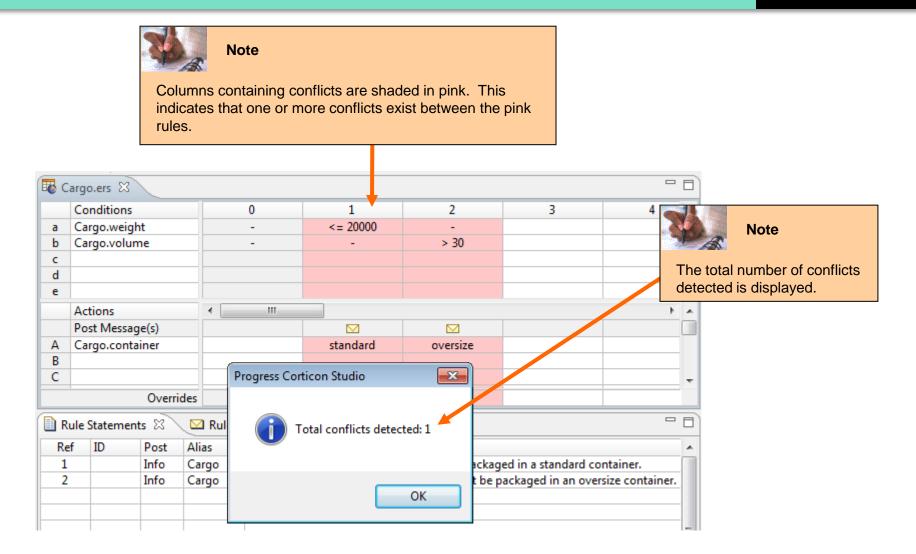
Check for Conflicts

Now that we have finished modeling our rules, it is time to analyze our rules for logical errors. Very often, initial business rule specifications are **ambiguous** and **incomplete**. By **ambiguous**, we mean that the rules are **conflicting** under certain scenarios. By **incomplete**, we mean that the rules fail to address all possible scenarios.

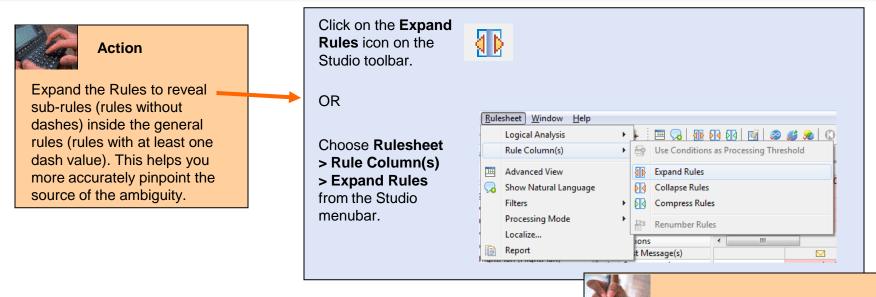
Prior to automating your rules, it is critical to eliminate logical errors in order to ensure that our decision service provides correct, consistent results. We call this "Rule Referential Integrity". Studio provides unique and powerful features to help you ensure Rule Referential Integrity. These features will be explored in this Analyze phase of the rule management lifecycle.

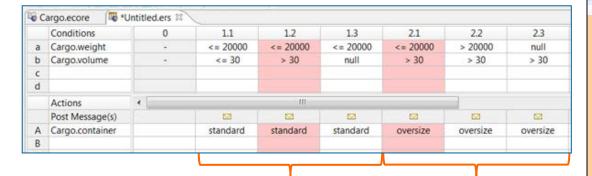


Identify Conflicts



Expand the Rules





Note

When the rules are expanded, the source of the conflict becomes obvious. In scenarios with cargo weight <=20000 **and** cargo volume > 30, our rules are in conflict, defining mutually exclusive actions (assigning both standard and oversize containers).

To get your rules right, this scenario must be addressed!

When expanded, rule 1 is represented as three columns (1.1, 1.2 and 1.3), and rule 2 is represented as three columns (2.1, 2.2 and 2.3). Expansion shows all of the logical possibilities for each rule. Rule 1 states Cargo weighing <= 20,000 kilograms, regardless of volume, must be packaged in a standard container, unless no volume was ever stated (a null value). Corticon Studio recognizes that there are three possible ranges for volume (<=30, >30, and null), which we see in the expanded state.

Resolve Conflict Errors

To resolve the conflict, you can either change your original rules, or decide that one rule should override the other. Let's implement the override.



Action

Next, override Rule 1 with Rule 2.

In the Overrides row, from the overriding rule, select the column number of the rule to be overridden. Multiple selections can be made by holding the CTRL key.

2



Action

Now, click the Check for Conflicts button again, and you will see that the conflict has been resolved.

With the override, Rule 2 now means "Use oversized containers when volume is >30. even when weight is <=20,000."

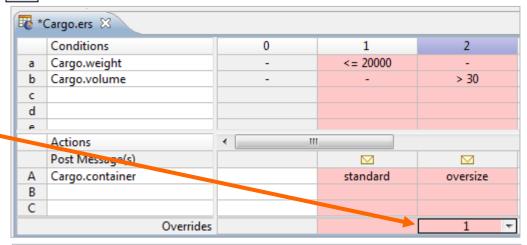
3

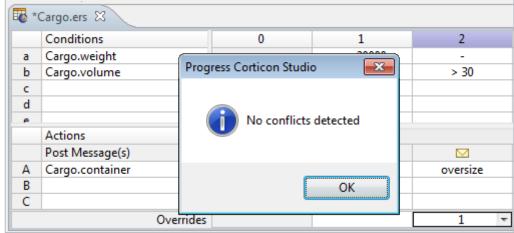


Action

First, collapse your rules back to the original state by clicking on the Collapse Rules icon on the Studio toolbar.

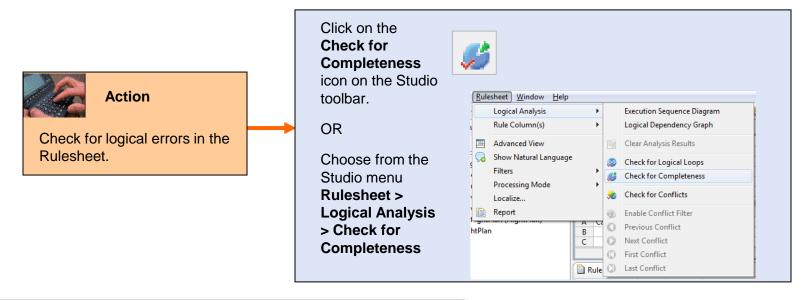


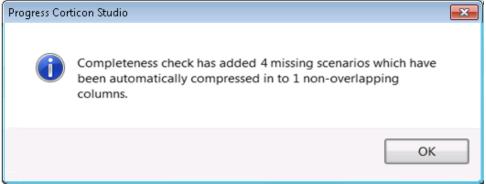


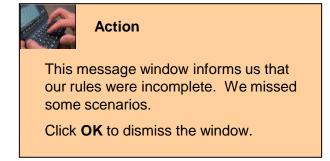


Check for Completeness

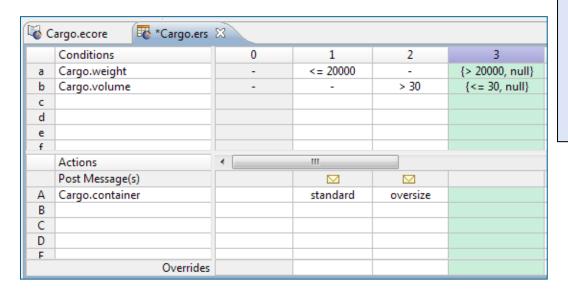
Conflict is one form of logical error. Another form is incompleteness, or loopholes in our logic.







Resolve Completeness Errors – Step 1



The Completeness Checking algorithm calculates the set of all possible mathematical combinations of all values in all conditions. The algorithm then compares this set of possible combinations to those already specified in the Rulesheet and automatically inserts missing combinations of conditions as new columns. These new columns are shaded in green.



Note

The Completeness Check adds condition values, but does not choose actions – that's our job as rule modelers.

Let's define a new Rule Statement for this (formerly) missing scenario:

Cargo weighing > 20,000 kilos, with volume <= 30 cubic meters, must be packaged in a heavyweight container.

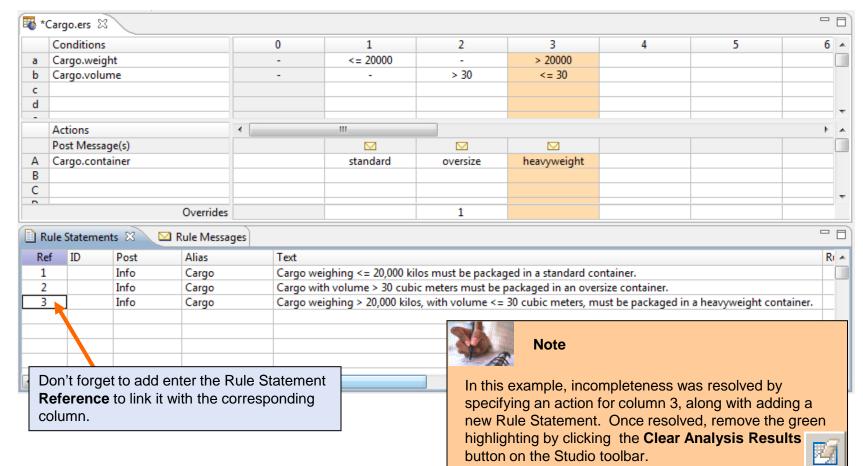
Analyze

Resolve Completeness Errors – Step 2



Action

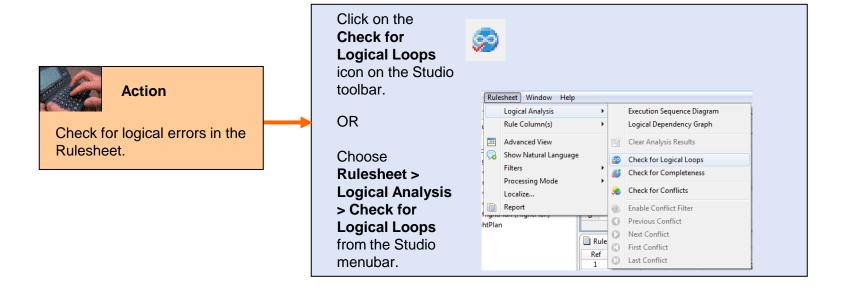
First, add the new Rule Statement for rule 3. Next, define an action in rule cell 3A. In this case, select "heavyweight" as the container option. Last, post an Info message to the Cargo entity as we did for the first two rules. Your Rulesheet should look like the one below after you **Clear Analysis Results.**

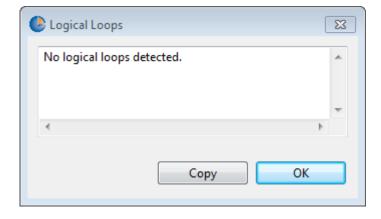


Analyze

Check for Completeness

A third form of logical error is circular logic.





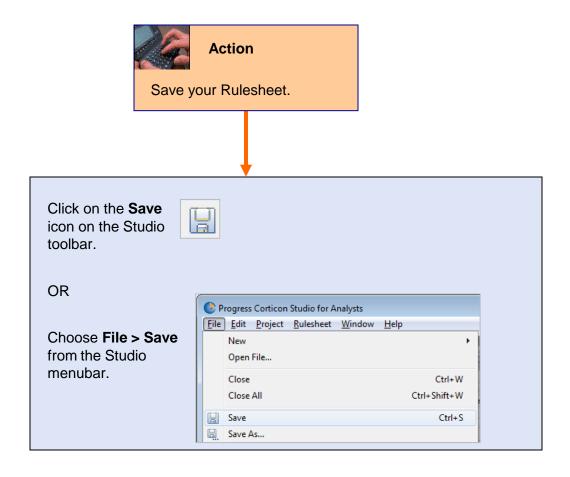


Note

This is a very simple Rulesheet and contains no logical loops. Of note, while unintended logical loops are problematic, sometimes logical loops are a useful technique for solving complex inferencing problems that require recursive reasoning. You can learn more in the *Rule Modeling Guide*.



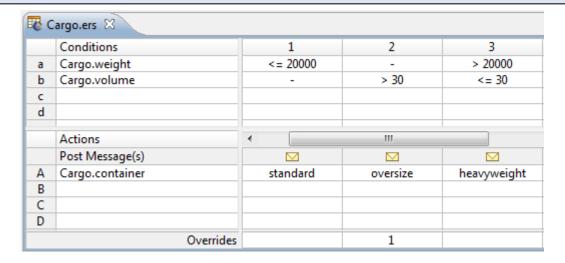




Create a New Ruletest

The Analyze phase helped to ensure the logical integrity of our rules. The Test phase helps to ensure that our rules give us the correct business results. Let's move on to testing.

First, we're going to define a test case for each one of our rules below by defining some input values and expected results. Corticon Studio allows us to pre-define our expected results and then highlights any variances in our test results. The table below defines one test case for each rule.



	Test Rule 1	Test Rule 2	Test Rule 3
Input Values			
Cargo.weight	1000	1000	30000
Cargo.volume	10	40	20
Expected Results			
Cargo.container	standard	oversize	heavyweight

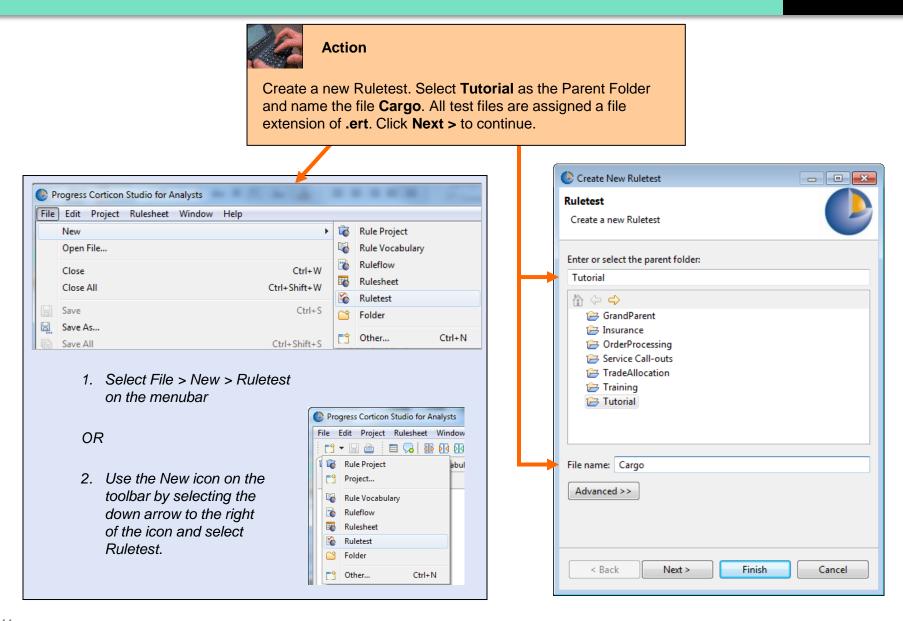


Note

For test 2, we expect rule 2 to override rule 1.

Test

Create a New Ruletest



Test

Create a New Ruletest



Action

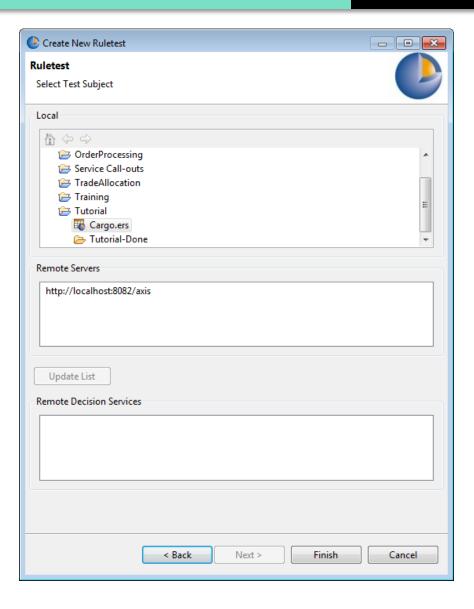
Select the appropriate Rulesheet as your **Test Subject**. For our example, we want to use the **Cargo** Rulesheet within our **Tutorial** project directory.

Click **Finish** to display the new Ruletest.

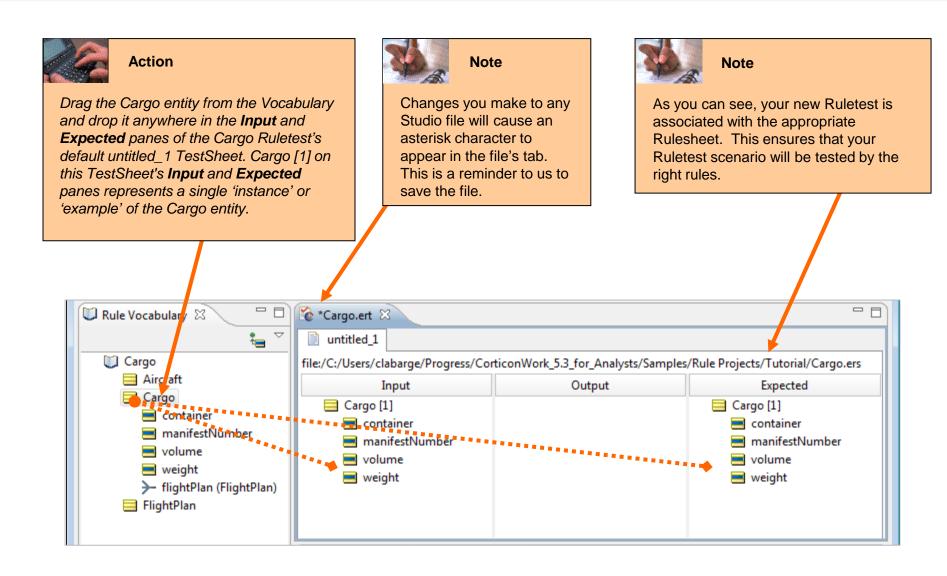


Note

You can disregard the **Remote Servers** and **Remote Decision Service** panes - if you are interested in those, please refer to the **Server Deployment Tutorial** for more information.



Set Up the Test Scenario – Step 1



Set Up the Test Scenario – Step 2

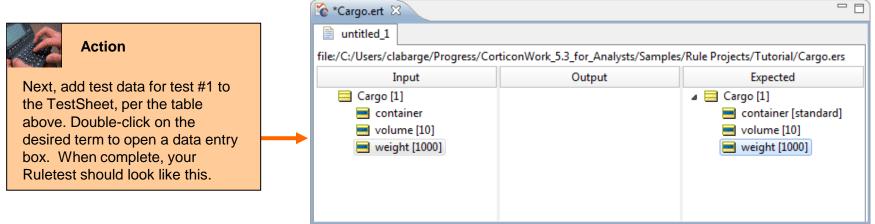
	Test Rule 1	Test Rule 2	Test Rule 3
Input Values			
Cargo.weight	1000	1000	30000
Cargo.volume	10	40	20
Expected Results			
Cargo.container	standard	oversize	heavyweight



Action

First, remove unneeded attributes by selecting them and pressing the **Delete** key. **Shift-click** and **Ctrl-click** are also supported for multi-selecting contiguous and non-contiguous attributes, respectively.

We will remove the manifestNumber attribute as it is not needed to test these rules.



Set Up the Test Scenario – Step 3



Action

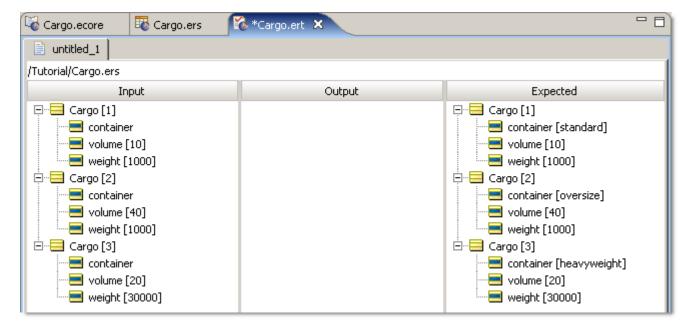
Enter the remaining test data as shown to complete the Input pane of the Ruletest.

You can easily duplicate the first test scenario by selecting Cargo [1], copying it, then pasting it below. Repeat for both the Input and Expected panes

Also, select the *expected* container values from the drop-downs that appear when the container attribute is clicked.

Your Ruletest should look like the one below.

	Test Rule 1	Test Rule 2	Test Rule 3
Input Values			
Cargo.weight	1000	1000	30000
Cargo.volume	10	40	20
Expected Results			
Cargo.container	standard	oversize	heavyweight



Execute the Ruletest



Action

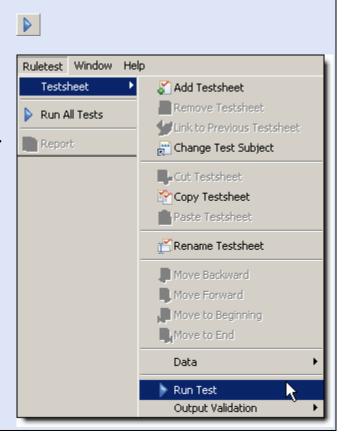
Run the Ruletest.

Running the Ruletest sends the data on the selected Testsheet's input pane to the rule engine. The rule engine fires the appropriate rules and displays the results in the **Output** pane.

Click on the Run Test icon on the Studio toolbar.

OR

Choose Ruletest > Testsheet > Run Test from the Studio menubar.



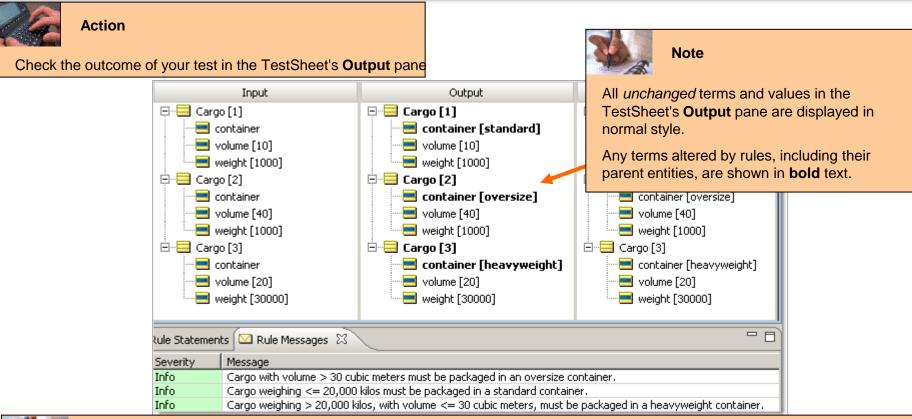


Note

The first time rules are executed, they are automatically compiled from the rule model into an optimized executable form, then deployed into the engine, which may take a few seconds. Once deployed, the rules will execute much faster on subsequent tests.

Test

Verify the Test Results





Note

Messages shown in the Rule Messages pane are produced by using the Post command in your Rule Statements.

Severity indicates whether a message contains information, warnings or violations.

Message contains the Rule Statement text.

Entity shows the entity to which this message is bound or linked. When we select the Cargo[1] entity within TestSheet's **Output** pane, the third rule message is highlighted, showing the audit trail of rules that fired for that entity (in this case only one rule fired for Cargo[1]).

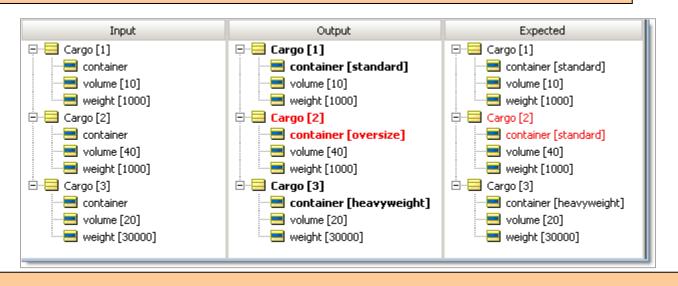
Verify the Test Results



Action

Next, let's change one of the test cases in the Expected pane to illustrate how variance testing works. In the Expected pane, change the container value in Cargo[2] to **standard**. Then, rerun the test.

Your Ruletest should look like this.





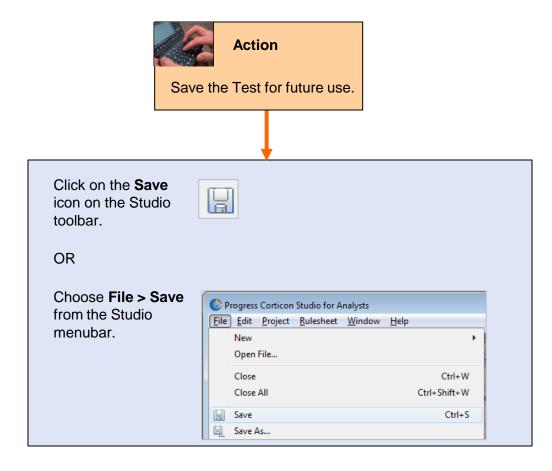
Note

Here we see that the Cargo[2] entity and the container attribute are colored red in both the Output and Expected panes, indicating that our Output results differ from our Expected results. Studio automatically highlights differences in values in red in both the Output and Expected panes.

Other types of differences are also highlighted. Unexpected entities in the Output pane are highlighted in blue. And missing entities are highlighted green within the Expected pane. More details about color codes are included in the **Studio Quick Reference Guide**.

Be sure to change Cargo[2] Expected container value back to **oversize** before saving the Ruletest on the next page.

Save the Ruletest

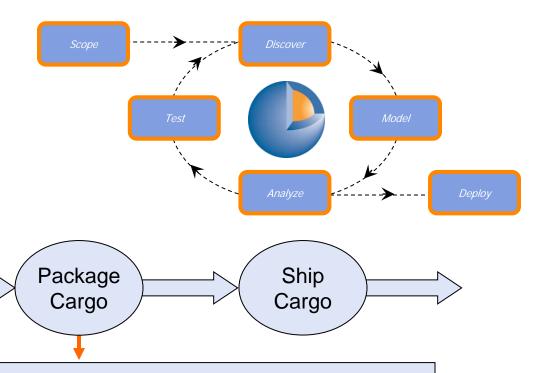


Discover New Business Rules



When the time comes to change your rules, you'll be glad you decided to model and manage them in Corticon Studio.

Let's go through another development lifecycle, starting with the discovery of a new business rule.



Initial Rules:

- Cargo weighing <= 20,000 kilos must be packaged in a standard container.
- Cargo with volume > 30 cubic meters must be packaged in an oversize container.

Added after Completeness Check:

Collect

Cargo

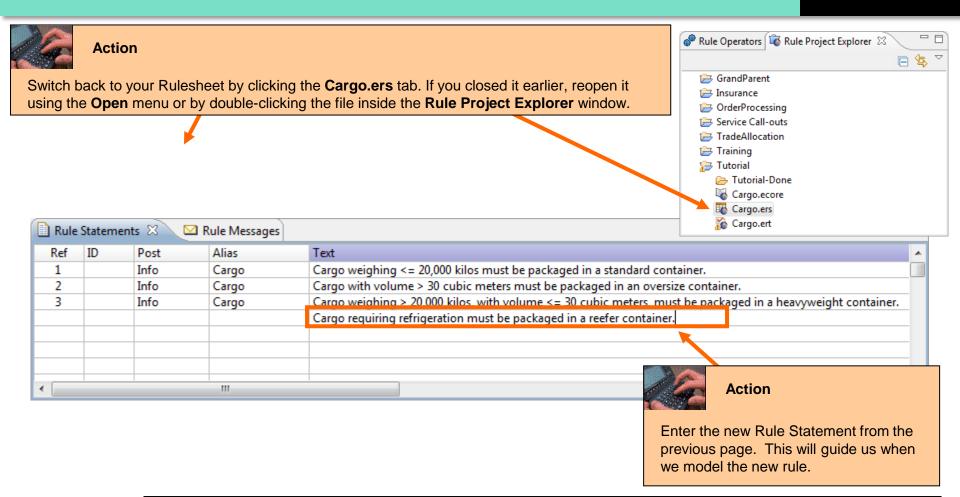
 Cargo weighing > 20,000 kilos, with volume <= 30 cubic meters, must be packaged in a heavyweight container.

New Rule (to add now):

• Cargo requiring refrigeration must be packaged in a reefer container.

Add New Rule Statements







Note

To model this rule, add two terms to the current Vocabulary. First, add a new attribute to the Cargo entity to define whether the Cargo requires refrigeration or not (call this **needsRefrigeration**). Second, add "reefer" as another possible selection option for the container attribute.

Model

Open and Edit the Vocabulary

If already open , select the **Cargo.ecore** tab. If not open:

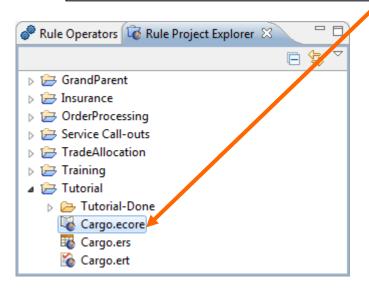
Select **Cargo.ecore** from the **Recent File** list at the bottom of the **File** menu

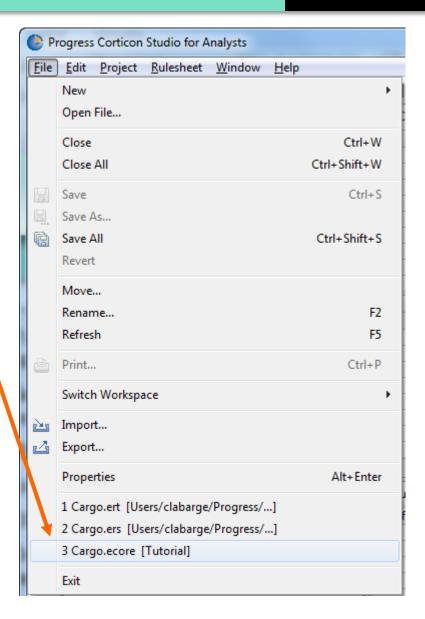
OR

Use the File > Open File menu option

OR

Double-click on the file in the **Rule Project Explorer** pane.





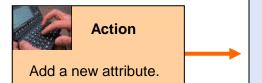
Add an Attribute – Step 1





Action

Edit the Vocabulary using Corticon Studio's **Vocabulary Editor**.



Within the Vocabulary editor window in the upper right pane (not the Vocabulary window in the upper left pane), right click on the Cargo entity and choose **Add Attribute** from the popup menu.

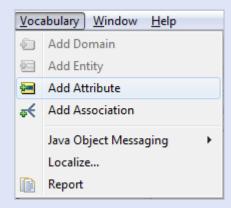
OR

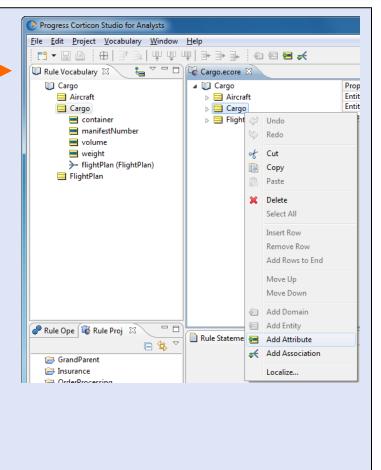
Highlight the Cargo entity and choose the **Add Attribute** icon on the toolbar.

g) and

OR

Highlight the Cargo entity and choose **Vocabulary > Add Attribute** from the Studio menubar.





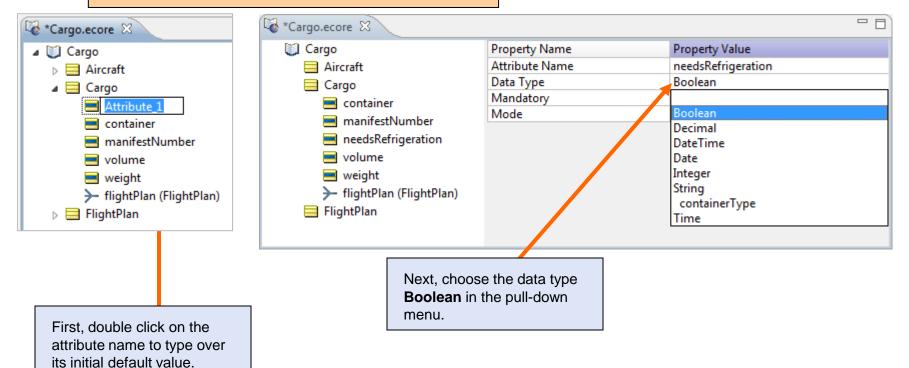
Model

Add an Attribute – Step 2



Action

Change the attribute name to **needsRefrigeration** and set the data type to **Boolean**.



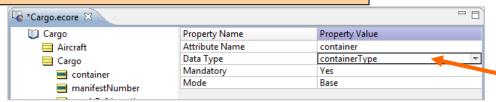
Modify a Custom Data Type



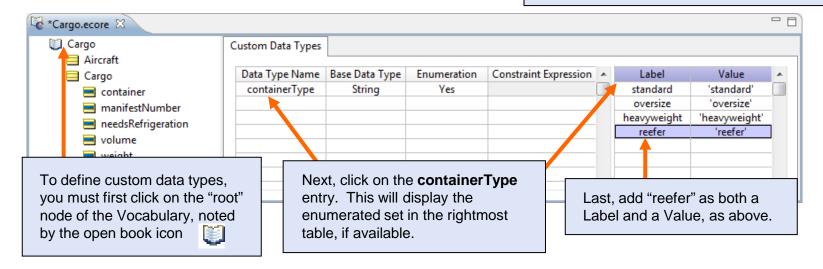


Action

Add "reefer" as another allowable type of container.



Select the **container** attribute and note the Data Type: **containerType**. This is a custom data type that defines a set of allowable values for container (an enumerated set).



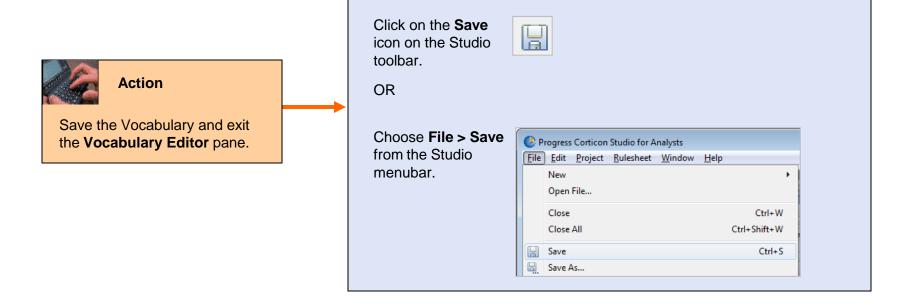


Note

Custom data types are a powerful capability that allows you to define rules at the level of the Vocabulary that are reused anywhere the Vocabulary terms are used. You can learn more about custom data types in the *Rule Modeling Guide*.







Model the New Rules

New rule:

 Cargo requiring refrigeration must be packaged in a reefer container.



Action

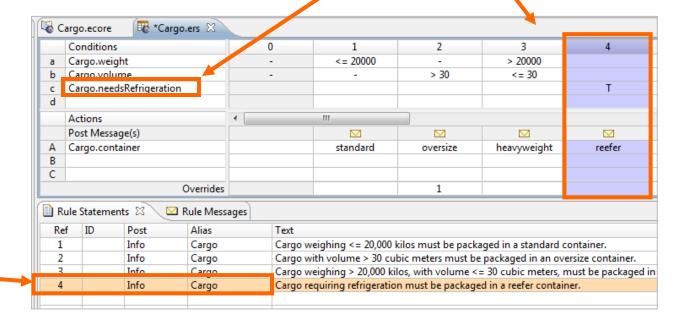
Now that the Vocabulary contains the new terms required by the new rule, complete the model as shown below.



Action

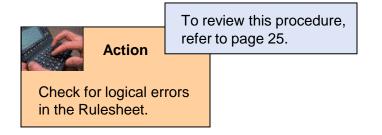
Be sure to include Reference links from the Rule Statements to the columns containing the new rule models.

And, add **Post** and **Alias**.



Analyze

Check New Rules for Conflicts

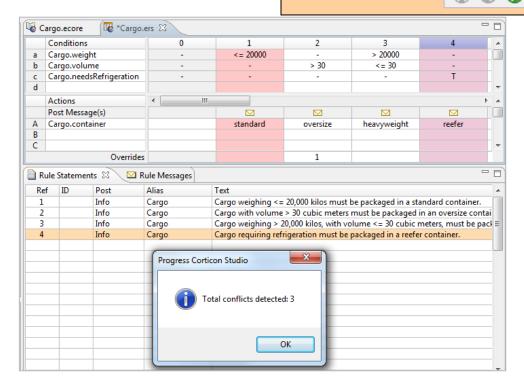




Note

Rule analysis is an iterative process. Whenever we add or change our rules, it is necessary to re-analyze. In this case, adding a single new rule has caused three new conflicts, one with each of our three existing rules.

You can step through multiple conflicts, and filter the Rulesheet to view only the conflicting rules, via the buttons to the right of the Conflict Check button:



Analyze

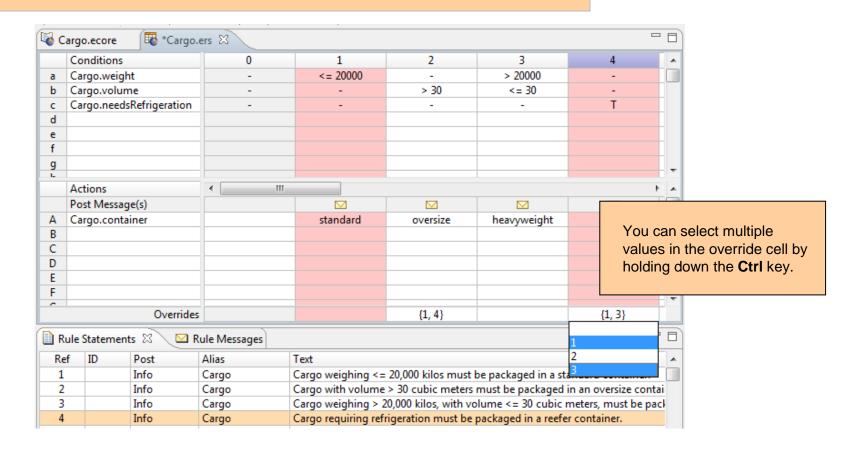
Check New Rules for Conflicts



Action

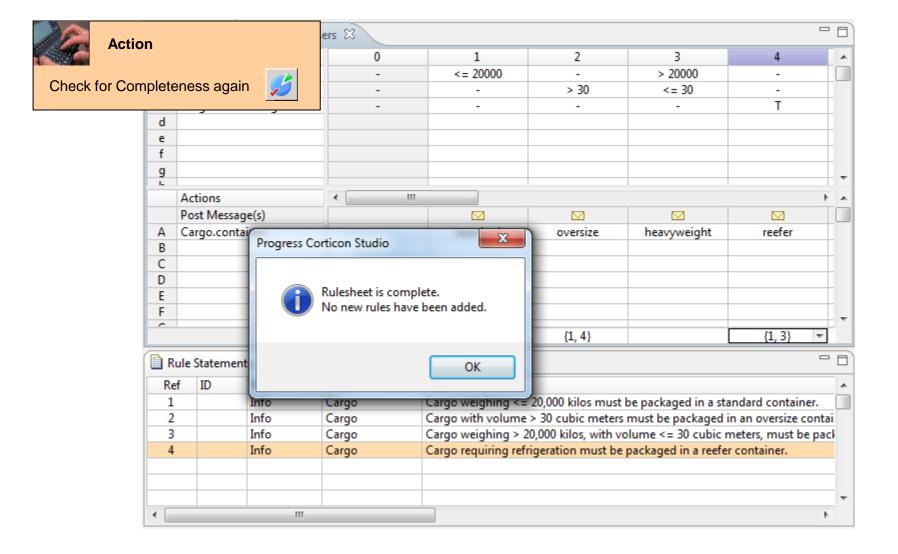
Reefer containers are only available for standard and heavyweight, but not for oversize loads. Thus, let's set rule 4 to override rules 1 & 3, and rule 2 to override rules 1 & 4.

When complete, your Rulesheet should look like this:





Check New Rules for Completeness



Test

Modify the Ruletest



Action

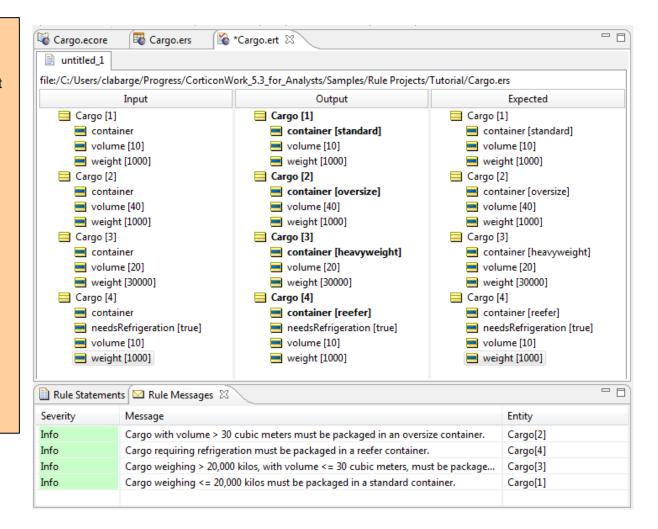
Your last step is to modify your test case to test the new rule. First save your rules.

Next, in Ruletest Cargo.ert, first copy and paste Cargo[1] to create Cargo[4], in both the Input and Expected panes.

Next, drag and drop the **needsRefrigeration** attribute from your Vocabulary onto both Cargo[4] entities. In both panes, set the value of **needsRefrigeration** to "true".

Next, in the Expected pane, change the value of container to "reefer".

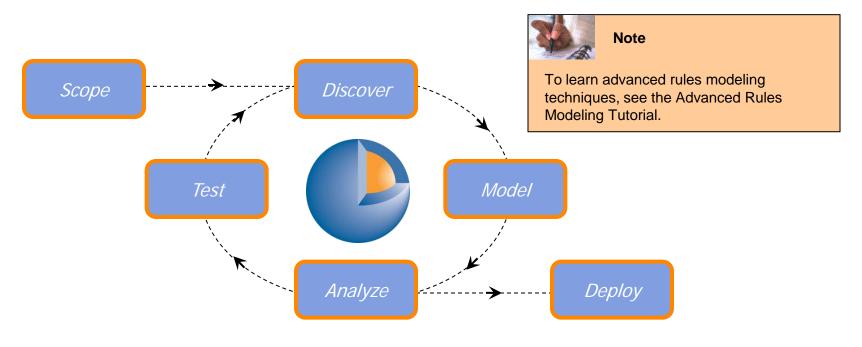
Last, execute the test. Your Ruletest should look like this:



Summary



Congratulations! You have now completed two full iterations of the Corticon development lifecycle, and understand the basic concepts of rule modeling, analysis, and testing in Studio.





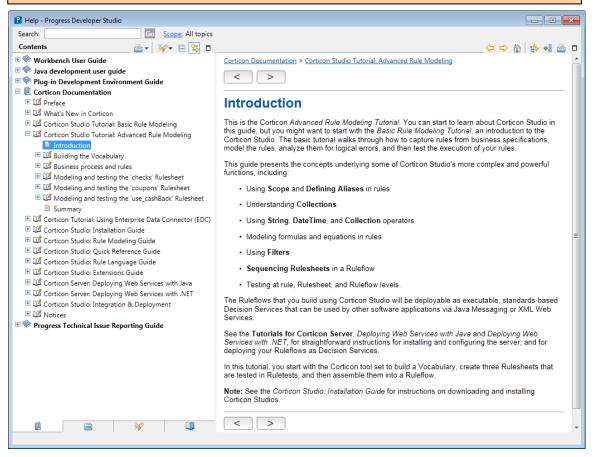
Note

To learn how to deploy rules, see the Tutorial for Corticon Server – Deploying Web Services.



Appendix A: Corticon Technical Publications

Corticon Studio and Corticon Studio for Analysts both provide the whole doc set in online help.



The whole doc set is also available as a package of books in PDF format, available on the Progress Software download site.

