What's New in IBM Operational Decision Manager 8.9.2 — March 2018

Updated on April 30, 2018

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IBM

IBM ODM 8.9.2 Release highlights

Develop new opportunities on private clouds

Commercial offering for IBM Cloud Private

Increase adoption with self service access

Free ODM for Developers

docker

Easier to sell product

Product offering simplification

Released on March 23, 2018

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Why is ODM 8.9.2 coming soon after ODM 8.9.1 ?

ODM 8.9.1 was released in November 2017

For existing on-prem customers, ODM 8.9.2 is **effectively a fix pack**:
- Mainly includes fixes
- Fully compatible with 8.9.1
- Incremental installer from 8.9.x to 8.9.2 also available on FixCentral

A **mod version (8.9.2) was needed to simplify the product structure** and do the corresponding update to the part numbers.

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Product Offering Simplification

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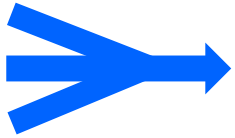
Simplification of product offering (& ordering)



ODM 8.9.1 and previous

- Decision Server Standard
- Decision Server Advanced
- Decision Center

ODM 8.9.2

ODM Server

- Non Production
- Production

- Decision Server Express
- Decision Center Express

ODM Server Express

- Non Production
- Production

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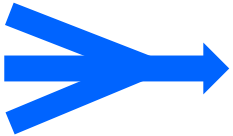
Outcome of simplification



Automatic entitlement to the new products for existing customers

New **flexibility to allocate PVUs** across ODM Server components

– Assuming you're using ODM 8.9.2. Not applicable to previous releases

No change to the technical product structure

– For on-prem customers: same installers for Decision Center, Decision Server Rules, Decision Server Insights

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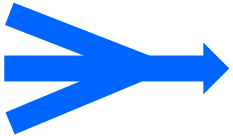
Comparing ODM Server and ODM Server Express



Components	ODM Server	ODM Server Express
Decision Center	✔	✔ MAX 420 PVU per site
Decision Server Rules	✔	
Decision Server Insights	✔	
Commercial offering on ICP	✔	
PureApplication pattern	✔ Deprecated	

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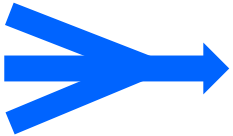
What About ODM for z/OS ?



No change to the product structure

Simplifications already occurred in the past with the removal of Insights and Decision Center on z/OS

One Single PID 5655-Y31 : Operational Decision Manager Standard for z/OS

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ODM on IBM Cloud Private
&
ODM for Developers

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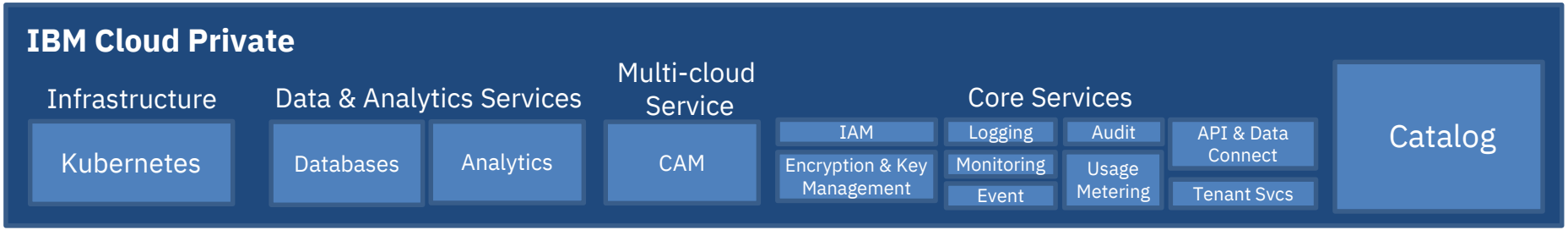
IBM Cloud Private Overview

Streamline development with built-in microservices, runtimes, containers and **Kubernetes** orchestration plus integrated management

An integrated platform consisting of the IaaS, PaaS, and developer services necessary to create, run, and manage cloud applications

An important offering for delivering modernized IBM middleware and data services to enterprise customers



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2 flavors of ODM 8.9.2 on IBM Cloud Private

A new **commercial offering: ODM on IBM Cloud Private** (ICP)

- Provided as Docker images and a Kubernetes Helm chart **with ODM Server 8.9.2**
- **Production ready**, with full IBM support
- A **new pricing option**, best suited for containers: **Virtual Processor Core** (VPC) **Monthly**

A new **free edition: ODM for Developers**

- For **development and evaluation purposes** only
- Automatically visible in **ICP catalog** for all ICP users
- Also available outside ICP as a **Docker** image

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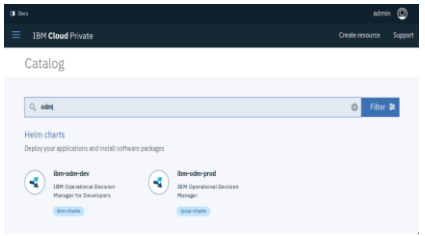
How to get and install ODM on ICP (commercial offering)

ODM Server Components:

Import the ODM PPA archive into ICP

Sync repositories to refresh catalog



Archive in ODM Server 8.9.2
Passport Advantage

Contains:
- Production Docker images
- Production Helm chart

ICP Helm repositories

Ibm-odm-prod
In ICP catalog

ODM Rule Designer:

Rule Designer Eclipse Plugins on eclipse marketplace

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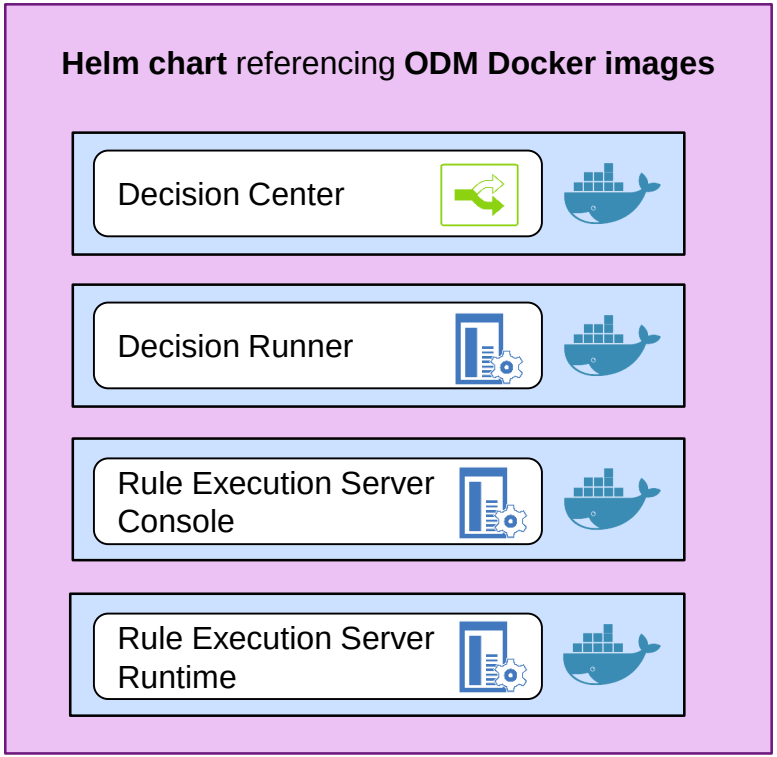
ODM on ICP, for production



ODM Server Components

- Production grade Docker images
- Helm chart to configure one or many Helm releases: Dev / QA / Pre-prod / Prod... environments

+ Rule Designer Eclipse Plugins on eclipse marketplace

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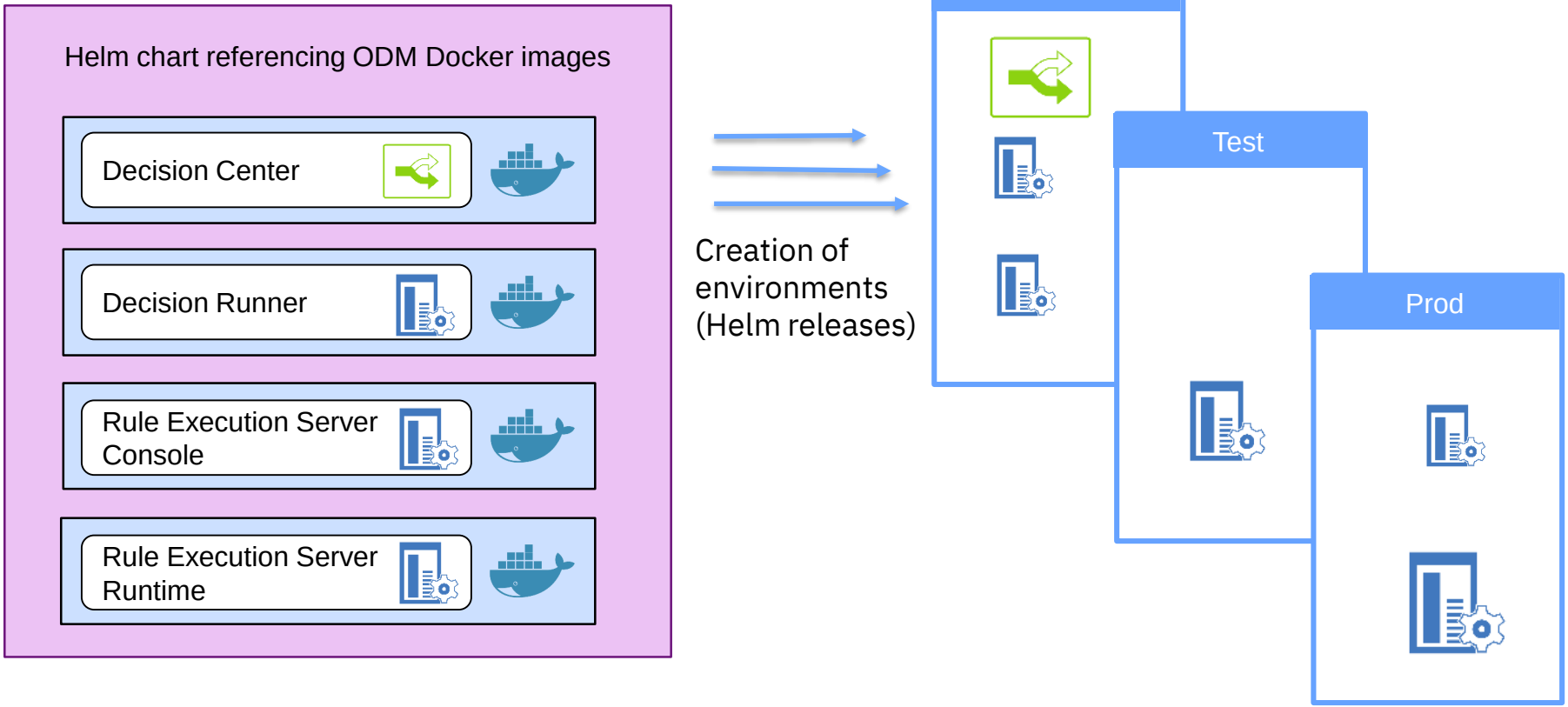
Creation of a full ODM topology on ICP



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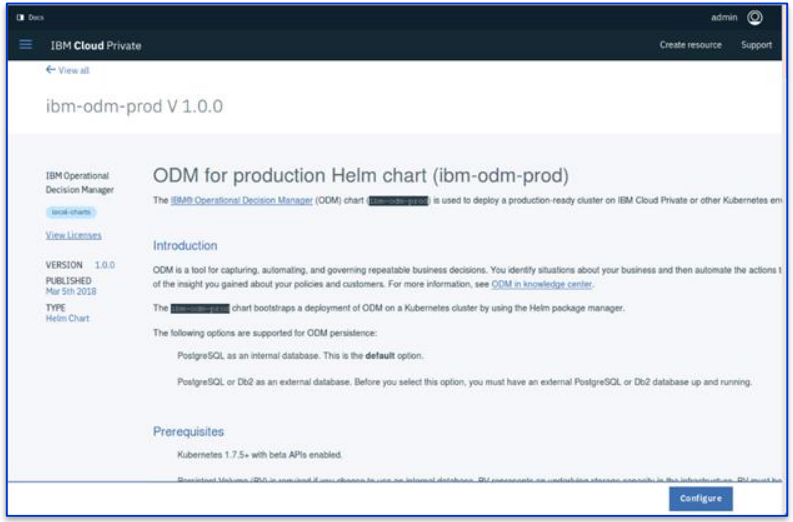
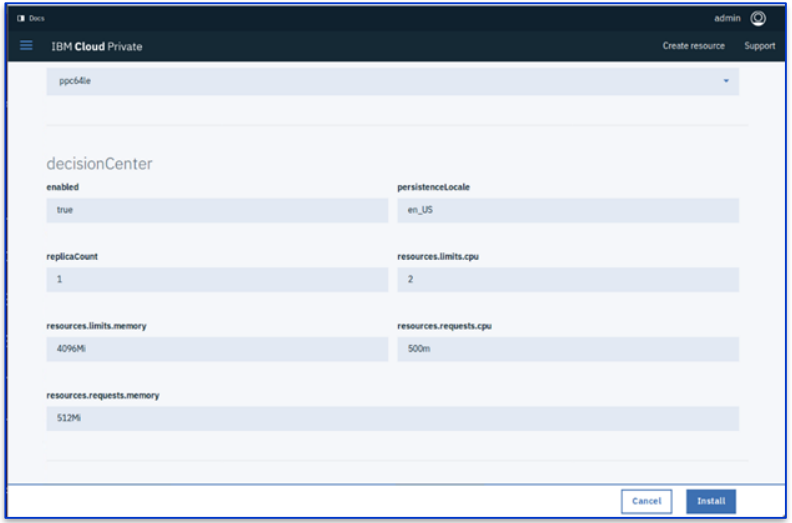
Configuration of ODM on ICP, for production



Select the **ibm-odm-prod** chart
to create a Helm release
(Rule development, QA, pre-prod, prod, etc.)

For each Helm release, **select and configure the ODM components** to instantiate
(one Docker instance per component)



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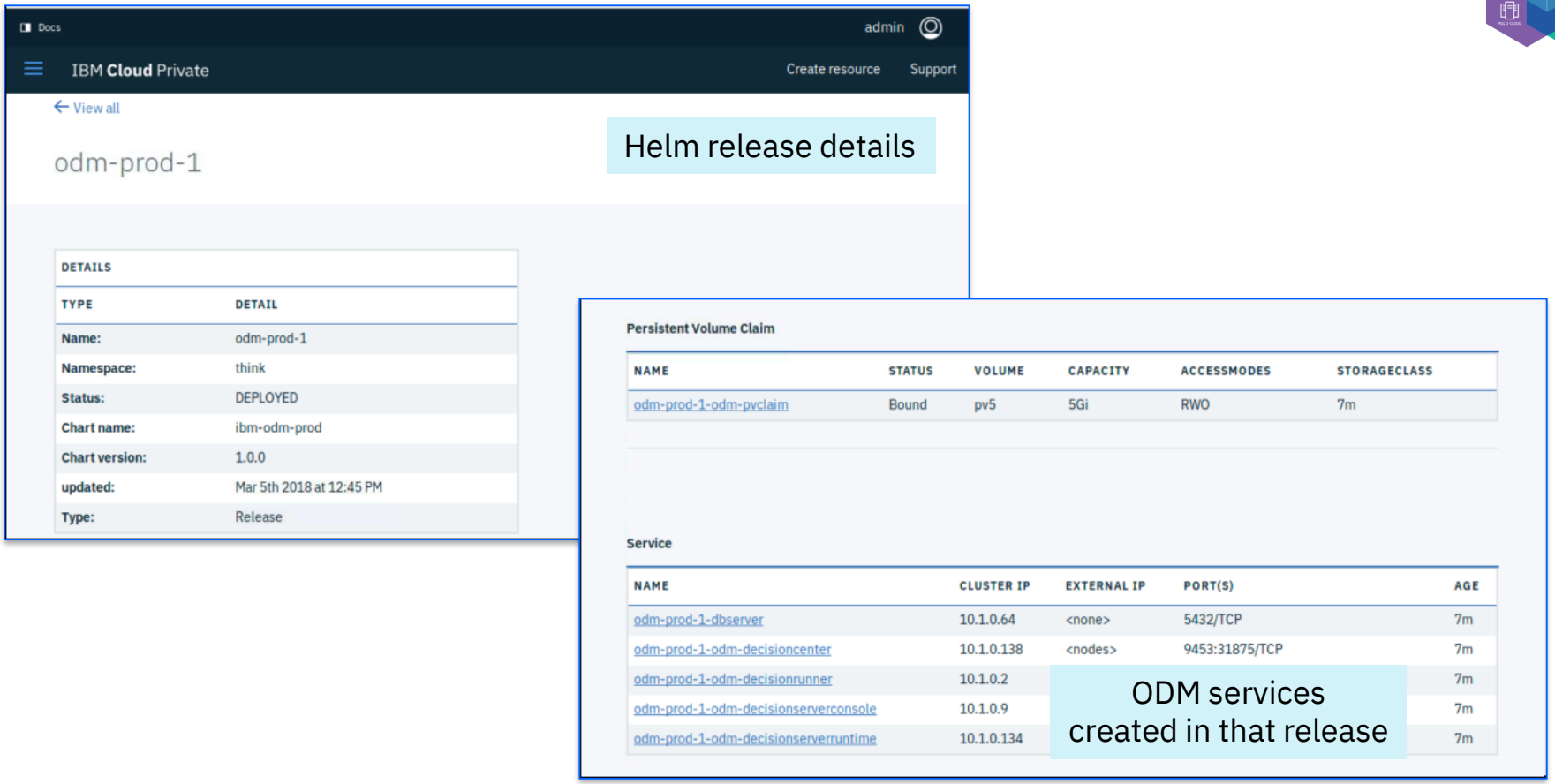
Example of an ODM Helm release



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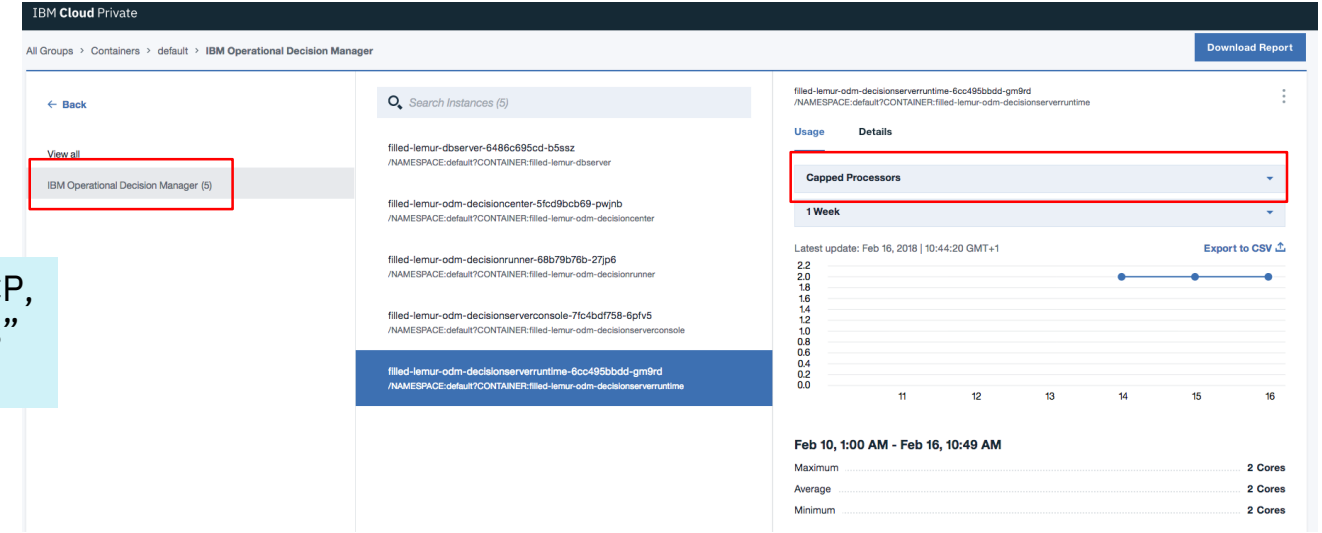
ODM Pricing and Metering on ICP

New pricing option added in ODM 8.9.2:

VPC (Virtual Processor Core) monthly subscription

- Max number for cores allocated to ODM containers in ICP
- Distinction between Production and Non-production environments

ODM core metering in ICP, with “Capped Processors” metric



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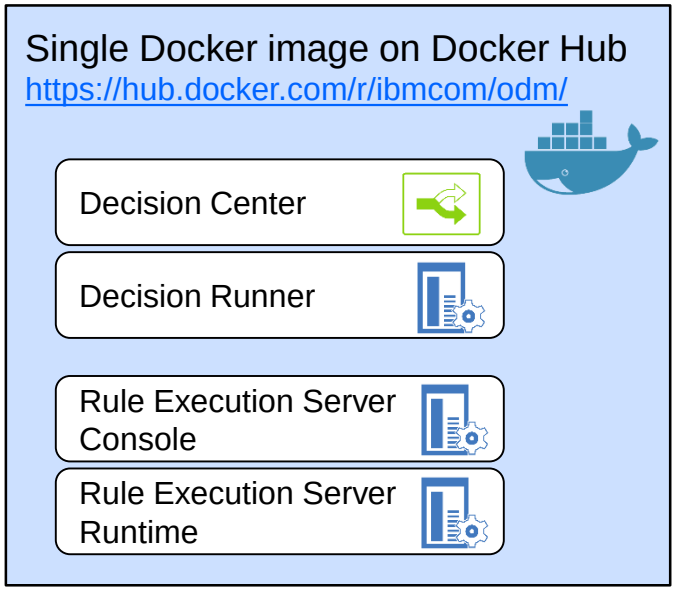
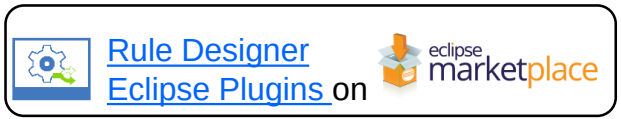
Free ODM for Developers, for all Docker fans

Making it easy for any developer to evaluate and develop decision services with ODM





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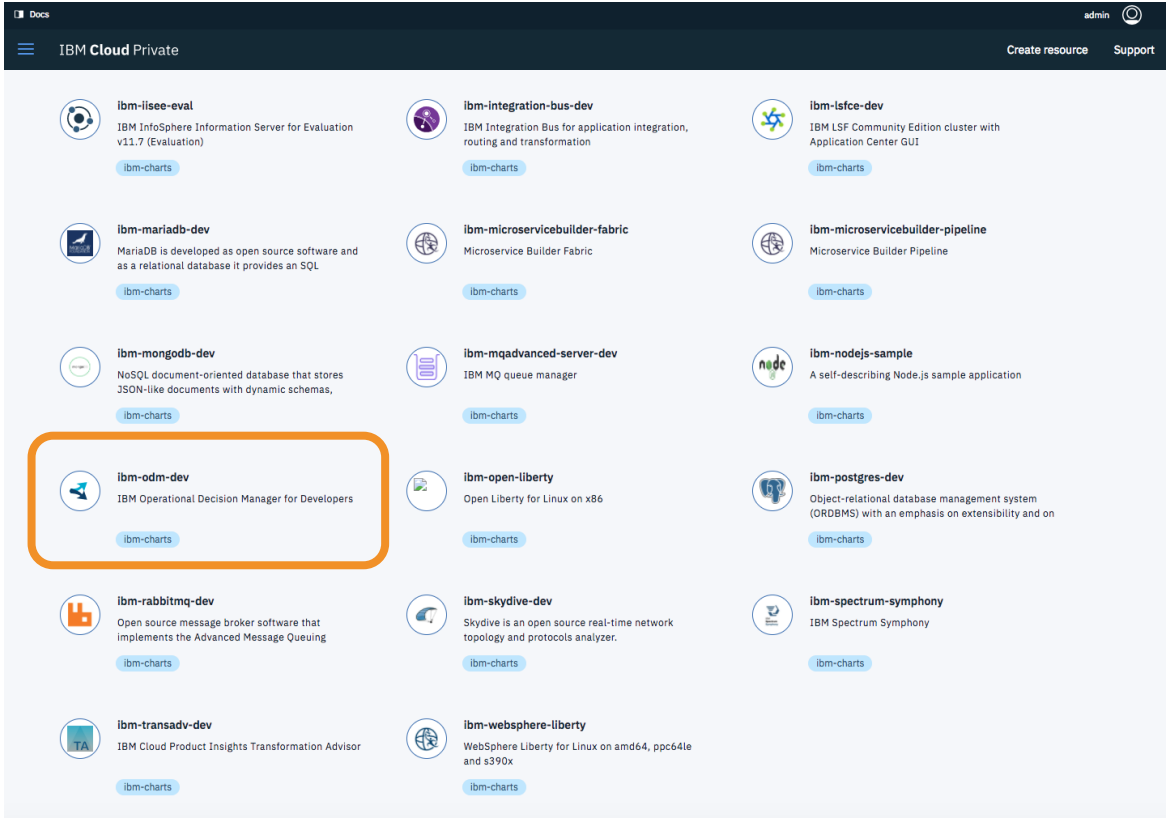
ODM for Developers available in ICP catalog

ODM for Developers is automatically displayed in the ICP catalog



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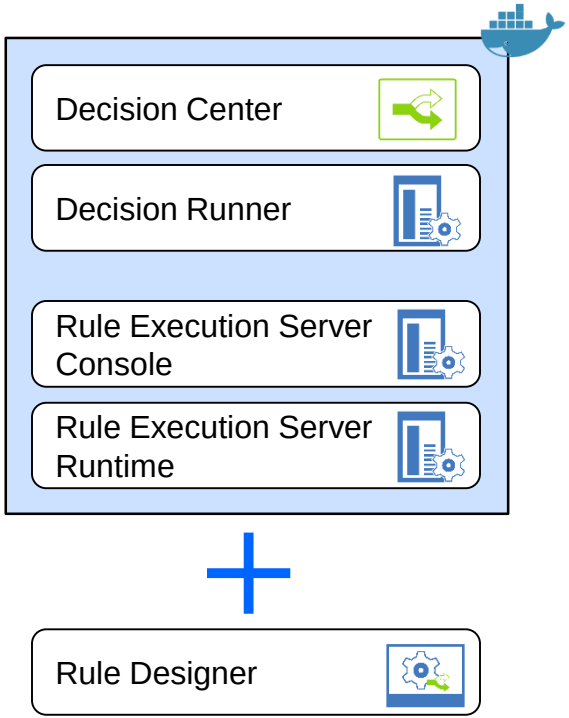
What's included in ODM on ICP and ODM for Developers



Focus on '**happy path**', with support for:

- Decision service projects only
- Decision engine only
- Decision invocation through web service only

Only with the following **supported databases:**

- ODM on ICP: PostgreSQL or DB2
- ODM for Developers: H2 or PostgreSQL

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What’s NOT included or supported in ODM on ICP and ODM for Developers

Deprecated features for ODM on-prem:

- Classic rule projects and Decision Validation Services
- Classic rule engine

Decision Center or RES customizations that require repackaging of the WAR file

- Due to Docker approach

Other features not included or supported:

- Build Command
- Sample Console in Rule Designer
- RES invocation through Java or EJB rule session API
- Custom permissions on decision services through the Enterprise Console

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Samples and Tutorials

New ODM samples and tutorials are published on https://odmdev.github.io/#/odm
- For ODM on ICP and other ODM products

New tutorial:
- Getting Started for ODM on ICP

And also:
- ODM on Cloud tutorial: Debugging a decision service
- Samples and contributions to facilitate RPA - ODM integration
- Contributions for Decision Server Insights

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Other targeted improvements in ODM 8.9.2

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Improvements in Decision Center

Use the **archiving tool** with confidence
- Improved documentation and internal improvements

Business Console enhancements
- User can move a rule folder within a decision service
- User can better compare test results including collections, with a redesigned UI

Enable non-admin users to publish a decision service from Rule Designer to Decision Center
- Not activated by default

New tutorial on how to **manage user access with LDAP**

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Expand RES Java SE usage to new use cases

Load and execute ruleApps with RES API, but without requiring file or DB persistence

- Use RES XU with a **new in-memory persistence**
- RES Java SE reads a ruleApp from classpath or URL.
- No need to use anymore lower level rule engine API

Benefits:

- Easily embed rule execution capability into **Hadoop / Spark grids,** or Jupyter notebooks
- Deploy **Java based decision micro services**
  - Self contained WAR file with application code and rules in it

Samples:

- RES JSE execution stack with a memory persistence here
- ODM decisions on Spark: https://github.com/ODMDev/decisions-on-spark

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Platforms updates in ODM 8.9.2

Added:

- IBM Cloud Private 2.1.0.2
- OS:
  - Ubuntu 16.04
  - AIX 7.2
- Databases:
  - PostgreSQL 9.6
  - Db2 12 for Z
  - H2 (not for production)
- Hypervisors:
  - KVM 6.5
  - ESXi 6.5

Deprecated: ODM Pattern

- Still shipped and supported in ODM 8.9.2
- Suggested replacement: ODM on IBM Cloud Private

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In summary

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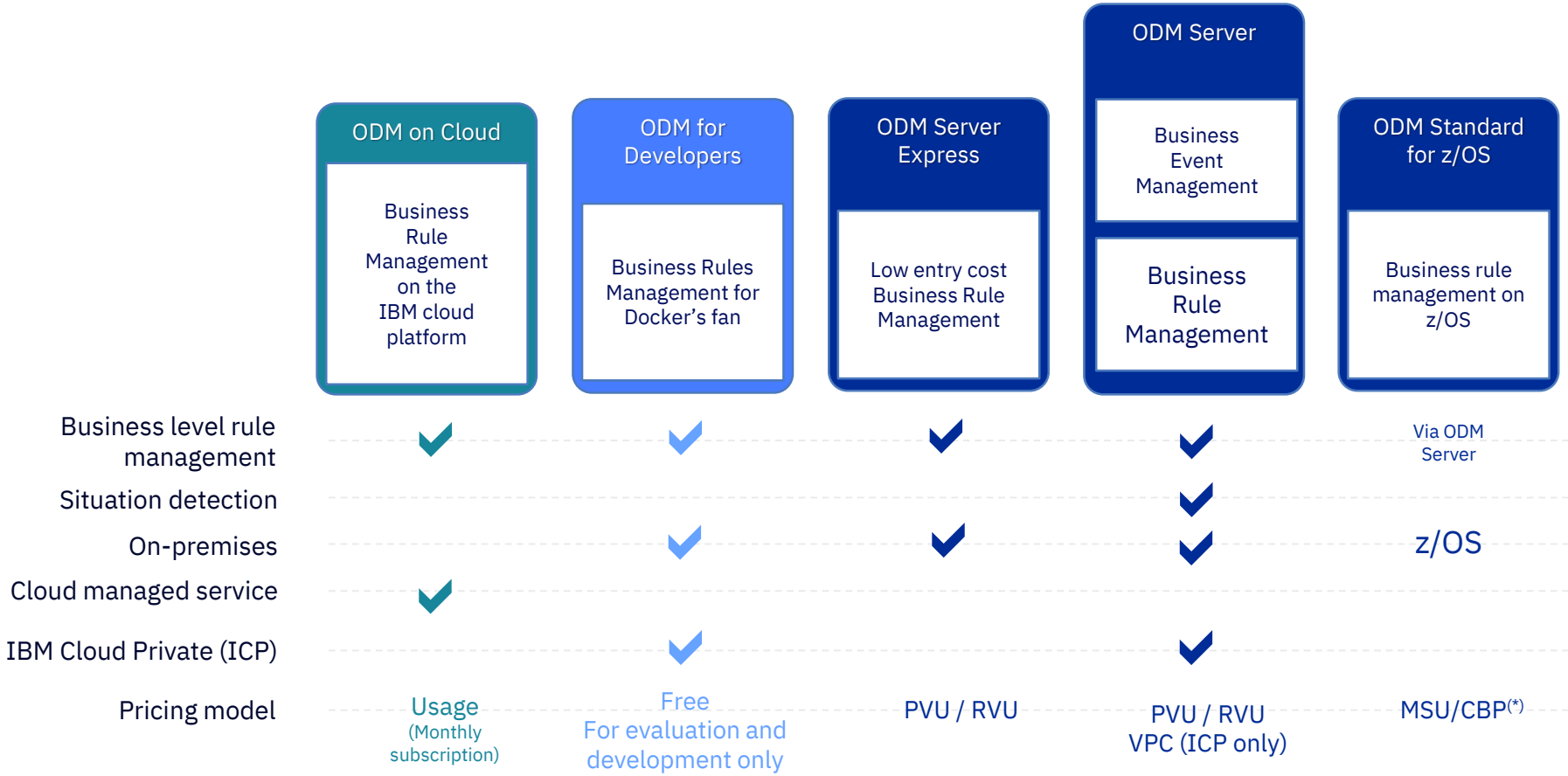
IBM Decision Management product family



(*): Container Based Pricing for z/OS

For more information

ODM 8.9.2 Knowledge Center

ODM 8.9.x Technotes

ODM announcements (March 13, 2018):
- Main ODM 8.9.2 announcement letter
- Related announcement for software withdrawal and support discontinuance

Latest ODM news on the ODM Developer Center

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