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The decision exploration lab

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2014

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Broeksema, B. (2014). *The decision exploration lab: supporting the business analyst in understanding automated decisions*. s.n.

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Propositions belonging to the PhD dissertation
The Decision Exploration Lab
by A.H.J. Broeksema

1. Decision automation uses a model of reality to make decisions in an automated way without direct human supervision, while impacting lives of individuals, corporations and society on a large scale, typically for the best but not always.
– *This thesis*
2. Data-ink ratio is a means to determine the quality of a visualization. A concise specification of the visualization *process* enables reasoning about quality before the first line is drawn. Our treemap algorithm is a step in this direction.
– *This thesis*
3. On first sight, program comprehension is very similar to the understanding of decision management systems. However, whereas program comprehension mostly relates to verifying that requirements have been captured correctly, understanding the functioning of a decision management system is about finding out if the system tried to capture the right requirements in the first place. – *This thesis*
4. Understanding the functioning of decision management systems, requires a combined analysis of decision models, execution traces, decision instances, and the ability to bring knowledge of the application domain into the analysis process.
– *This thesis*
5. The decision exploration lab provides combined analysis of rule execution traces and decision instances. This allows business analysts to explore decision models in the light of the accumulated facts about this model, which are in the form of decision instances.
– *This thesis*
6. In an industrial context, developing a solution that has business value is as important as a solution that is usable. In addition, a usable solution does not imply business value, and a valuable solution does not imply a usable one.
7. Although expert systems are not subject to human frailties such as boredom, forgetfulness or tunnel vision, they are still the product of human activity. As such, they should never be trusted at a level in which they operate without human supervision.
8. “Essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful.” – *George E.P. Box*
9. Modeling and automating knowledge which was previously held solely by human does not transfer accountability and responsibility, and therefore poses moral and philosophical challenges.
10. Addressing moral and philosophical challenges posed by technology does not require more technology in the first place, but abandoning the believe that technology is neutral, as well as a deep reflection of the values that we want and do not want to be embedded in the technology we develop.
11. “A technicistic approach would leave the power to decide to information processors. In a non-technicistic approach, this power stays in the hands of humans. Technique would at most help humans to maintain once made agreements.”
– *Roel Kuiper*