CLAIMS

1. A method for using a declarative definition language to drive a presentation renderer to render a form, comprising:

defining a form using a declarative definition language, wherein the declarative definition language defines the form in terms of its fields and its presentation;

generating a run-time object from the declarative definition language;

entering the form data;

evaluating a calculation against the form data and returning a result, wherein the step of evaluating comprises the steps of:

collecting a plurality of reference values associated with the form data for the calculation, the plurality of reference values being related to each other;

registering the plurality of reference values with information associated with the calculation;

in response to a change in a triggering field value, changing a reference value of the plurality of reference values in view of dependencies between the form data using the plurality of reference values and the information associated with the calculation; and

rendering the form with a presentation renderer, wherein the presentation renderer uses the run-time object and the form data.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the fields are scalar fields.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the fields are group fields.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the fields are array fields.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising loading the declarative definition language.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring the form data with a change broadcaster.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising managing the layout of form controls.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising managing the appearance of a form.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating logic paradigms with a calculation learning engine.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising defining a workflow using the declarative definition language.

11. A system for using a declarative definition language to drive a presentation renderer to render a form, comprising:

a processor for executing instructions to define a form using a declarative definition language, wherein the declarative definition language defines the form in terms of a field and a presentation, and wherein the processor generates a run-time object from the declarative definition language;

a user interface tool for entering a form data, wherein the processor executes instructions for evaluating a calculation against the form data and returning a result, wherein the instructions for evaluating comprises:

instructions for collecting a plurality of reference values associated with the form data for the calculation, the plurality of reference values being related to each other;

instructions for registering the plurality of reference values with information associated with the calculation;

in response to a change in a triggering field value, changing a reference value of the plurality of reference values in view of dependencies between the form data using the plurality of reference values and the information associated with the calculation; and

a presentation renderer for rendering the form, and wherein the presentation renderer uses the run-time object and the form data.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the field is a scalar field.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the field is a group field.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the field is an array field.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein the processor executes instructions for loading the declarative definition language.

16. The system of claim 11, further comprising a change broadcaster means for monitoring the form data.

17. The system of claim 11, further comprising a layout management tool.

18. The system of claim 11, further comprising a style management tool.

19. The system of claim 11, further comprising a calculation learning engine.

20. The system of claim 11, further comprising a workflow definition means for defining a workflow using the declarative definition language.

21. A system for dynamically defining and generating forms and workflows comprising:

a first input means for receiving instructions from a user to dynamically define a form;

a form defining means, coupled to said first input means to receive said instructions, for defining said form using a declarative definition language based on said instructions, wherein said declarative definition language defines a field and a presentation of said form;

a generator, coupled to said form defining means, for generating a run-time object from said declarative definition language;

a storage device for storing said form;

a portable device for retrieving said form from said storage device over a network;

a second input means, coupled to said portable device, permitting a first user to enter data into said form;

a calculation means, responsive to said data entered into said form, for performing predefined calculations, evaluating said form data, and returning a result, wherein the evaluating comprises:

collecting a plurality of reference values associated with the form data for the calculation, the plurality of reference values being related to each other;

registering the plurality of reference values with information associated with the calculation means;

in response to a change in a triggering field value, changing a reference value of the plurality of reference values in view of dependencies between the form data

using the plurality of reference values and the information associated with the calculation; and

a presentation renderer for rendering said form, wherein said presentation renderer presents said form on the portable device and uses the run-time object and the form data.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising a workflow definition means for defining a workflow based on instructions from said first input means.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the calculation is evaluated according to a user-defined formula.

24. The system of claim 11, wherein the calculation is evaluated according to a user-defined formula.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the predefined calculations are evaluated according to user-defined formulas.