

## CLAIMS

1. A method for managing workflows in a data processing system (104, 120), the data processing system (104, 120) comprising: (i) at least one data store storing: a plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) and values of their attributes (707, 712, 811-817, 816a-c, 817a-c), the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) including a first data object, the first data object having a plurality of attributes (707, 712, 811-817, 816a-c, 817a-c) including a first attribute that can have any one of a plurality of values; and metadata specifying relationships among at least some of the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154), wherein data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) in the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) are organized into one or more hierarchies (150, 717, 718, 815a-c), and wherein the metadata (144) specifies at least one of the one or more hierarchies (150, 717, 718, 815a-c); and (ii) a workflow management system (102, 130) comprising: a workflow execution engine (133) for managing execution of finite state machines (300, 350, 400, 500, 550, 600, 650), ~~(FSMs)~~ including a first FSM associated with the first data object and for managing a first workflow for the first data object, the method comprising:

when a current workflow state of the first FSM is a first workflow state, using the workflow management system (102, 130) to perform:

determining a current value of the first attribute of the first data object by accessing the current value of the first attribute in the at least one data store, wherein the current value of the first attribute indicates a first hierarchy, of the one or more hierarchies (150, 717, 718, 815a-c), to which the first data object belongs;

identifying, using the current value of the first attribute and the metadata specifying relationships among at least some of the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154), a first actor authorized to perform a first workflow task for the first data object, wherein identifying the first actor comprises:

identifying the first actor as an actor (115, 139, 156, 158, 176, 382, 392, 704, 708, 713) authorized to perform the first workflow task for a second data object in the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154), wherein the second data object is related to the first data object according to the first hierarchy;

generating a graphical user interface, ~~{GUI (380, 390, 510, 800, 810, 820, 825, 830, 835, 837, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 910, 920, 930, 940, 1000)}~~  
through which the first actor ~~(115, 139, 156, 158, 176, 382, 392, 704, 708, 713)~~  
can provide the input that the first workflow task is to be performed; and  
in response to receiving, from the first actor and through the GUI ~~(380, 390, 510, 800, 810, 820, 825, 830, 835, 837, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 910, 920, 930, 940, 1000)~~, input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed:

performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and  
updating the current workflow state of the first FSM to a second workflow state.

~~2. — The method of claim 1, wherein data objects in the plurality of data objects are organized into one or more hierarchies, wherein the metadata specifies the one or more hierarchies, and wherein the current value of the first attribute indicates a first hierarchy, of the one or more hierarchies, to which the first data object belongs.~~

~~3. — The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the first actor comprises:  
— identifying the first actor as an actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for a second data object in the plurality of data objects, wherein the second data object is related to the first data object according to the first hierarchy.~~

~~42. The method of claim 31, wherein the second data object is an ancestor of the first data object in the first hierarchy.~~

~~53. The method of claim 31 or 42, wherein the second data object is a parent of the first data object in the first hierarchy.~~

~~64. The method of claim 1, wherein the current value of the first attribute indicates at least one classification for the first data object.~~

~~75. The method of claim 1 or any other preceding claim, further comprising:~~

accessing a first specification for the first FSM for managing the first workflow, the first specification indicating workflow states and transitions among states in the workflow states;

generating the first FSM for managing the first workflow for the first data object using the first specification; and

associating the first FSM with the first data object.

86. The method of claim ~~75~~, wherein the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) includes a second data object different from the first data object, the method further comprising:

generating, using the first specification, a second FSM for managing the first workflow for the second data object, wherein the first FSM is different from the second FSM; and

associating the second FSM with the second data object.

97. The method of claim ~~1 or any other preceding claim~~, wherein the first data object comprises a second attribute, the method comprising:

generating a second FSM for managing a second workflow for changing a value of the second attribute of the first data object; and

concurrently with using the first FSM to manage ~~the~~a first workflow for the first data object, using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the second attribute of the first data object.

~~108.~~ The method of claim 1 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first workflow for the first data object is a workflow for managing changes to the first data object.

~~119.~~ The method of claim 1 or any other preceding claim, further comprising:

when the first FSM indicates that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,

receiving input from each of multiple actors, including the first actor,

input indicating whether or not the first workflow task is to be performed; and

performing the first workflow task for the first data object only when a majority of the multiple actors provides input indicating that the first workflow task is to be performed.

~~1210.~~ At least one non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing processor-executable instructions that, when executed by a data processing system (104, 120), cause the data processing system (104, 120) to perform ~~a~~the method of any one of the preceding claims. ~~method for managing workflows in the data processing system, the data processing system comprising: (i) at least one data store storing: a plurality of data objects and values of their attributes, the plurality of data objects including a first data object, the first data object having a plurality of attributes including a first attribute that can have any one of a plurality of values; and metadata specifying relationships among at least some of the plurality of data objects; and (ii) a workflow management system comprising: a workflow execution engine for managing execution of finite state machines (FSMs) including a first FSM associated with the first data object and for managing a first workflow for the first data object, the method comprising: when a current workflow state of the first FSM is a first workflow state, using the workflow management system to perform:~~  
~~determining a current value of the first attribute of the first data object by accessing the current value of the first attribute in the at least one data store;~~  
~~identifying, using the current value of the first attribute and the metadata specifying relationships among at least some of the plurality of data objects, a first actor authorized to perform a first workflow task for the first data object;~~  
~~generating a graphical user interface (GUI) through which the first actor can provide the input that the first workflow task is to be performed; and~~  
~~in response to receiving, from the first actor and through the GUI, input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed:~~  
~~performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and~~  
~~updating the current workflow state of the first FSM to a second workflow state.~~

13. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein data objects in the plurality of data objects are organized into one or more hierarchies, wherein the metadata specifies the one or more hierarchies, and wherein the current value of the first attribute indicates a first hierarchy, of the one or more hierarchies, to which the first data object belongs.~~

14. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein identifying the first actor comprises:~~

~~—— identifying the first actor as an actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for a second data object in the plurality of data objects, wherein the second data object is related to the first data object according to the first hierarchy.~~

15. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the second data object is an ancestor of the first data object in the first hierarchy.~~

16. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 14 or 15, wherein the second data object is a parent of the first data object in the first hierarchy.~~

17. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the current value of the first attribute indicates at least one classification for the first data object.~~

18. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 12 or any other preceding claim, wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~—— accessing a first specification for the first FSM for managing the first workflow, the first specification indicating workflow states and transitions among states in the workflow states;~~

~~—— generating the first FSM for managing the first workflow for the first data object using the first specification; and~~

~~—— associating the first FSM with the first data object.~~

19. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the plurality of data objects includes a second data object different from the first data object, wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~generating, using the first specification, a second FSM for managing the first workflow for the second data object, wherein the first FSM is different from the second FSM; and~~

~~associating the second FSM with the second data object.~~

20. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 12 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object comprises a second attribute, wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~generating a second FSM for managing a second workflow for changing a value of the second attribute of the first data object; and~~

~~— concurrently with using the first FSM to manage a first workflow for the first data object, using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the second attribute of the first data object.~~

21. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 12 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first workflow for the first data object is a workflow for managing changes to the first data object.~~

22. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 12 or any other preceding claim, wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~when the first FSM indicates that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,~~

~~receiving input from each of multiple actors, including the first actor,~~

~~input indicating whether or not the first workflow task is to be performed; and~~

~~performing the first workflow task for the first data object only when a majority of the multiple actors provides input indicating that the first workflow task is to be performed.~~

2311. A data processing system (104, 120), comprising:

at least one computer hardware processor;

at least one data store storing: a plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) and values of their attributes (707, 712, 811-817, 816a-c, 817a-c), the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) including a first data object, the first data object having a plurality of attributes (707, 712, 811-817, 816a-c, 817a-c) including a first attribute that can have any one of a plurality of values; and metadata specifying relationships among at least some of the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154), wherein data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) in the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) are organized into one or more hierarchies (150, 717, 718, 815a-c), and wherein the metadata (144) specifies at least one of the one or more hierarchies (150, 717, 718, 815a-c); and

a workflow management system (102, 130) comprising: a workflow execution engine (133) for managing execution of finite state machines (300, 350, 400, 500, 550, 600, 650), {FSMs} including a first FSM associated with the first data object and for managing a first workflow for the first data object, wherein the workflow management system (102, 130) is configured to perform, using the at least one computer hardware processor, a method comprising:

when a current workflow state of the first FSM is a first workflow state:

determining a current value of the first attribute of the first data object by accessing the current value of the first attribute in the at least one data store, wherein the current value of the first attribute indicates a first hierarchy of the one or more hierarchies (150, 717, 718, 815a-c), to which the first data object belongs;

identifying, using the current value of the first attribute and the metadata specifying relationships among at least some of the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154), a first actor authorized to perform a first workflow task for the first data object, wherein identifying the first actor comprises;

identifying the first actor as an actor (115, 139, 156, 158, 176, 382, 392, 704, 708, 713) authorized to perform the first workflow task for a second data object in the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154), wherein the second data object is related to the first data object according to the first hierarchy;

generating a graphical user interface, ~~(GUI)~~ GUI (380, 390, 510, 800, 810, 820, 825, 830, 835, 837, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 910, 920, 930, 940, 1000) through which the first actor (115, 139, 156, 158, 176, 382, 392, 704, 708, 713) can provide the input that the first workflow task is to be performed; and

in response to receiving, from the first actor and through the GUI (380, 390, 510, 800, 810, 820, 825, 830, 835, 837, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 910, 920, 930, 940, 1000), input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed:

performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and  
updating the current workflow state of the first FSM to a second workflow state.

24. — ~~The data processing system of claim 23, wherein data objects in the plurality of data objects are organized into one or more hierarchies, wherein the metadata specifies the one or more hierarchies, and wherein the current value of the first attribute indicates a first hierarchy, of the one or more hierarchies, to which the first data object belongs.~~

25. — ~~The data processing system of claim 24, wherein identifying the first actor comprises:~~

~~— identifying the first actor as an actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for a second data object in the plurality of data objects, wherein the second data object is related to the first data object according to the first hierarchy.~~

26~~12~~. The data processing system of claim ~~23~~11, wherein the second data object is an ancestor of the first data object in the first hierarchy, ~~or~~

27. — ~~The data processing system of claim 25 or 26, wherein the second data object is a parent of the first data object in the first hierarchy.~~

28. — ~~The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the current value of the first attribute indicates at least one classification for the first data object.~~

~~29~~13. The data processing system of claim ~~23 or any other preceding claim~~11 or 12, wherein the method further comprises:

accessing a first specification for the first FSM for managing the first workflow, the first specification indicating workflow states and transitions among states in the workflow states;

generating the first FSM for managing the first workflow for the first data object using the first specification; and

associating the first FSM with the first data object, preferably;

~~30. — The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the plurality of data objects (142, 150, 152, 153, 154) includes a second data object different from the first data object, wherein the method further comprises:~~

generating, using the first specification, a second FSM for managing the first workflow for the second data object, wherein the first FSM is different from the second FSM; and

associating the second FSM with the second data object.

~~31~~14. The data processing system of claim ~~23-11, 12 or 13 or any other preceding claim~~, wherein the first data object comprises a second attribute, wherein the method further comprises:

generating a second FSM for managing a second workflow for changing a value of the second attribute of the first data object; and

concurrently with using the first FSM to manage a first workflow for the first data object, using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the second attribute of the first data object.

~~32. — The data processing system of claim 23 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first workflow for the first data object is a workflow for managing changes to the first data object.~~

~~33~~15. The data processing system of ~~claim 23 or any other preceding one of claims 11 to 14~~, wherein the method further comprises:

when the first FSM indicates that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,

receiving input from each of multiple actors, including the first actor,  
input indicating whether or not the first workflow task is to be performed; and  
performing the first workflow task for the first data object only when a majority of the multiple actors provides input indicating that the first workflow task is to be performed.

~~34. — A system for managing a workflow for a first data object in a plurality of data objects using a first finite state machine (FSM), the first FSM having a first set of workflow states including first and second workflow states, and a first set of transitions among the first set of workflow states, the first set of transitions representing tasks in the first workflow and including a first transition between the first and second states representing a first workflow task in the first workflow, the system comprising:~~

~~at least one computer hardware processor; and~~

~~at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing processor-executable instructions that, when executed by the at least one computer hardware processor, cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~identifying, from among a plurality of actors and using at least one value of at least one attribute of the first data object, a first actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for the first data object; and~~

~~when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,~~

~~receiving, from the first actor, input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;~~

~~performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and~~

~~updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow is the second workflow state.~~

35. — The system of claim 34, wherein the at least one attribute indicates at least one classification for the first data object and the identifying is performed using at least one value for the at least one classification.

36. — The system of claim 35 or any other preceding claim, wherein the at least one classification is selected from the group consisting of a governance group classification, a sensitivity classification, and a personally identifiable information classification.

37. — The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein objects in the plurality of data objects are organized into one or more hierarchies, and wherein the at least one attribute indicates at least one hierarchy, of the one or more hierarchies, to which the first data object belongs.

38. — The system of claim 37 or any other preceding claim, wherein identifying the first actor comprises:

—— identifying the first actor using information specified for at least one other data object, in the at least one hierarchy, related to the first data object.

39. — The system of claim 37 or any other preceding claim, wherein identifying the first actor comprises:

—— identifying the first actor as an actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for at least one other data object, in the at least one hierarchy, related to the first data object.

40. — The system of claim 39 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has an ancestor data object in the at least one hierarchy, and wherein identifying the first actor comprises:

identifying the first actor as an actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for the ancestor data object.

41. — The system of claim 40 or any other preceding claim, wherein the ancestor data object is a parent of the first data object in the at least one hierarchy.

42. — The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

—— accessing a first specification for a finite state machine for managing the first workflow, the first specification indicating the first set of workflow states and the first set of transitions among states in the first set of workflow states; and

—— generating the first FSM for managing the first workflow for the first data object using the first specification.

43. — The system of claim 42 or any other preceding claim, wherein the plurality of data objects includes a second data object different from the first data object, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

generating, using the first specification, a second FSM for managing the first workflow for the second data object, wherein the first FSM is different from the second FSM.

44. — The system of claim 43 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

identifying, from among the plurality of actors and using at least one value of at least one attribute of second data object, a second actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for the second data object, wherein the second actor is different from the first actor.

45. — The system of claim 44 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object is in a first hierarchy of objects, and the second data object is in a second hierarchy of objects different from the first hierarchy of objects, and wherein identifying the second actor includes identifying the second actor from among the actors associated with one or more data objects in the second hierarchy.

46. — The system of claim 44 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

- when the second FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the second data object is the first workflow state,
- receiving, from the second actor, input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;
- performing the first workflow task for the second data object; and
- updating the second FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the second data object is the second workflow state.

47. — The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

- generating a graphical user interface (GUI) through which the first actor can provide the input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed.

48. — The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has a first attribute, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

- generating a second FSM for managing a second workflow for the first attribute of the first data object; and
- concurrently with using the first FSM to manage a first workflow for the first data object, using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the first attribute of the first data object.

49. — The system of claim 48 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has a second attribute, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

- generating a third FSM for managing a third workflow for the second attribute of the first data object; and
- concurrently with using the first FSM to manage the first workflow for the first data object and using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the first

~~attribute of the first data object, using the third FSM to manage the third workflow for the second attribute of the first data object.~~

50. — ~~The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has a first attribute, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a second FSM for managing a second workflow for changing a value of the first attribute of the first data object; and~~

~~concurrently with using the first FSM to manage a first workflow for the first data object, using the second FSM to manage the workflow for changing the value of the first attribute of the first data object.~~

51. — ~~The system of claim 50 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~—generating a graphical user interface indicating the current state of the first FSM for the first data object and a current state of the second FSM for managing the workflow for changing the value of the first attribute of the first data object.~~

52. — ~~The system of claim 47 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object represents a business term, and wherein the first attribute is selected from the group consisting of: a hierarchy for the business term, a classification for the business term, a value of the business term, an indication of valid values for the business term, and an actor associated with the business term.~~

53. — ~~The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first workflow for the first data object is a workflow for managing changes to the first data object.~~

54. — ~~The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow~~

for the first data object is the first workflow state,

- receiving input from each of multiple actors, including the first actor, the
- input indicating whether or not the first workflow task is to be performed; and
- performing the first workflow task for the first data object only when a majority of the multiple actors provides an input indicating that the first workflow task is to be performed.

55. — The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

- when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,
- receiving input from each of multiple actors, including the first actor, the
- input indicating whether or not the first workflow task is to be performed; and
- performing the first workflow task for the first data object only when each of the multiple actors provides an input indicating that the first workflow task is to be performed.

56. — The system of claim 34 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

- when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state and prior to receiving the input from the first actor,
- receiving input from multiple actors, not including the first actor, the
- input indicating whether or not the first workflow task is to be performed; and
- providing the input received from the multiple actors to the first actor via a graphical user interface.

57. — A method for managing a workflow for a first data object in a plurality of data objects using a first finite state machine (FSM), the first FSM having a first set of workflow states including first and second workflow states, and a first set of transitions

among the first set of workflow states, the first set of transitions representing tasks in the first workflow and including a first transition between the first and second states representing a first workflow task in the first workflow, the method comprising:

using at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

identifying, from among a plurality of actors and using at least one value of at least one attribute of the first data object, a first actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for the first data object; and

when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,

receiving, from the first actor, input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;

performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and  
updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the second workflow state.

58. — At least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing processor-executable instructions that, when executed by at least one computer hardware processor, cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform a method for managing a workflow for a first data object in a plurality of data objects using a first finite state machine (FSM), the first FSM having a first set of workflow states including first and second workflow states, and a first set of transitions among the first set of workflow states, the first set of transitions representing tasks in the first workflow and including a first transition between the first and second states representing a first workflow task in the first workflow, the method comprising:

identifying, from among a plurality of actors and using at least one value of at least one attribute of the first data object, a first actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for the first data object; and

when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,

receiving, from the first actor, input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;

performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and

~~updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the second workflow state.~~

59. — A method for managing workflows for a plurality of data objects including a first data object, the method comprising:

~~using at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating, using a first specification for a first finite state machine (FSM), a first FSM for managing a first workflow for a first set of data objects, the first specification indicating:~~

~~a first set of workflow states including first and second workflow states; and~~

~~a first set of transitions among the first set of workflow states, the first set of transitions representing tasks in the first workflow and including a first transition between the first and second states representing a first task in the first workflow; and~~

~~when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first set of data objects is the first workflow state,~~

~~receiving, from a first actor authorized to perform the first workflow task corresponding to the first transition between the first and second workflow states, input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;~~

~~performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and~~

~~updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first set of first data objects is the second workflow state.~~

60. — At least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing processor-executable instructions that, when executed by the at least one computer hardware processor, cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

~~generating a first finite state machine (FSM) for a first workflow for a first data object of a plurality of data objects;~~

~~identifying, using at least one value of at least one attribute of the first data~~

object, a first actor authorized to perform a first workflow task associated with a first transition out of the first workflow state to a second workflow state;

when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow is a first workflow state,

generating a graphical user interface (GUI) through which the first actor can provide the input that the first workflow task is to be performed, and presenting the GUI to the first actor.

61. — The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 60, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

receiving input provided by the first actor through the generated GUI, the specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;

performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and

updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of first workflow for the first data object is the second workflow state.

62. — The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 61 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

— in response to updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first data object is the second workflow state,

identifying a second actor authorized to perform a second workflow task associated with a second transition out of the second workflow state to a third workflow state; and

notifying the second actor and/or a third actor that there is a workflow task for the second actor to perform.

63. — The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 62 or any other preceding claim, wherein notifying the second actor comprises sending the actor an e-mail notification and/or providing the actor a visual notification through a graphical user interface.

64. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 or any other preceding claim, wherein the at least one attribute indicates at least one classification for the first data object and the identifying is performed using at least one value for the at least one classification.~~

65. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 64 or any other preceding claim, wherein the at least one classification is selected from the group consisting of a governance-group classification, a sensitivity classification, and a personally identifiable information classification.~~

66. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 60, wherein objects in the plurality of data objects are organized into one or more hierarchies, and wherein the at least one attribute indicates at least one hierarchy, of the one or more hierarchies, to which the first data object belongs.~~

67. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 66 or any other preceding claim, wherein identifying the first actor comprises:~~  
~~— identifying the first actor as an actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for at least one other data object in the at least one hierarchy.~~

68. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 67 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has a parent data object in the at least one hierarchy, and wherein identifying the first actor comprises:~~  
~~identifying the first actor as an actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for the parent data object.~~

69. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~—— accessing a first specification for a finite state machine for managing the first workflow, the specification indicating a set of workflow states and a set of transitions among states in the set of workflow states; and~~  
~~—— generating the first FSM for managing the first workflow for the first data object using the accessed first specification.~~

70. ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has a first attribute, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a second FSM for managing a second workflow for the first attribute of the first data object; and~~  
~~—— concurrently with using the first FSM to manage a first workflow for the first data object, using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the first attribute of the first data object.~~

71. ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 70 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has a second attribute, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a third FSM for managing a third workflow for the second attribute of the first data object; and~~  
~~—— concurrently with using the first FSM to manage the first workflow for the first data object and using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the first attribute of the first data object, using the third FSM to manage the third workflow for the second attribute of the first data object.~~

72. ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 71 or any other preceding claim, wherein generating the GUI comprises:~~

~~—— generating a graphical user interface indicating the current state of the first FSM for the first data object and a current state of the second FSM for managing the workflow for changing the value of the first attribute of the first data object.~~

~~73. — The at least one non transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 60 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object represents a business term, and wherein the first attribute is selected from the group consisting of: a hierarchy for the business term, a classification for the business term, a value of the business term, an indication of valid values for the business term, and an actor associated with the business term.~~

~~74. — A method, comprising:~~

~~using at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a first finite state machine (FSM) for a first workflow for a first data object of a plurality of data objects;~~

~~identifying, using at least one value of at least one attribute of the first data object, a first actor authorized to perform a first workflow task associated with a first transition out of the first workflow state to a second workflow state;~~

~~when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow is a first workflow state,~~

~~generating a graphical user interface (GUI) through which the first actor can provide the input that the first workflow task is to be performed, and~~

~~presenting the GUI to the first actor.~~

~~75. — A system, comprising:~~

~~— at least one computer hardware processor; and~~

~~— at least one non transitory computer readable storage medium storing processor executable instructions that, when executed by the at least one computer hardware processor, cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a first finite state machine (FSM) for a first workflow for a first data object of a plurality of data objects;~~

~~identifying, using at least one value of at least one attribute of the first data object, a first actor authorized to perform a first workflow task associated with a first transition out of the first workflow state to a second workflow state;~~

~~when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow is a first workflow state,~~

~~generating a graphical user interface (GUI) through which the first actor can provide the input that the first workflow task is to be performed, and~~

~~presenting the GUI to the first actor.~~

76. — ~~At least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing processor-executable instructions that, when executed by at least one computer hardware processor, cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a first FSM for managing the first workflow for changing a value of an attribute of a first data object of a plurality of data objects, the generating performed using a specification indicating a first set of workflow states including first and second workflow states and a first set of transitions among the first set of workflow states, the first set of transitions representing tasks in the first workflow and including a first transition between the first and second states representing a first task in the first workflow; and~~

~~when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,~~

~~receiving, from a first actor authorized to perform the first workflow task corresponding to the first transition between the first and second workflow states, the input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;~~

~~performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and~~

~~updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the second workflow state.~~

77. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 76, wherein the plurality of data objects includes a second data object different from the first data object, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating, using the specification, a second FSM for managing the first workflow for the second data object, wherein the first FSM is different from the second FSM.~~

78. — ~~The at least one non transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 77 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~when the second FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the second data object is the first workflow state,~~  
~~receiving, from a second actor authorized to perform the first workflow task corresponding to the first transition between the first and second workflow states, input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;~~  
~~performing the first workflow task for the second data object; and~~  
~~updating the second FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the second data object is the second workflow state.~~

79. — ~~The at least one non transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 76 or any other preceding claim, wherein the plurality of data objects includes a second data object different from the first data object, and wherein the processor executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating, using a second specification, a second FSM for managing the second workflow for the second data object, the second specification indicating a second set of workflow states, and a second set of transitions among the second set of workflow states representing tasks in the second workflow.~~

80. — ~~The at least one non transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 76 or any other preceding claim,~~

~~wherein the second plurality of workflow states includes third and fourth workflow states,~~  
~~wherein the second plurality of transitions includes a second transition between the third and fourth workflow states that corresponds to a second workflow task, and~~  
~~wherein, when the second FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the second workflow for the second data object is the third workflow state,~~  
~~receiving, from a second actor authorized to perform the second workflow task, input specifying that the second workflow task is to be performed;~~  
~~performing the second workflow task for the second data object; and~~

~~updating the second FSM to indicate that the current workflow state second workflow for the second first data object is the fourth workflow state.~~

81. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 76 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating multiple FSMs for managing multiple respective workflows for multiple respective data objects in the plurality of data objects.~~

82. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 81 or any other preceding claim, wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~when the first FSM indicates that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,~~

~~identifying, using at least one value of at least attribute of the first data object, the first actor from a plurality of actors as an actor authorized to perform the first workflow task for the first data object,~~

~~generating a graphical user interface (GUI) through which the first actor can provide the input that the first workflow is to be performed, and~~

~~receiving the input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed through the generated GUI.~~

83. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 76 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has a first attribute, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a second FSM for managing a second workflow for the first attribute of the first data object; and~~

~~— concurrently with using the first FSM to manage a first workflow for the first data object, using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the first attribute of the first data object.~~

84. — ~~The at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 83 or any other preceding claim, wherein the first data object has a second attribute, and wherein the processor-executable instructions further cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a third FSM for managing a third workflow for the second attribute of the first data object; and~~

~~—— concurrently with using the first FSM to manage the first workflow for the first data object and using the second FSM to manage the second workflow for the first attribute of the first data object, using the third FSM to manage the third workflow for the second attribute of the first data object.~~

85. — A system, comprising:

~~at least one computer hardware processor; and~~

~~at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing processor-executable instructions that, when executed by the at least one computer hardware processor, cause the at least one computer hardware processor to perform:~~

~~generating a first FSM for managing the first workflow for changing a value of an attribute of a first data object of a plurality of data objects, the generating performed using a specification indicating a first set of workflow states including first and second workflow states and a first set of transitions among the first set of workflow states, the first set of transitions representing tasks in the first workflow and including a first transition between the first and second states representing a first task in the first workflow; and when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,~~

~~receiving, from a first actor authorized to perform the first workflow task corresponding to the first transition between the first and second workflow states, the input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;~~

~~performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and~~

~~updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the second workflow state.~~

86. — A method, comprising:

using at least one computer hardware processor to perform:

generating a first FSM for managing the first workflow for changing a value of an attribute of a first data object of a plurality of data objects, the generating performed using a specification indicating a first set of workflow states including first and second workflow states and a first set of transitions among the first set of workflow states, the first set of transitions representing tasks in the first workflow and including a first transition between the first and second states representing a first task in the first workflow; and

when the first FSM indicates that a current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the first workflow state,

receiving, from a first actor authorized to perform the first workflow task corresponding to the first transition between the first and second workflow states, the input specifying that the first workflow task is to be performed;

performing the first workflow task for the first data object; and

updating the first FSM to indicate that the current workflow state of the first workflow for the first data object is the second workflow state.