Transform Your PowerCenter Automation
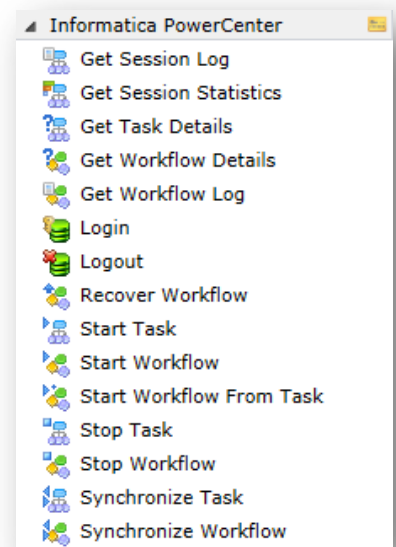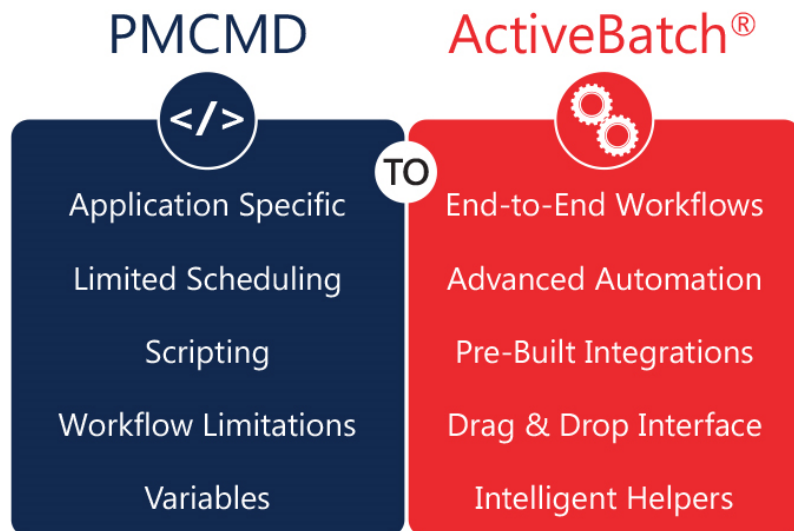
Informatica PowerCenter:
IT Automation Boundaries Identified

The disparity of analytic, reporting, and BI solutions, combined with the growing complexity and volume of data, is leading to increasingly complex ETL and data warehousing processes. Accessing and integrating large volumes of data and managing the heterogeneous collection of data sources, applications, ETL and BI/reporting solutions that comprise these processes need a simpler approach.

Automating these complex data pathways and managing the dependencies between systems is typically accomplished via a collection of scripting and platform-specific scheduling tools. Informatica PowerCenter's native scheduler is a platform-specific tool intended for scheduling PowerCenter only, forcing IT organizations to rely on senior-level PowerCenter administrators and ETL architects to leverage the PMCMD command-line interface and scripting to integrate PowerCenter ETL processes with dependent process types and hardcode complex workflow triggers and logic.

PowerCenter users require an Enterprise Automation solution that reduces an IT organization's reliance on scripting to integrate PowerCenter with dependent systems, in addition to providing more advanced scheduling and workflow management capabilities to eliminate manual intervention and ensure data quality. Without an Enterprise IT Automation and Job Scheduling solution, data quality suffers and dependent BI processes can be delayed, thereby impacting SLAs and time to insight.

- Simplify PMCMD Scheduling
- Trigger Workflows Based on Events
- Trigger Workflows Across Folders
- Dynamically Set Runtime Parameters
- Ensure Dependencies Are Met (like having exclusive access to a file) Prior to Downstream Processing

Informatica PowerCenter
- Get Session Log
- Get Session Statistics
- Get Task Details
- Get Workflow Details
- Get Workflow Log
- Login
- Logout
- Recover Workflow
- Start Task
- Start Workflow
- Start Workflow From Task
- Stop Task
- Stop Workflow
- Synchronize Task
- Synchronize Workflow

PMCMD TO **ActiveBatch®**

PMCMD	ActiveBatch®
Application Specific	End-to-End Workflows
Limited Scheduling	Advanced Automation
Scripting	Pre-Built Integrations
Workflow Limitations	Drag & Drop Interface
Variables	Intelligent Helpers

Efficiently Automate and Integrate Workflows Across Data Warehousing Environment

ActiveBatch, by Advanced Systems Concepts, is an IT Automation solution that consolidates platform-specific schedulers, scripts and process types within a single point of control. The ActiveBatch Extension for Informatica PowerCenter provides a series of production-ready Job Steps for common PowerCenter functions through the ActiveBatch Integrated Jobs Library. Within these Job Steps, users can designate PowerCenter job criteria such as Folder and Workflow Name from auto-populating drop-down menus, drag-and-drop these steps into end-to-end workflows using the Jobs Library's workflow designer, and establish dependencies and constraints. These PowerCenter Job Steps, combined with over 150 other templated Job Steps for common IT tasks/functions, applications, databases and computing platforms, allows users to integrate PowerCenter processes with dependent process types without the need to rely on scripting. This includes production-ready Job Steps for a broad range of systems that commonly comprise end-to-end processes, including database types, other data warehousing appliances and applications, and BI/reporting solutions.

Advanced Date/Time Scheduling and Event Automation

ActiveBatch's advanced date/time scheduling and event automation framework allows for PowerCenter ETL workflows to be triggered dynamically based on granular calendaring, IT and business events, and job dependencies to eliminate manual intervention and ensure data quality. For example, rather than relying on scripting run dates within a PowerCenter Task to execute a Workflow on certain dates, users can leverage ActiveBatch's advanced date/time scheduling, including support of Fiscal, Business and Gregorian calendars, to schedule PowerCenter workloads tied to business processing requirements. Moreover, ActiveBatch allows a calendar or schedule to be associated with multiple Workflows, thereby saving the user the time of hard coding run dates across individual PowerCenter workflows.

Alternatively, ActiveBatch's event automation framework supports both Job triggers and constraints, allowing workloads to be executed based on IT and/or business events. ActiveBatch supports a wide array of triggers, including Email, File, JMS/JMX, Web Service, WMI, database triggers and more. For example, PowerCenter architects can trigger ETL workloads using file triggers/constraints or based on a SQL Server query or Oracle database trigger to ensure downstream data quality.

"Build It Once, Use It Multiple Times" - The Power of Reusability

ActiveBatch is an object-based architecture that leverages reusability to allow workflow developers to "build it once, use it multiple times." ActiveBatch Reference Jobs allows for the building of a single Job or Plan as a template to be referenced multiple times. A change at the reference level automatically passes those changes to other reference Jobs making it easy to manage and automate multiple workflows using a common base. These capabilities are extended to date/time schedules, Calendars, User Accounts, Execution Queues, Alerts and Resources, which can all be associated with multiple Jobs, thereby allowing ETL architects more easily manage and update multiple ETL workloads that share common Job Steps. ActiveBatch Job Variables extend these capabilities further by allowing users to simplify the repetitive and time consuming nature of developing and maintaining individual Jobs by designating Job properties, such as a file name, as a variable and sharing that variable across different Jobs. For example, users can easily set PowerCenter parameter files dynamically at runtime using ActiveBatch Job Variables to ensure accurate workload execution and to ensure data quality.

Faster Time to Insight
Powerful automation of workflows, tasks, and processes from beginning to end.

Integrated Jobs Library
Hundreds of prebuilt, production ready integrations so you don't have to write a single line of code.

Complex Scheduling
Advanced date/time and event-driven scheduling capabilities.

Conditional Logic
Incorporate conditional logic/flow control like if/then/else statements without custom scripting.

Built-in Monitoring and SLAs
Monitor and alert users on the progress of jobs with SLAs.

Automate PowerCenter Processes with Advanced Capabilities

To manage inter-job dependencies and conditions within multi-step workflows that span heterogeneous applications and systems, ActiveBatch provides more advanced capabilities than PowerCenter's native scheduler. Using the PowerCenter Job Steps within the Integrated Jobs Library allows users to execute different PowerCenter Workflows stored across PowerCenter folders, thereby allowing cross-workflow triggering within a single ActiveBatch Job. Moreover, the Integrated Jobs Library's Flow Control Job Steps allow workflow developers to easily embed complex workflow logic and procedures into ETL processes without having to hardcode it, such as the *If-Branch* Job Step to manage the execution of downstream jobs based on the successful completion of a preceding PowerCenter workflow.

Monitoring PowerCenter Processes

Users can leverage ActiveBatch's built-in runtime monitoring to proactively monitor a Job's progress and send an alert if the Job is running longer than expected or looks like it may run longer, based on historical average runtimes for that job. Alternately, a user can assign an SLA to a Job and allow ActiveBatch to proactively take action (increase Queue priority, build a priority fence to prioritize machine resources, etc...) if the Job breaches a preset threshold. When an issue is encountered, users can use ActiveBatch's alerting framework to open a ticket in a Help Desk system, notify somebody directly via a broad range of alert types (including Job Failure, Constraint Failure, Trigger Failure, CPU Time Overrun) and notification methods (including SMS Text, Email, JMS and more) or use ActiveBatch's error handling capabilities to automatically restart a PowerCenter Workflow. If a user is required to login and check a PowerCenter Workflow from a remote location, ActiveBatch's Web Console provides all of the above mentioned capabilities from the convenience of a full functionality, web-based Thin Client.

By leveraging ActiveBatch, Informatica users can integrate and automate ETL/data warehousing/BI workloads into automated, repeatable and schedulable processes that deliver a high degree of visibility and control over all steps in the ETL/BI processes.

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