



What's New in ActiveVOS 9.1

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Overview

Helping Business Analysts and Development Teams Work Together Better

The primary focus of the ActiveVOS 9.1 release was to address the underserved needs of business analysts who are undeniably key business process stakeholders. We set out to improve how developers work with analysts, and how they in turn can more effectively contribute and use their knowledge towards the goal of implementing and maintaining executable business processes.

We're introducing **ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts** a new purpose-built designer that provides business analysts with the means to use pre-integrated services and patterns to build and deploy executable processes without requiring a deep understanding of the underlying technical details of a process's building blocks - services.

The ability to **import Visio XML drawings** now provides the means to transform and augment with implementation details non-executable Visio drawings into executable processes.

And, to facilitate team review, we've improved the ability to visualize the entirety or portions of a process by providing the means to **export the process's layout as a single image**.

New ActiveVOS Screenflow Innovation and Capabilities – we've made big improvements in how data is handled making it much easier to interact with services and how screen steps capture and present data. Customers will appreciate the many usability improvements made.

ActiveVOS Task Management Improvements – we've made improvements on how and who carries out tasks by introducing a vacation delegation capability and making it easier to reassign work.

ActiveVOS Server Improvements – we've made many improvements to the runtime by providing capabilities to troubleshoot problems with the logging of inbound and outbound message payloads; the ability to control process persistence and logging from the console to override deployment settings; and providing better control of when and if process instances of a node in a cluster that is temporarily unavailable should be failed over or not.

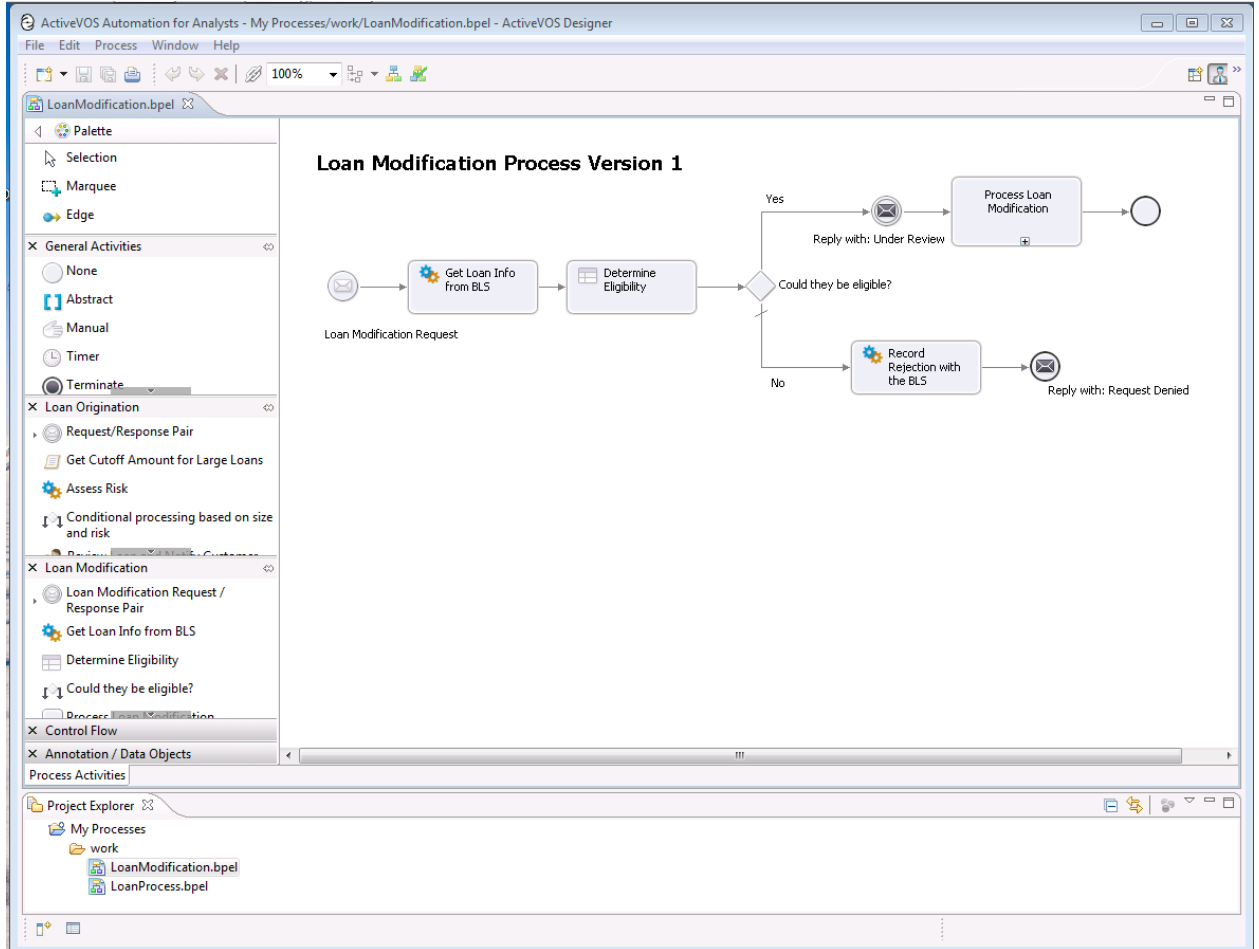
Developers that need to integrate with REST services that leverage OAuth, will be pleased to learn that ActiveVOS now embeds an OAuth system service.

The rest of this document provides details.

ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts

ActiveVOS 9.1 introduces a new purpose-built designer: **ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts**. It is intended for business analysts and others who are experts in the organization's business processes, but don't specialize in creating the services and building blocks required to automate and make processes executable. ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts allows development teams to create a highly customized design environment for their analysts, allowing them to accomplish more than just creating process models and documentation. Analysts are now able to create, update and deploy process models themselves, giving them more control within limits set by developers.

Business analyst use ActiveVOS Automation for Analyst to implement and update processes using BPMN notation to define the control flow and the custom palette entries provided by developers. Custom palette entries (depicted below in the Loan Origination and Loan Modification drawers) define services and patterns that have been preconfigured and tested by a development team for use by business analysts to implement the process's control flow. A business analyst can then publish with a single-click a completed process to ActiveVOS where it will execute.



ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts presents users with a simple menu and button bar, a constrained set of palette entries, and simple navigation to process documents in the “My Processes” folder. Analysts need not be concerned about or have to WSDL, Schema or Participant definitions.

ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts complements **ActiveVOS Designer** – Active Endpoint’s Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for developers. Together these allow development and analyst teams to collaborate because users work on the same process definition. What differs is the information and the level of detail that it presented to each user in the form of menus, project artifacts and the like.

What a Developer Does

Customizes the Automation for Analysts perspective for use by

What an Analyst Does

Uses the Automation for Analysts perspective to create and deploy

analysts	executable processes
Creates all associated resources for the processes, such as request form, task form, sample data, and runtime parameters	Nothing – the analyst benefits from the fact these are available to use
Creates and preconfigures services and patterns which he/she adds to the palette as custom palette entries	Uses custom palette entries a developer creates, and implements the process’ control flow
Creates a deployment descriptor template that allows analysts to perform one-click publish of new and updated processes	Uses the deployment template created for them behind the scenes allowing a one-click publish experience to deploy new or updated processes
Updates palette entries, requiring an updated workspace	Maintains personal copy of work project to import into updated workspace when new services are made available

You can view a demonstration of **ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts** at <http://www.activevos.com/cp/824/an-overview-of-activevos-automation-for-analysts>.

To request an evaluation of ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts, please visit the [ActiveVOS web site](http://www.activevos.com) and select “Request Trial” or go to this link <http://www.activevos.com/trial/request> directly to register. The package you download contains instructions and a sample to help you through your evaluation.

ActiveVOS Designer Improvements

Export Process Layout as a Single JPG

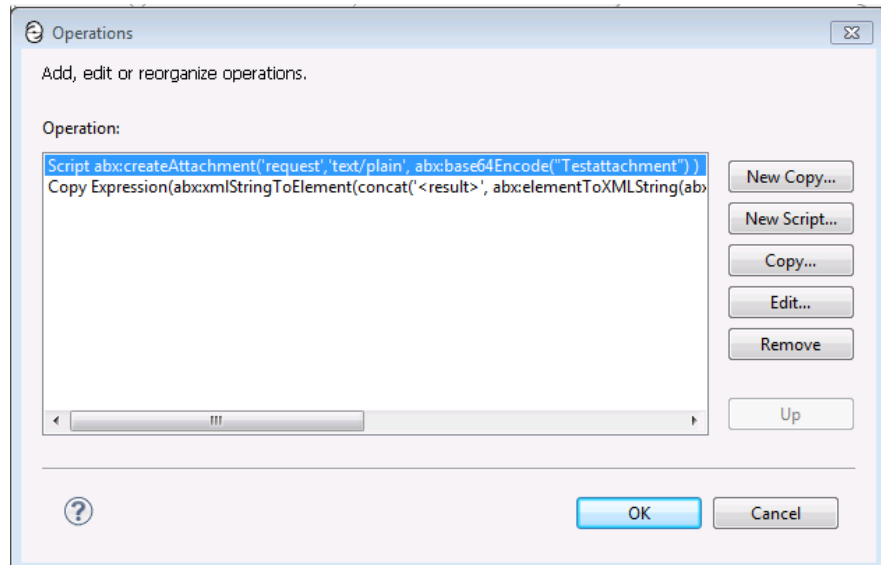
ActiveVOS Designer and ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts now provide the means by which to generate a single JPG image of the process in focus on the canvas using the Generate Process Image menu item.

Import Visio XML Drawings

ActiveVOS Designer and ActiveVOS Automation for Analysts make it possible to import a Visio XML drawing from Visio 2010 Premium (or later) that is created with the BPMN template.

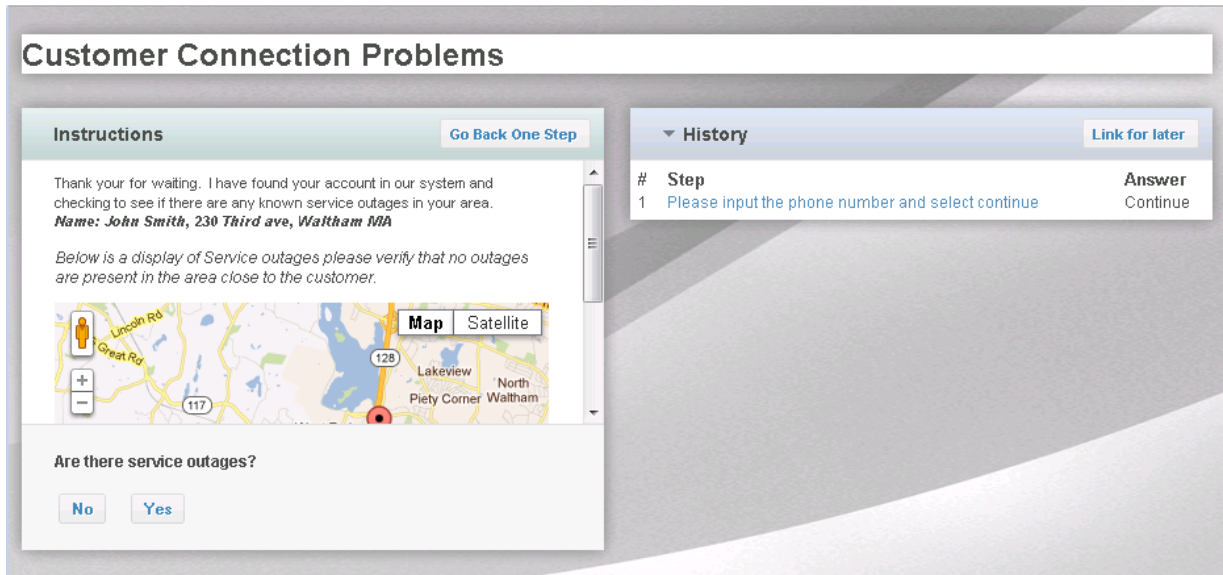
New Script Operation For the Script (aka assign) Activity

The Script operation is an expression written in XPath, XQuery or JavaScript that performs some logic (e.g. creating an attachment depicted below) without the need to define a from/to specification that a copy operation uses.

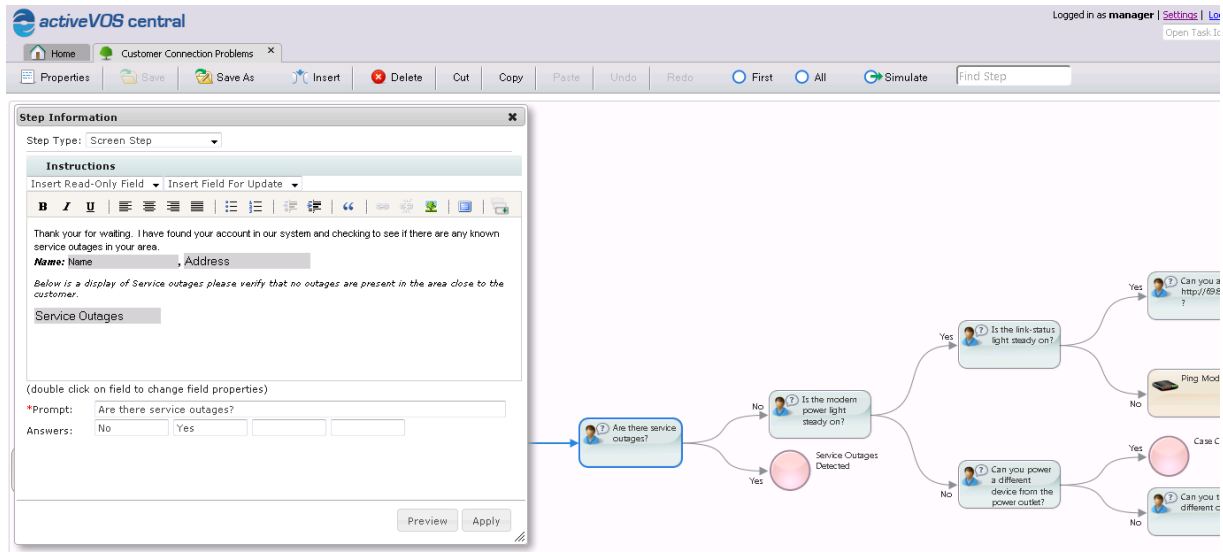


ActiveVOS Screenflow

Formally known as ActiveVOS Socrates, ActiveVOS Screenflow – an optional component of ActiveVOS - is a web-based designer and runtime for building and running powerful screenflow-based applications that guide users through a series of screens and automated steps to complete a process. One example is a screenflow that call center agent use to resolve customer issues. Other examples include hardware diagnosis, or walking sales personnel through an upsell promotion.



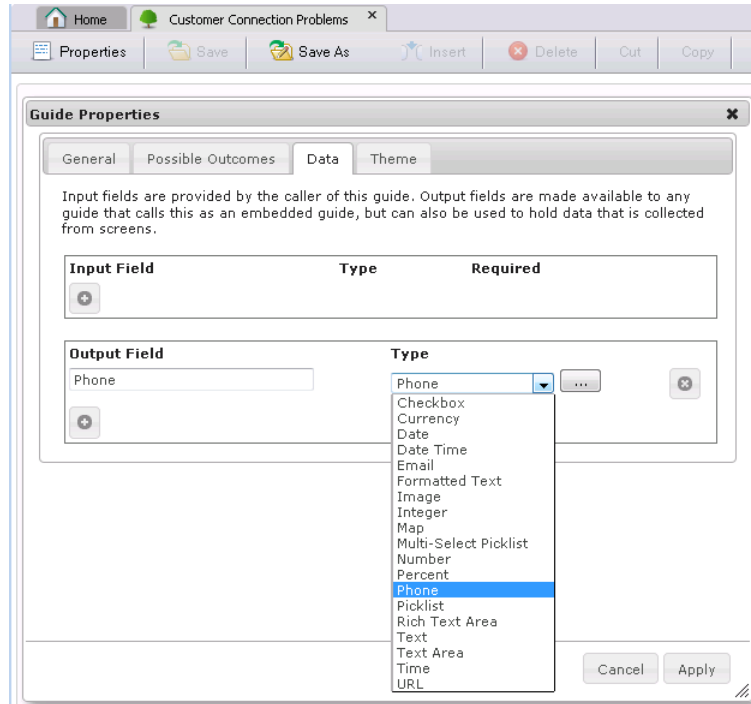
ActiveVOS Screenflow’s web-based designer makes it easy to capture domain expertise and publish the result as a web application in just a few minutes. You don’t need to be a programmer or web developer to use it. Just open a browser and begin.



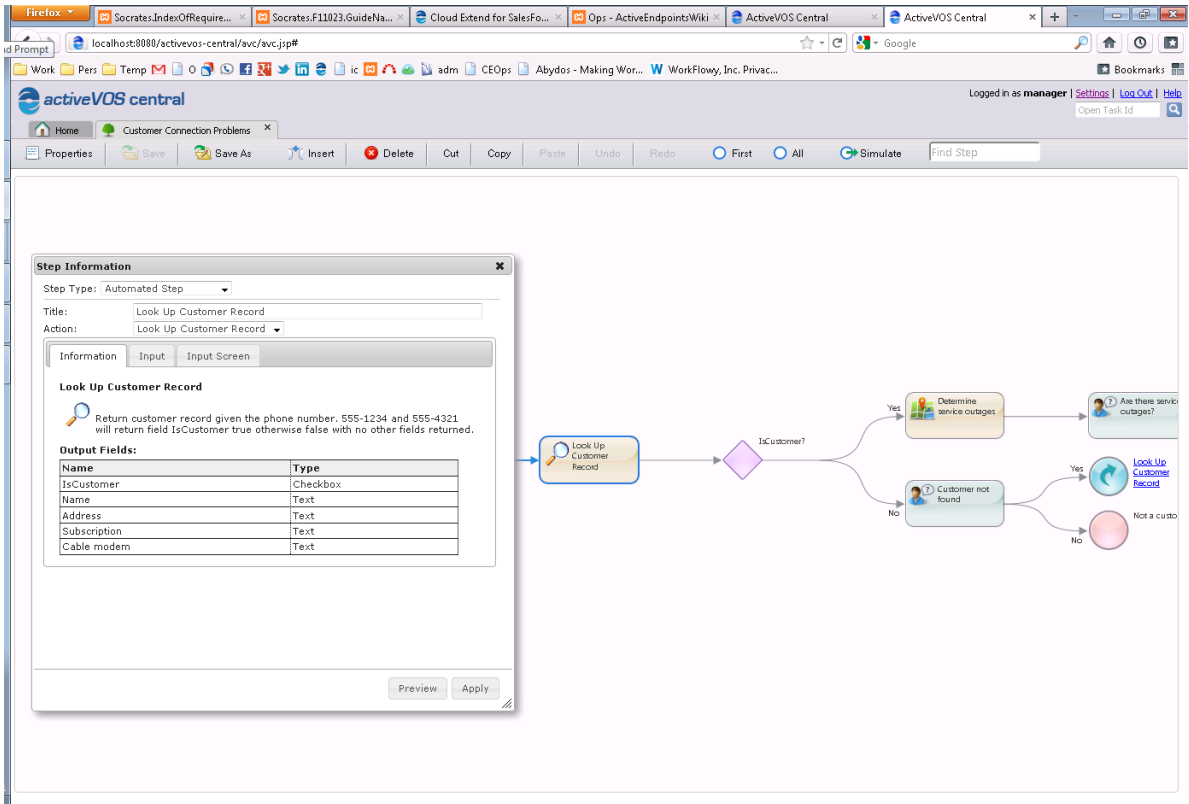
There are many new capabilities and features now available with ActiveVOS Screenflow 9.1.

Handling of data has been revamped to simplify the user’s experience. Guide-specific inputs and outputs used to pass data to the guide and

hold data collected from screens and returned by the guide are now specified within the guide.



Input and output fields from a screen step or an automated step (such as shown on the *Look Up Customer Record* below) can now be used by any child steps of the screenflow.

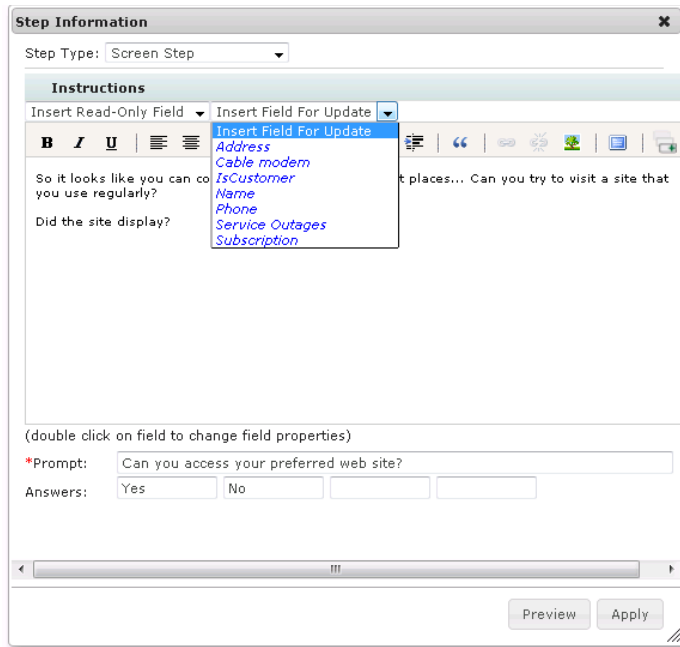


The screenshot shows the ActiveVOS Central web interface. A workflow diagram is visible, starting with a 'Look Up Customer Record' step, followed by a decision diamond labeled 'IsCustomer?'. The 'Yes' path leads to 'Determine service outages', which then leads to 'Are there service outages?'. The 'No' path leads to 'Customer not found', which then branches into 'Look Up Customer Record' (Yes) and 'Not a customer' (No).

The 'Step Information' dialog box is open, showing details for the 'Look Up Customer Record' step. It includes a title, action, and a table of output fields.

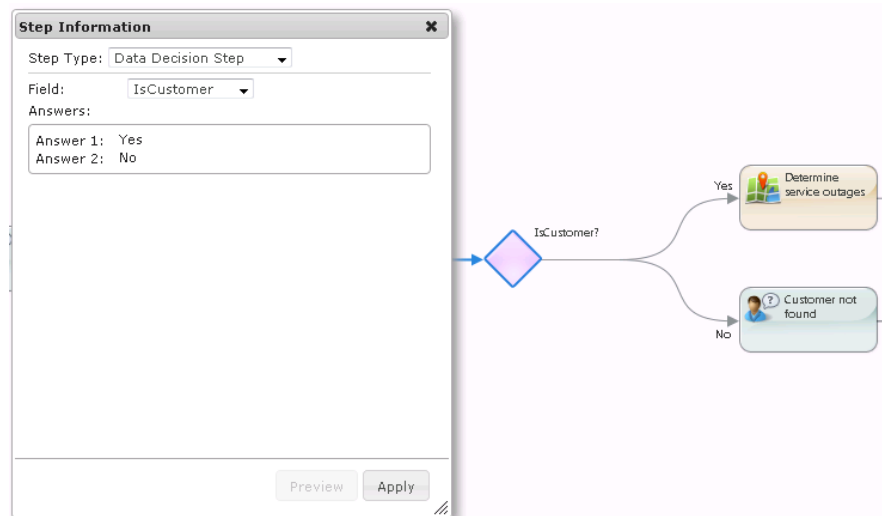
Name	Type
IsCustomer	Checkbox
Name	Text
Address	Text
Subscription	Text
Cable modem	Text

Screen steps fields can now be conveniently inserted on the page as read-only or for updates using drop down menus. Many other screen step editor improvements have been made making it easy for example to insert images and format text.



Passing data to the guide can now be submitted as query parameters that start with 'input-' and use the qualified field names expected by the screenflow. For example, the additional URL parameter **&input-stringInput=hello** sets the guide's input parameter stringInput to 'hello'. This makes it easy to create URLs to running guides each seeded with different input parameters.

A new Data Decision Step allows branching based on the value of a data field.



It is now possible to Unpublish any guide that has been previously published.

You now have the ability to terminate all running instances of a guide, and make a guide restartable (from the beginning) by adding a Done button to the guide's end steps.

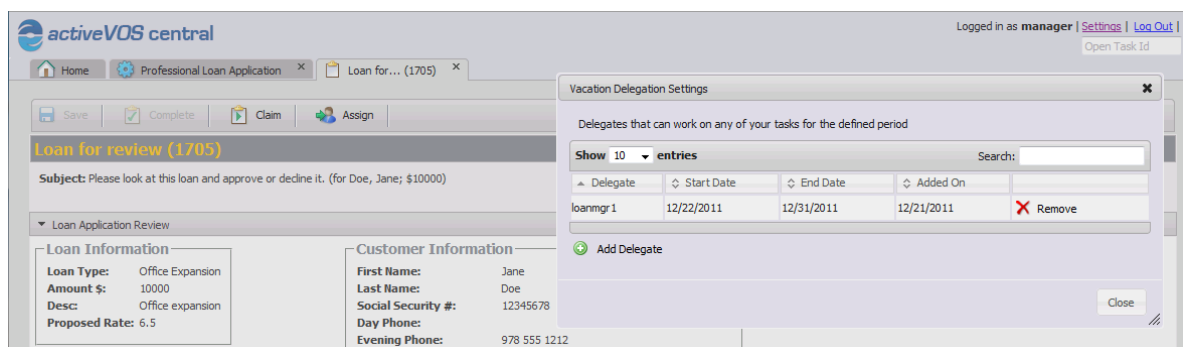
Among other improvements a **Show All** button has been added which displays the entire guidance tree making it easy to view it as a whole. Simulation and preview window have also been improved by anchoring them out of the way in the bottom left of the screen.

To request an evaluation of ActiveVOS Screenflow, please visit the [ActiveVOS web site](http://www.activevos.com) and select "Request Trial" or go to this link <http://www.activevos.com/trial/request> directly to register. The package you download contains instructions and a sample to help you through your evaluation.

ActiveVOS Task Management Improvements

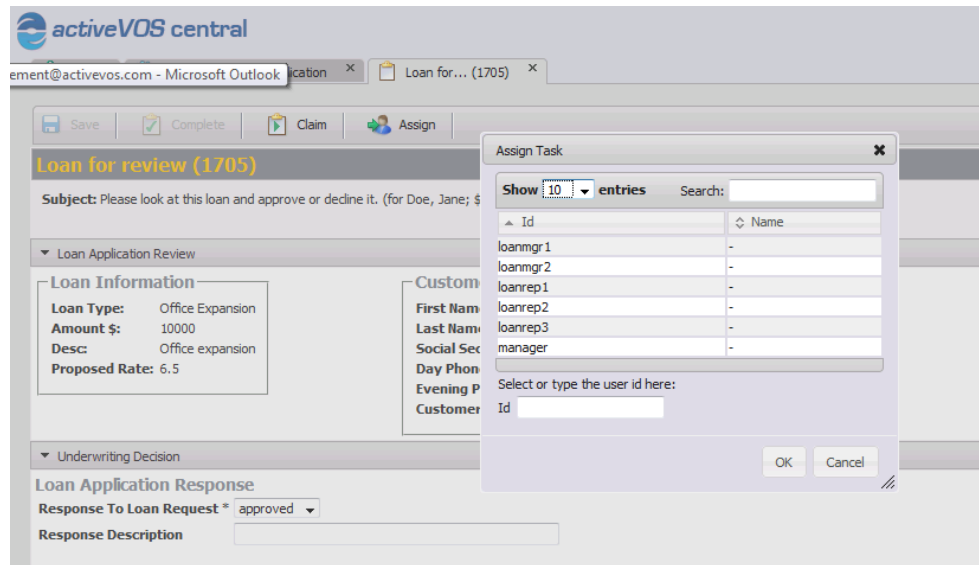
Vacation Delegation

A new **Vacation Delegation** feature allows a user to delegate tasks to other users while away from the office for a specified duration. Unlike task reassignment, the user maintains ownership of tasks that can be worked on by a delegatee.



Task Reassignment User Selection Dialog

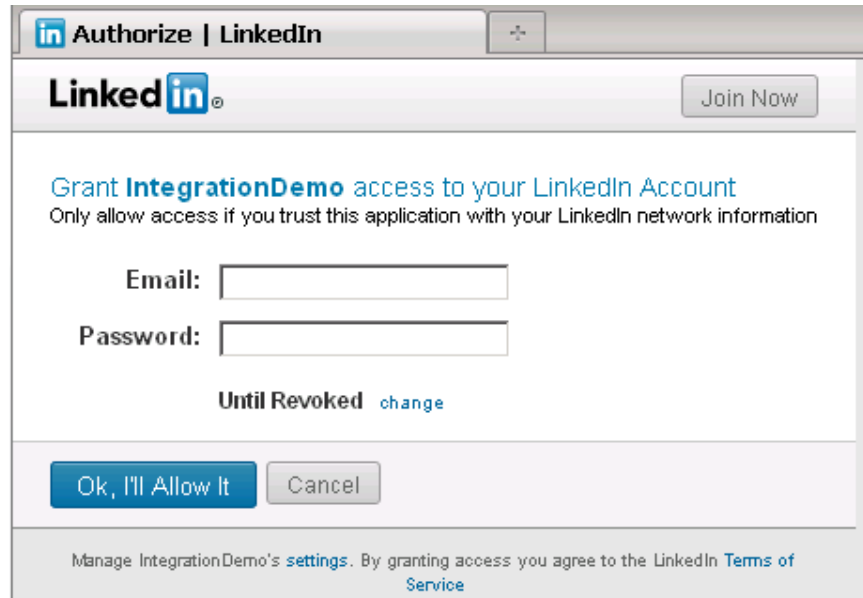
A Task Reassignment User Selection Dialog has been added that makes it easy to select a user to reassign a task to.



ActiveVOS Server Improvements

New OAuth System Service

Process developers who wish to integrate REST services secured by OAuth can now use the "OAuthRestService" system-service to allow delegated access to OAuth secured resources. Visit the <http://www.activevos.com/developers/howto#Security> page for a sample using LinkedIn. Eighteen different OAuth providers are provided out of the box.



New Cluster Failover Delay

A new cluster **Failover Delay** configuration setting has been added to control the amount of time ActiveVOS will delay triggering a failover after a node leaves the cluster. After the timeout, ActiveVOS will confirm that the node has not rejoined the cluster and still needs failover. Additionally, ActiveVOS will issue a warning regarding a likely glitch in cluster communications if a node leaves and rejoins the cluster but the engine itself remained running the whole time.

On the admin console, the failover delay can be set on the Admin>Cluster>Cluster Properties page. A server restart is not required for changes to take effect if you use the console to perform the update. The default delay is 30 seconds. Customers should set this value to be sufficiently long to allow a server to be restarted and rejoin the cluster without incurring a failover. If this delay is too short, an undesirable failover may occur increasing otherwise unnecessarily load on this system.

This is complimented by the **Cleanup Delay** setting introduced in a prior ActiveVOS version. This delay is the amount of time a node waits on startup before attempting to recover work from another engine. The default is 300 seconds. You can increase this value if you notice that the startup of a cluster node is particularly slow. The slowness may be due to

contention between nodes for recovering work. A larger value gives a node a chance to startup before another node contends for its recovery work.

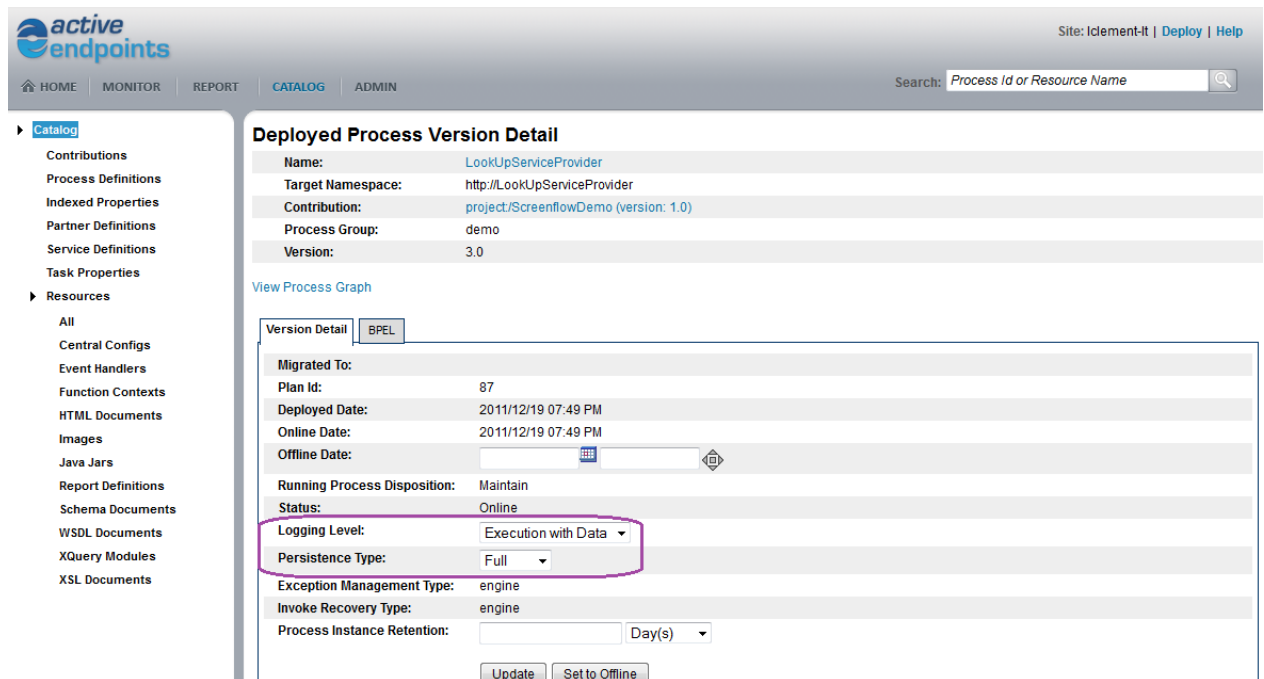
Logging of Inbound and Outbound messages

Several customers had reported the difficulty to visualize messages coming in and out ActiveVOS, and be able to access to the underline raw data for runtime debugging.

A new **Log all messages** server setting has been added for this purpose. If enabled, this causes logging of data of each web service message going to/from the ActiveVOS Server, including SOAP envelope, headers and body. All HTTP messages are logged to the file system at a configurable location.

Console-based Process Persistence and Logging Setting

The ability to override process persistence and logging settings defined at deployment time allows the ability to increase levels as required to investigate issues without incurring on a continuous basis the overhead associated with high levels of logging and persistence.



The screenshot shows the Active Endpoints web interface. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'MONITOR', 'REPORT', 'CATALOG', and 'ADMIN'. A search bar is present with the text 'Process Id or Resource Name'. The left sidebar shows a 'Catalog' menu with various categories like 'Contributions', 'Process Definitions', 'Indexed Properties', etc. The main content area is titled 'Deployed Process Version Detail' and shows details for a BPEL process named 'LookUpServiceProvider'. The 'Logging Level' is set to 'Execution with Data' and 'Persistence Type' is set to 'Full', both highlighted with a red box. Other settings include 'Migrated To', 'Plan Id', 'Deployed Date', 'Online Date', 'Offline Date', 'Running Process Disposition', 'Status', 'Exception Management Type', 'Invoke Recovery Type', and 'Process Instance Retention'.

Deployed Process Version Detail	
Name:	LookUpServiceProvider
Target Namespace:	http://LookUpServiceProvider
Contribution:	project/ScreenflowDemo (version: 1.0)
Process Group:	demo
Version:	3.0

View Process Graph

Version Detail	
Migrated To:	
Plan Id:	87
Deployed Date:	2011/12/19 07:49 PM
Online Date:	2011/12/19 07:49 PM
Offline Date:	<input type="text"/>
Running Process Disposition:	Maintain
Status:	Online
Logging Level:	Execution with Data
Persistence Type:	Full
Exception Management Type:	engine
Invoke Recovery Type:	engine
Process Instance Retention:	<input type="text"/> Day(s)

Update Set to Offline

About Active Endpoints

Active Endpoints, Inc. delivers a unique suite of process automation products and related services to develop, integrate and deploy custom applications quickly and easily.

The company has hundreds of customers worldwide from large enterprises to SMBs, spanning multiple industries such as telecommunications, government, financial services, and media and entertainment.

Active Endpoints is headquartered in Waltham, MA with development facilities in Shelton, CT.

To find out how Active Endpoints can help your business, visit <http://www.activevos.com>, call +1 781 547 2900 and press 1 for Sales, or email us at info@activevos.com.