ActiveBatch®

Automate and Integrate Dynamics AX Processes for Improved Business Process Automation with ActiveBatch®

Benefits

- **Incorporate** Microsoft Dynamics AX within the context of a centralized cross-platform and cross-application enterprise scheduling system to automate all of your Business and IT Operational Processes.

- **Reduce Errors and Minimize Delays** by automating manual tasks.

- **Leverage** ActiveBatch's event automation architecture, compliance, auditing capabilities and alert mechanisms to more effectively schedule, automate and monitor Dynamics AX processes.

ActiveBatch: Version 9 SP1 and above

Microsoft Dynamics AX: IT Boundaries Identified

As business processes grow increasingly dependent on the processing of ERP data, the ability to automate and manage Dynamics AX processes in real-time is becoming increasingly important. Compounding this automation problem is the need to integrate Dynamics AX within distributed environments that contain an array of application, data sources and heterogeneous process types. The result is the need to pass data and manage dependencies between Dynamics AX and other applications and data sources.

Extend Dynamics AX Scheduling Beyond Date/Time and Custom Scripting

Traditionally, developers rely either on Dynamics AX's native batch processing capabilities or schedule the execution of Dynamic AX processes via command line utilities and scripts. The automation offered within Dynamics AX is limited to date/time scheduling, only supports Dynamics AX processes and offers no ability to dynamically trigger Dynamics AX workflows based on complex IT events, such as the arrival of an email, web services, a SecureFTP and more. Scheduling via command line utilities and scripts is time consuming and complex and offers no central point of control for scheduling and executing these tasks, monitoring job status and viewing return values and log files.

Dynamics AX users require an easier approach to automating Dynamics processes and need a robust automation architecture that supports the integration of Dynamics AX with other key applications, data sources and platforms. To accomplish this, organizations are turning to ActiveBatch® Workload Automation and Enterprise Job Scheduling.

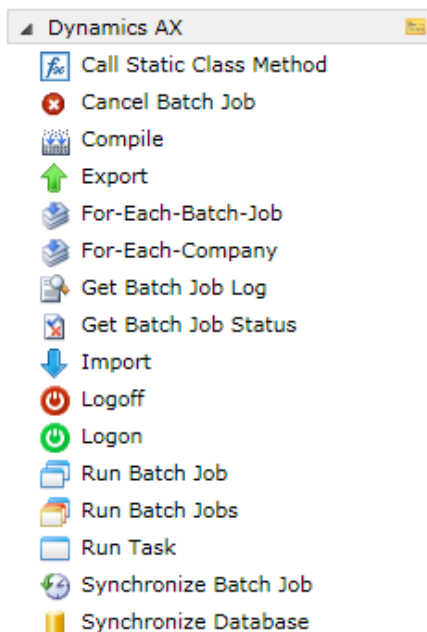## Easily Build, Automate and Manage Dynamics AX Workflows and Processes

The ActiveBatch® Extension for Microsoft Dynamics AX offers industry leading scheduling and automation capabilities that simplify the building and automation of AX processes across IT environments. By using ActiveBatch to automate and manage Dynamics AX processes rather than command line utilities or scripts, developers benefit by consolidating complex, multi-step scripts into single, production-ready Job Steps that can be added to workflows in a drag-and-drop format.

Rather than being forced to hard code Dynamics AX parameters and variables into scripts, ActiveBatch's production-ready Job Steps provide drop-down menus to designate different variables, parameters or core Dynamics AX components, such as File Path, Server, Database, Values, Fields, Models and more. These drop-down menus auto-populate based on user responsibilities or technical specifications and ActiveBatch automatically passes variables downstream between Job Steps. For example, users can designate Dynamics AX Model types or specify a connection to a specific AOS in Job Steps such as Synchronize Database, Import, Export and Compile.

Leverage Event Automation Architecture

Dynamics AX developers can also go beyond AX's limited job scheduling capabilities by leveraging ActiveBatch's event automation architecture to trigger these steps, including a range of events that are supported across platforms and application types, including Email, File events, Web Services, Microsoft Message Queue and more. These capabilities allow Dynamics AX processes to be triggered and managed in real-time based on specific business or IT events.

ActiveBatch® Extension for Microsoft Dynamics AX Workflow
As displayed in the ActiveBatch Integrated Jobs Library

Centralized Monitoring For All Dynamics AX Jobs

ActiveBatch centralizes the monitoring and alert functions of all Dynamics AX jobs to serve as a central point of monitoring for all Dynamics AX jobs, including the ability to retrieve job status and view return values and log files from a central location. ActiveBatch makes it possible to monitor individual job status and output, providing alerts for specific steps so failures or other issues can be quickly identified and operations notified via email, text message, SNMP and more. Workflow failures can be automatically entered into Help Desk systems, such as Microsoft System Center's Service Manager, to ensure an improved time to resolution, and start, restart or cancel Dynamics AX jobs without jeopardizing the completion of the overall workflow.

Incorporate Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

When using ActiveBatch, Service Level Agreements can be incorporated into Dynamics AX workflows to communicate statuses and allow ActiveBatch to "take action" in managing job execution priorities. By doing this, computing resources can be managed by ActiveBatch to meet the expectations agreed upon by the organization and their IT counterparts.

Integrate With Other Applications/Data Sources

Integrate Dynamics AX process types with other applications and data sources is made easier by the Integrated Jobs Library, which provides over 130 templated Job Steps that include a wide variety of tasks that would normally require a custom script (e.g. SFTP, Flow Control, database jobs, Java and more). These production-ready Job Steps allow users to easily build workflows in a drag-and-drop interface eliminating manual errors and delays in processing otherwise experienced due to custom scripting.

Use Case

Developers and business architects can use ActiveBatch's Job Steps to automate and audit Dynamics AX processes more dynamically than ever before. Users can build a workflow to automate a Dynamics AX batch job, output the job log, start another process, and/or log off the system - all via the simple drag-and-drop interface found in the Integrated Jobs Library. The same workflow can then be triggered based on file arrival via SFTP, an email arrival or other IT events.

Alternatively, users can build compound workflows that integrate Dynamics AX with other applications or databases. As the screenshot demonstrates, users can utilize the "Run Batch Job" Job Step to schedule a Dynamics AX report, and based upon its successful completion, create a new List Item within SharePoint, another ActiveBatch Extension, and post that report for other users within the organization to view.