

# Process Management Goes Cloud: **Workflow Server** Use Case by **LKS Next**

**LKS**  
Next



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# Process Management Goes Cloud: WFS Use Case by LKS Next

## About the company

[LKS Next](https://www.lksnext.com) is a consulting company based in Bilbao, Spain. They offer technological, legal, corporate and management consulting. Also, they provide a wide variety of services, including software development, infrastructure management, consulting, and IT support. It's an upper-medium scale corporation with more than 580 employees doing specific tasks for customers in Europe and around the world.

The company has gained success in Industry 4.0, cybersecurity, Society 5.0, legal solutions to permanent change, and building strategies for countries and regions with human development as the focus.

Visit their website at <https://www.lksnext.com>



## Management issues

The company needed to create a system for managing tasks and processes for their clients. The clients' processes may vary a lot, and one of their clients is a car manufacturer. They have lots and lots of steps to document, certify, and test every detail of every part of the car they're developing at the current moment.

Various specialists need to submit all drawings, designs, schematics, calculations, and hundreds of more steps to produce a single model of vehicle.

Their offices might be territorially and geographically spread (Like LKS Next's offices across Spain, France, Mexico, and China), which requires a web-based system to manage all tasks and workflows.

## Looking for a solution

David Sanchez Herrero (head of the IT dept. at LKS) and the IT team have chosen WFS (Workflow Engine Server) because of its simplicity and time to implement into the customer's ecosystem. Another major factor was its cloud architecture. This allowed them to fulfill all the requirements for a car manufacturer to handle processes on their assembly line and with technicians and engineers.

The workflow links all teams and departments, including several hundred employees, and it handles all the processes within a single system. The processes may also vary from very specific and complex technological document workflows to HR tasks such as signing a sick leave form for employees.

When LKS Next offers a service to any customer, they create a turnkey solution with Workflow Engine Server at the heart of their operations.

This allows end users to create custom process pipelines where every step is passed through various team members with different roles. Some people start, some confirm, and some

process the workflow to standardize the interaction with workflow participants to avoid possible issues and delays.

Despite the fact that the workflows they have to manage may be very different, their basic nature remains the same, and the code modifications and source code access offered along with purchasing the Workflow Engine Server solution makes it easy to customize the pipeline to literally any feasible process.

## Implementation

The LKS Next team didn't test any competing tools, because they knew exactly what they needed and the price point was suitable as well. They tested Workflow Engine Server by OptimaJet and without further ado, they purchased it and implemented it into their workflow. It saved them weeks of trial and error.

The implementation didn't take much time, because they did very basic system optimization, and the system customization capabilities assured them that whatever new configuration came up, they'd be able to implement it effortlessly.

## Other options

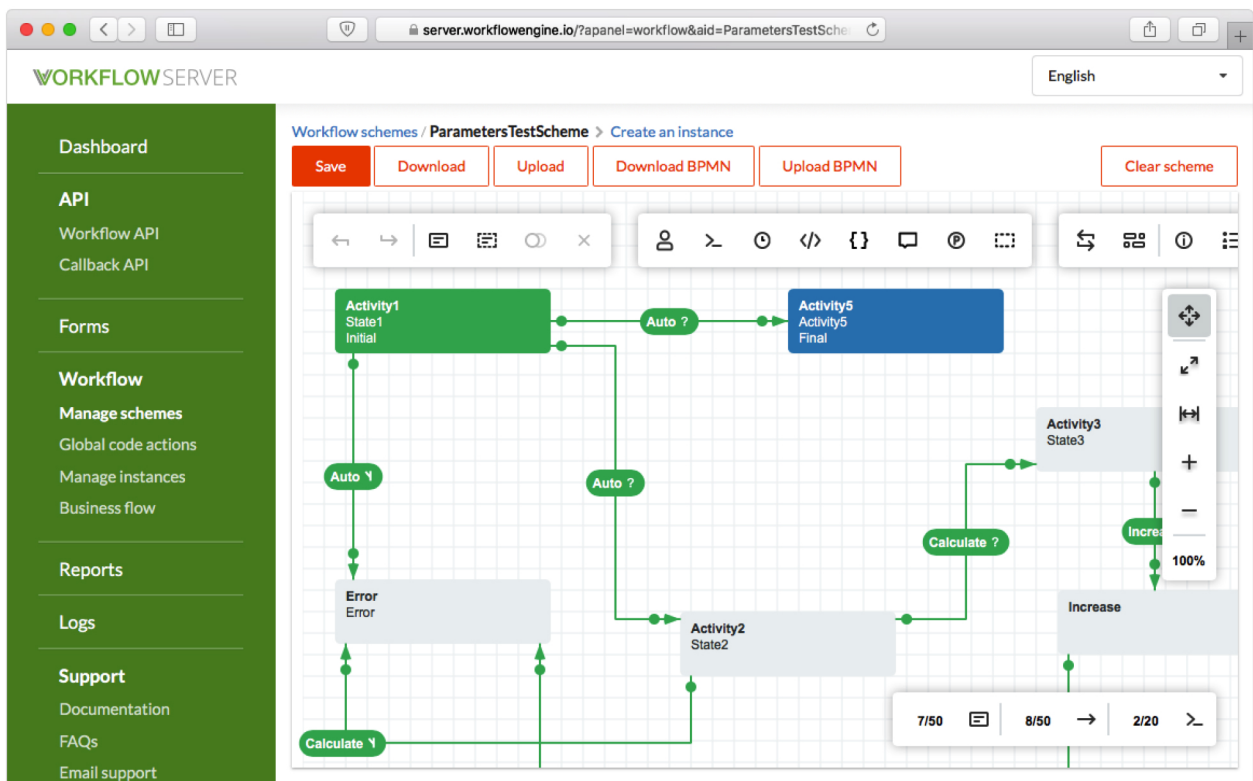
Despite the fact that they didn't test out other solutions, there is always an option to develop the system on your own (with your own development capacities or internal human resources).

A developer's salary in Spain is roughly ~25,000 EUR a year (excluding taxes), but it also depends on the city and the qualifications of the employee. The initial estimate was to hire four .NET core developers to develop a process management system and spend about 100,000 EUR in one year of development. The system would've been basic and far from perfect, and it would've required the constant attention of no fewer than two developers after one year of development and the first version release.

# System usage

The system works for them perfectly so far. The expected number of possible workflows is 50,000 and the Workflow Engine Server tests prove it to be feasible. However, at the moment, they have a few hundred processes running at the same time, But it already improves internal interactions a lot.

In December 2020, they're planning to add more licenses to expand the Workflow Engine Server to other projects.



See this demo system at <https://server.workflowengine.io>

## Issues and quick resolutions

One of the important qualities of the system is its support and fixability (in other words, how soon issues that affect the business are resolved).

Not a single software solution is bug free. Stability is the key, but it's an ephemeral property. What matters more is how soon an issue is resolved after you report it.

Large companies have more bureaucracy and larger scale products that are harder to maintain and keep agile. On the other hand, OptimaJet, the developer of WFS, is less inert, and can fix issues on the fly.

The Workflow Engine Server is optionally supplied as a source Visual Studio solution at Github.

While using the system, David experienced a few issues with creating forks on GitHub, and the head of development at OptimaJet, Dmitry Melnikov, took care of the issues for LKS Next. In the matter of a couple of weeks, all the issues were resolved.

Documentation is a great added value of a sophisticated IT product for business use like Workflow Engine Server. David mentions that the documentation answered most of their "how to" questions, and they barely needed to chat with the tech support people at OptimaJet.

During tests and real system use, there were no problems whatsoever communicating with our server via API.

## About OptimaJet

A developer company that specializes in process organization system development. Workflow Engine Server, their latest product, includes all their business knowledge acquired over years, and allows companies to manage processes of any complexity internally or embed the solution as an OEM component into their own product.