Rules as Code

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Outline:

1. What does “Rules as Code” mean?
2. What are the benefits?
3. What does it look like? (Blawx demo)

What is “Rules as Code”?

“Rules as Code” is a Methodology

- Draft rules in an interdisciplinary way
- “Co-Drafting” - Draft Rules in Natural Languages and Computer Languages At the Same Time

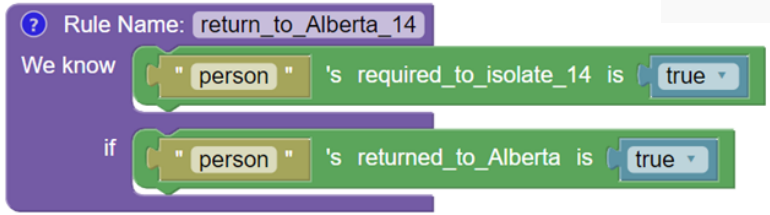
“Encoded Rules” are a Product

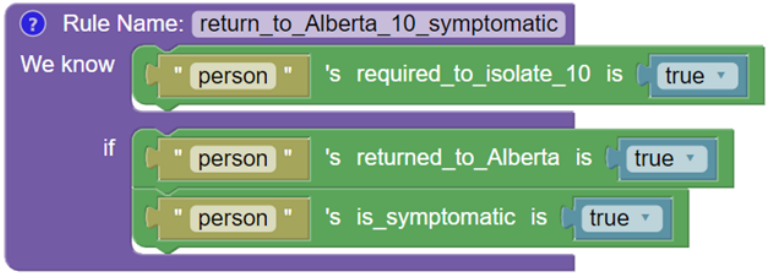
- A digital encoding of the meaning of a rule
- Can be used, in combination with facts and a query, and other tools, to automate reasoning about legal conclusions

The Benefits of “Rules as Code”

- Better-Drafted Legislation
  - By Virtue of Discipline
  - By Virtue of Enabling Computer Assisted Legislative Drafting
- More Effective Policy Design
- More consistency of interpretation
- Improvements to (public or private) automated legal services
  - Faster Development
  - Better Legal Quality Assurance
  - Easier to Maintain
- Simplified Regulatory Compliance
- Better Access to Justice in Canada
- … and more ...

www.blawx.com





Rule return_to_Alberta_14 overrides rule default_no_isolation

Rule return_to_Alberta_10_symptomatic overrides rule default_no_isolation

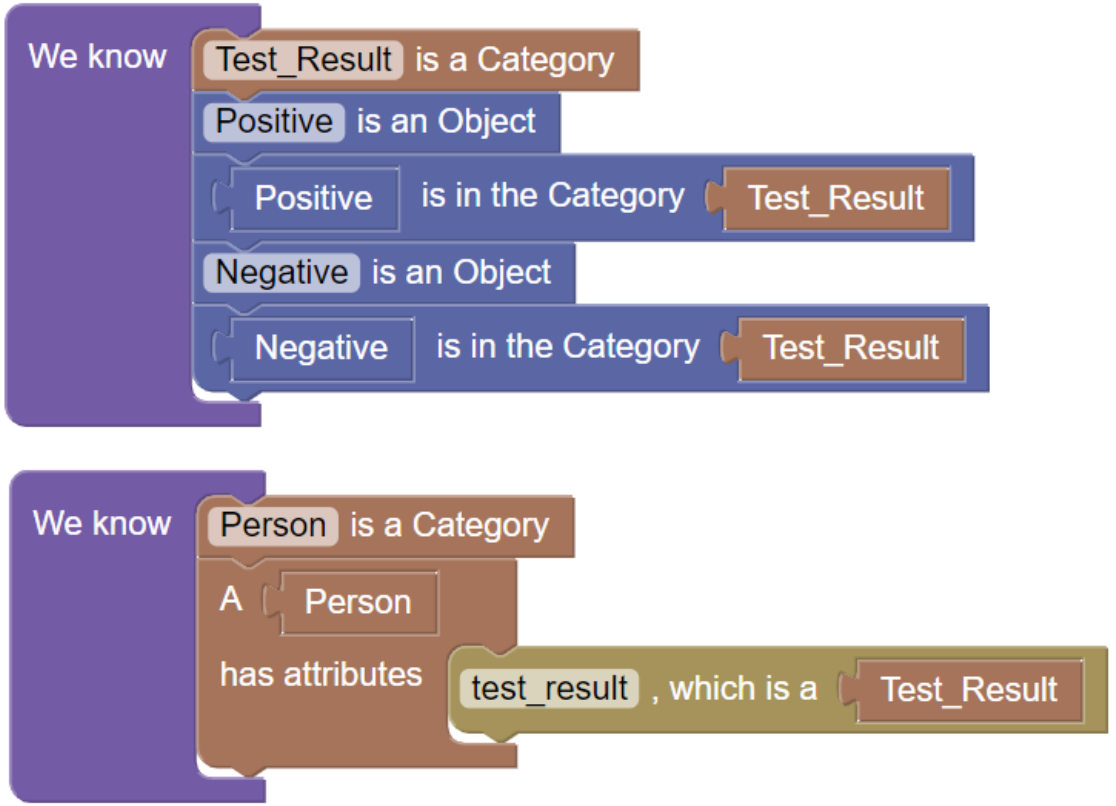
- Menu
- Facts, Rules, Queries
- Categories
- Known Categories
- Data Types
- Objects
- Known Objects
- Known Attributes
- Data
- Logic
- Variables
- ▶ Values

The Blawx Encoding Process

1. Define Your Ontology
2. Encode the Rules
3. Provide Facts and Ask Questions

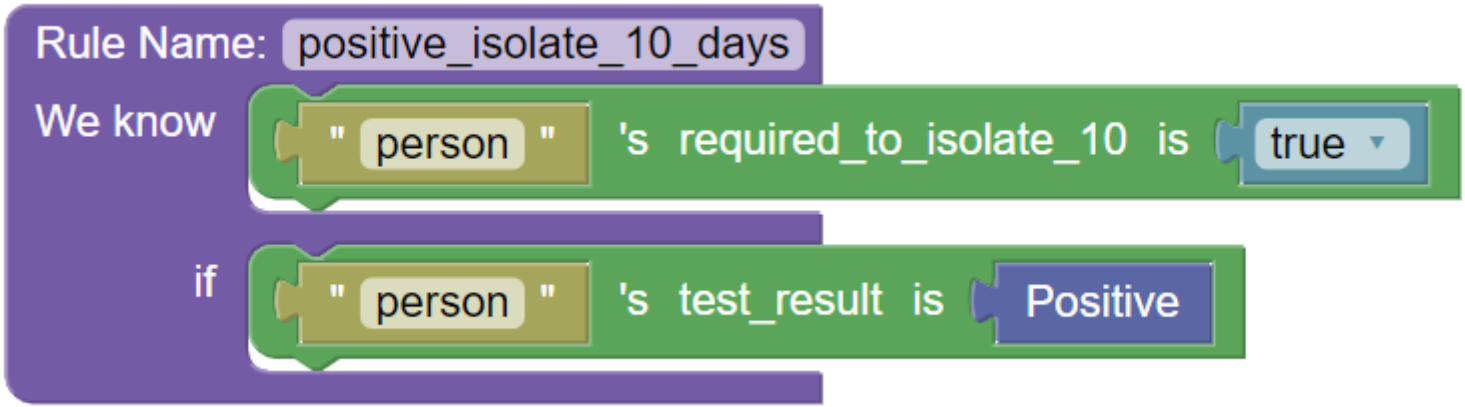
1. Defining an Ontology

"...a person who has a negative test result…"



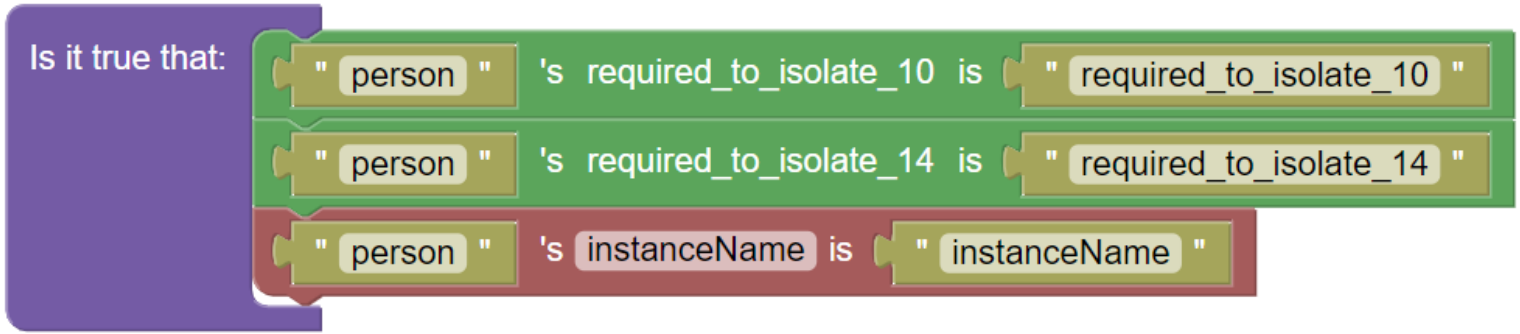
2. Encode the Rules

“ A person with a positive test result is required to isolate for 10 days.”



3. Provide Facts and Ask Question

“Who is required to isolate for 10 or 14 days?”



Docassemble Interview Demo

Live Blawx Demo

Responses to Common Objections/Concerns

- Encoded Rules are not a Black Box. They are open, transparent, and auditable.
- Encoded Rules are not a third authoritative source of statutes. They are a detailed specification of the interpretation used by the government.
- Rules can still be as ambiguous and subjective as you need them to be. Encoded rules don’t remove ambiguity, they just make it explicit.
- This isn’t just for math, and taxes. Every law has some rules that can be usefully encoded. Some more than others.
- Everything, including the *status quo*, has risks. Pick the combination of risks and benefits you prefer.
- That it is not perfect does not mean it is not better.

Legislative Drafters are the Key

Any Answers?

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