



From Legacy Job Scheduling to Modern IT Automation

Discovering the Leading Advantages of a Modern IT Automation Solution



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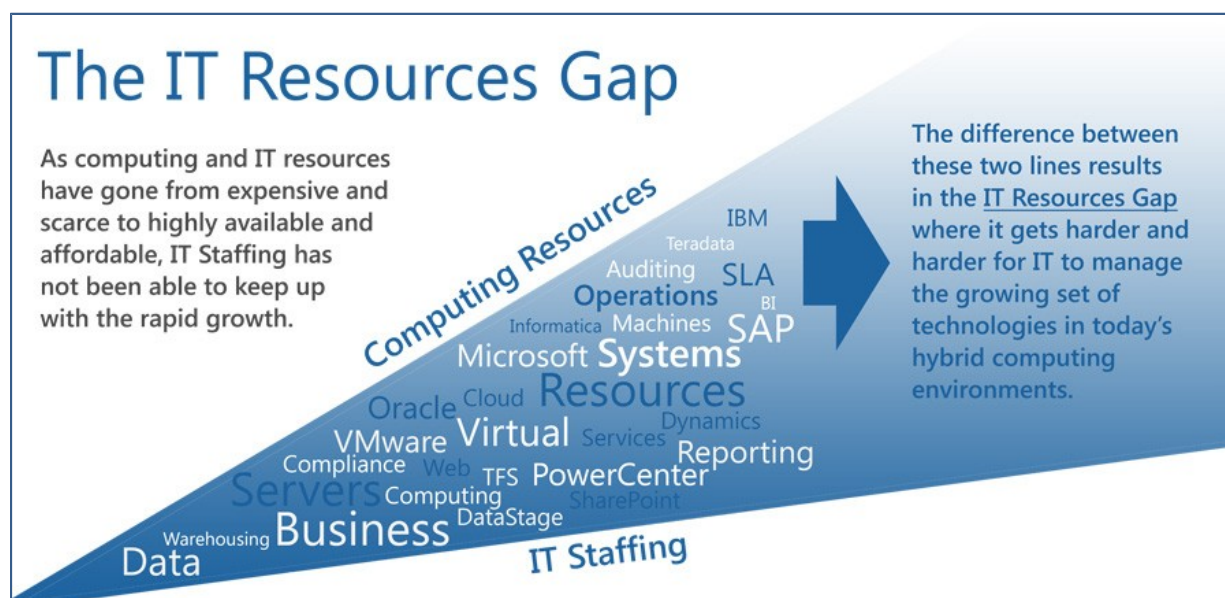
The Challenge:

Legacy Schedulers Are Not Designed For Change

In a very short amount of time, computing resources have gone from very expensive and scarce to highly available and affordable. But despite this exponential growth in computing resources, IT staffing has not kept pace. The need for IT people continues to grow and finding experienced IT people with the right skill set is harder than ever. The difference between the number of computing resources and IT staffing has resulted in an **IT Resources Gap**.

As a result, now more than ever, IT organizations are looking to simplify their environments and consolidate the number of technologies they have to manage with Job Scheduling and IT Automation software.

While modern workload automation solutions are stepping up to the challenge, most organizations still employ legacy schedulers for their automation needs. Legacy schedulers were designed to use spare computing resources to execute batches and rely heavily on custom scripting with limited date and time scheduling. Most of today's legacy schedulers require common IT and business workflows to be hard-coded by senior-level developers, who are already a scarce resource within the IT organization. Legacy schedulers erect barriers to the modification of existing IT operational and business processes, thereby increasing operational costs and lowering IT service levels to the business. Additionally, they lack the necessary integrations, cross-platform functionality, and end-to-end workflow creation that IT organizations need to quickly build and automate complex workflows in today's dynamic business environments.





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So what happens is that instead of gaining more control and simplifying their IT environment, legacy scheduling solutions are adding more complexity. As business requirements continue to change rapidly, new technologies and applications are introduced, and processes need to be updated - legacy schedulers are not designed to easily accommodate these changes.

Consequently, organizations end up spending increasing amounts of time and money creating workarounds to fix problems that keep happening over and over again.

Common Issues with Legacy Job Schedulers

- Exponential growth in licensing and support costs
- Lack of pre-built integrations and pre-tested logic
- Lack of triggers
- Difficult to use
- Slow user interface
- Problematic and time-consuming upgrades
- No event automation
- No Change Management System

The Solution:

Modern IT Automation

The answer to the limitations of legacy job schedulers is modern IT Automation. The challenge, however, is how to make the move from a legacy scheduler to a modern IT Automation solution.

Most organizations with legacy schedulers experience problems for years, but are wary of the risk, costs, and time commitment the migration to a new IT Automation solution would require.

But what most organizations don't realize is that modern IT Automation solutions offer several ways for organizations to minimize the risk associated with migrating from one software to another.

In addition to this, migrating to a new IT Automation solution can have a big impact on the bottom line as organizations will save significantly on maintenance costs as well as gain more functionality, resulting in a more efficient use of IT people resources as senior developers are free to tackle bigger projects and initiatives.



Agility, Risk, Costs:

Deciding Factors for Leaving Your Legacy Scheduler

In today's digitalized business environments where technology is driving the pace of business, organizations can't afford to be held back by legacy schedulers. In our experience, organizations have migrated from their legacy schedulers and homegrown solutions, for a number of reasons, but in the end it comes down to three key factors:

Increase Agility



Users of legacy scheduling solutions spend hours writing custom scripts and creating manual workarounds to processes that could otherwise be completely automated. Script creators tend to be senior-level individuals who are pressed for time and faced with an ever-increasing workload. In addition to this challenge, when individuals leave an organization, the first-hand knowledge that went into developing that script is gone, making it more difficult and time-consuming for other developers to pick up where the last individual left off.

Migrating to a modern automation solution with pre-built integrations and proven logic increases IT agility because developers no longer have to spend time researching, designing, and coding the logic or trying to understand the logic that went into another user's scripts. A modern automation solution reduces the dependence on scripting, providing users with a painter's palette and canvas that makes workflow creation and maintenance simpler, faster, and more reliable. Additionally, with modern automation solutions like ActiveBatch, organizations can benefit from robust automation capabilities like SLA monitoring, Audits, Resource Provisioning, Alerting, and more that a script-based approach doesn't offer.





Mitigate Risk



As business requirements change and government regulations arise, organizations with legacy schedulers expose themselves to more risk with scripts that become brittle over time, resulting in broken workflows and processes. Oftentimes, people think migrating to a new IT Automation solution creates more risk for the organization as functioning workflows and scripts may need to be completely re-written in order to work in the new environment. As a result, organizations often stay with their legacy scheduling solution for years, incurring significantly higher operational costs despite encountering more problems and resistance to change.

To overcome the initial risk of migration, most modern automation solutions provide migration tools and professional services that allow organizations to migrate quickly and pain-free with little risk to existing workflow logic or operational performance. Using migration tools and services, organizations can reduce the time to ROI and ensure a secure, reliable transition from their legacy scheduler to their new automation solution.

Reduce the Total Cost of Ownership



Expanding your legacy scheduler's ability to adjust to changing business needs and IT requirements is difficult, and even if it is possible, it is usually prohibitively expensive. Licensing and support costs for legacy schedulers are extremely high, rising into the six figures year after year.

While there is always some initial cost associated with a change, migrating from a legacy scheduler to a modern automation solution significantly reduces licensing, maintenance, support costs, and overall IT expenses, with organizations cutting expenses by more than 45% on average.

When these factors are considered, it's clear that migrating to a modern IT Automation solution offers a scalable investment that is designed to meet changing business and IT needs.



3 Strategies for a Successful Migration

Once the decision is made to move forward with a migration, there are multiple methods of successfully migrating to a modern IT Automation solution like ActiveBatch. **Each one is attractive for different reasons, but ultimately, you have to choose what will work best for the specific needs of your organization.**

1

Automated Migration

One approach to migration is to use the new solution's automated migration tool. Depending on the legacy scheduler you have in place, the migration process may vary slightly. Typically however, the migration of the legacy scheduler's applications to the new solution will be carried out via a command-line program. This will output an .xml file that will then be imported into the new automation solution.

For organizations who want to minimize the risk of losing critical workflows/processes and the risk of manual errors, an automated migration provides a secure, proven method of moving from your old scheduler to your new automation software while keeping your existing data in-tact.

An automated migration also provides an extra layer of security as organizations benefit from the in-house technical expertise provided by the solution provider during the migration process. In-house technical expertise can cover a range of services such as reviewing existing jobs and preparing for implementation, building new workflows according to Best Practices, testing newly created Objects, and providing final review and documentation. As a result, an automated migration with technical services removes the time and expense of having to build a migration strategy or program in-house, allowing organizations to speed up the time to deployment and realize the ROI on their new automation solution faster.

Key Benefits of Automated Migrations

- Mitigate the risk of losing critical data and workflow knowledge
- Faster time to deployment
- Reduce costs of building an in-house migration tool
- Faster time to ROI



2

Build a New Automation Strategy

On the other hand, if an organization is looking to completely reinvent its automation strategy, the organization might want to start from scratch and not bring in any existing data or workflows. At Advanced Systems Concepts, we've had several customers take this approach after initially deciding on an automated migration. The customers started using ActiveBatch and realized that instead of bringing over all of the old problematic and cumbersome workflows and processes they had built, they could build a better, more elegant automation strategy from the ground up; one that would make it easier to accommodate changing business and technology requirements.

This start from scratch approach often works best for smaller IT organizations who do not have as many existing workflows and processes, as well as for organizations who have the time and people resources to commit to building out a new, holistic automation strategy.

Oftentimes, we've seen customers are reluctant to take this approach because of the increased risk, but are very happy when they do so because they get the benefit of a clean slate- building simple, powerful workflows and building extensive in-house knowledge from the beginning. But this approach does have its drawbacks. Starting from scratch requires a lot of time and people resources and given the nature of building everything new, it takes a long time to roll out, thereby increasing the time to production.

3

Hybrid Approach

Finally, organizations who want to mitigate the risk of carrying objects over from their existing scheduler but also want the flexibility to build a new automation strategy should consider a hybrid approach. In this approach, an organization will first migrate their existing processes over to the new solution using an automated migration tool. Once the automated migration is complete, the organization will reconstruct other processes on a forward-basis and rebuild existing processes or leverage the new solution provider's Professional Services to facilitate these efforts.



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Insights from Automated Migration

One anonymous customer, an IT Director at a global financial services company based in the United States, shared their organization's migration experience with us:

"We had thousands of scheduled tasks in our Development, Production, and Test environments. We wanted to take as much as we could from our existing scheduling solution, but at the same time our goal was to improve on these existing processes and build out a new strategy that took full advantage of the new capabilities we had to work with. The automated migration was fantastic and got us up and running within just a few months. The knowledge-transfer was seamless and having an ActiveBatch consultant on hand was extremely helpful. Once we got into production, we were able to really start the second phase of the migration and build out new workflows, replace existing ones, and explore the new power and agility we had with scheduling. About six months in, we could already see the amount of time we were saving in automating processes that used to require manual workarounds."

Conclusion

As IT environments keep growing in complexity, organizations need modern IT Automation software that can accommodate dynamically changing business and IT needs. Migrating to a new automation solution is a daunting challenge for any organization. However, with the right migration strategy, organizations can overcome the migration hurdle and ensure a low-risk move to their new solution.

Get Your Legacy Scheduler Migration Planning Kit

A step-by-step guide with everything you need to plan your migration from a Legacy Scheduler to a modern IT Automation solution.



Get the Kit! ▶

Ready to Learn About Your Migration Options?

Trusted & Proven Migration Method

Migration Services for:

- CA AutoSys
- Cisco Tidal
- IBM Tivoli

Migration Tools for:

- Cron
- Task Scheduler
- SQL Server Agent

... and others!

Let's Talk! ▶



Why Automation?

According to research by Gartner¹, most large organizations have more than three IT Automation tools implemented in their environment. With the ever-expanding array of software and technologies most businesses use today, managing these different automation tools just adds to the complexity. Instead of moving forward faster with new and innovative technologies, IT is held back by a disjointed automation framework that is brittle and unyielding to change. What is needed is an automation solution that can provide a single point of control for managing these disparate technologies and bridging the gaps between them.

ActiveBatch® IT Automation

An Architectural Approach to Automation

Relying on scripting or platform-specific scheduling systems builds a fragmented elemental approach that lacks governance and is neither scalable nor designed to accommodate change. In order to remain competitive and manage multiple systems and technologies, a modern architectural strategy is needed. ActiveBatch provides organizations with an architectural approach to IT Automation that consolidates silos of automation within a single framework, giving businesses the IT agility they need in today's technology-driven world.

ActiveBatch is redefining IT Automation with its innovative Integrated Jobs Library, which provides hundreds of templated Job Steps for key technologies and applications like SAP, Informatica, Microsoft System Center Suite, and more. The templated, drag-and-drop Job Steps can be assembled into powerful workflows, including workflow logic, which shorten implementation time and reduce the risk of scripting errors.

Modern automation solutions like ActiveBatch recognize most organizations have used legacy schedulers in the past, which heavily rely on a script-based approach. ActiveBatch protects your script investment with a script vault or content library that gives users one central location for storing all existing and future scripts. Additionally, capabilities like lifecycle management and revision history give users greater control and visibility by showing them who last edited the script and when, while also providing an option to restore to previous versions.

¹ Gartner, Market Guide for Workload Automation, Milind Govekar, Yurika Nagashima, 25 September 2014

ActiveBatch® is Redefining IT Automation

Take Your Organization . . .



From an Elemental Approach



To an Architectural Approach



From Multiple Scheduling Tools



To a Single Automation Solution



From Custom Scripting



To Production-Ready Job Steps



From a Legacy Job Scheduler



To a Solution Designed for Change

Find Out How Organizations Are
Redefining Their IT Automation

