



**Company:** Propylon

**Location:** KS, USA and  
Dublin, Ireland

**Url:** <http://propylon.com>

**Industry:** Legislative Software  
Solutions

**Oracle Products & Services:**

- NetBeans IDE
- Java
- Swing
- MySQL

**Related Software:**

- OpenOffice
- Subversion
- Jython
- ActiveMQ

## PROPYLON

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### Executive Summary

Propylon is a world leader in Legal and Regulatory Publishing and Workflow systems and solutions. Their legislative solutions can be found in the law-making processes of numerous countries and US states.

In addition, they provide solutions to some of the world's largest Legal and Regulatory publishers and count many of the largest auditing and accounting firms amongst their clients. Their Governance, Risk and Compliance Solutions products are also in use worldwide ranging from OAI compliant archives to Document and Spreadsheet Risk Management solutions.

### Organization

Propylon has approximately 70 staff split between its two main offices, Lawrence, KS, USA and Dublin, Ireland. It has a track record, dating back over 20 years, in the Legal and Regulatory content space.

### The Business Issue

Propylon's Legislative Workbench product needs to meet the challenges of modern-day legal drafting and statute management that involve dealing with some of the most complex and mission critical document corpora in the world.

### Key Challenges

- The need to efficiently manage author/edit workflows that regularly involve coordinating dozens of discrete actors and highly complex content. Individual units of content can run to thousands of pages per document.
- Absolute rendering fidelity and control over line-numbers/page-numbers for legal citation purposes is required, as is a complete audit-trail of the entire legal corpus as it changes over time.

### Solution

- On the client side, a NetBeans-based application has been created that embeds OpenOffice into a Workbench environment.
- NetBeans IDE and the Propylon application development environment provide the development team with keystroke level control over the embedded author/edit environment, as well as full access, via Swing, to the container environment to implement workflow customizations.
- Both native Java and Jython are used on the client side for Workbench customizations.
- The client side communicates with the server side that exposes RESTian web services to a time-based content repository. The NetBeans-based client application presents the user with a set of virtual folders that are mapped to legislative workflows.

### Business Value

- NetBeans IDE provides an "all in one" editor, yet allows for powerful customizations for specific languages. Java, Python and Jython are used by the development team, as well as Javascript, HTML and XML. Moving from editing one to the other is easy in the IDE.
- Ant and Maven support is very good in the IDE.
- The Swing GUI Builder in the IDE is used extensively, not only for developers but also for business analysts who use it to work directly with customers in creating mock-up screens for workflows.
- Agile development support in the IDE is very good. In particular, the functionality that helps code refactoring is useful in that regard.
- Subversion integration in the IDE has proved helpful.
- The NetBeans Platform allows the team to have a seamless transition for developers between the environment they use day-to-day in application development and the environments they create for customers.
- The Swing GUI Builder acts as an effective bridge between the development and business analysis teams.

### Credits:

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