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Thought Leadership White Paper

Consolidate Job Schedulers to Save Money

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Executive Summary

Does your IT environment include multiple disparate schedulers scattered across the enterprise? If so, read on to learn how consolidating schedulers can reduce inefficiencies, lower costs, and empower IT to better meet business demands.

To put this scenario into perspective, think about the requirements of a parcel delivery company. Now, imagine that the company has a different organization for each part of the pickup and delivery process. Each organization has its own fleet of trucks, with truck brands differing across organizations. Each has unique processes and reporting methods. Each organization purchases its own assets, so there is little opportunity for volume discounts.

The organizations are loosely connected, and no one has an overall view of how each package moves through the delivery system. With so many inefficiencies, high costs are likely eating away at productivity and profitability.

What would you do if you needed to find out where a given parcel was in such an environment? You'd have to contact the various organizations to find which one had possession of it. If a parcel were delayed, finding out the cause of the delay might take hours of manual effort.

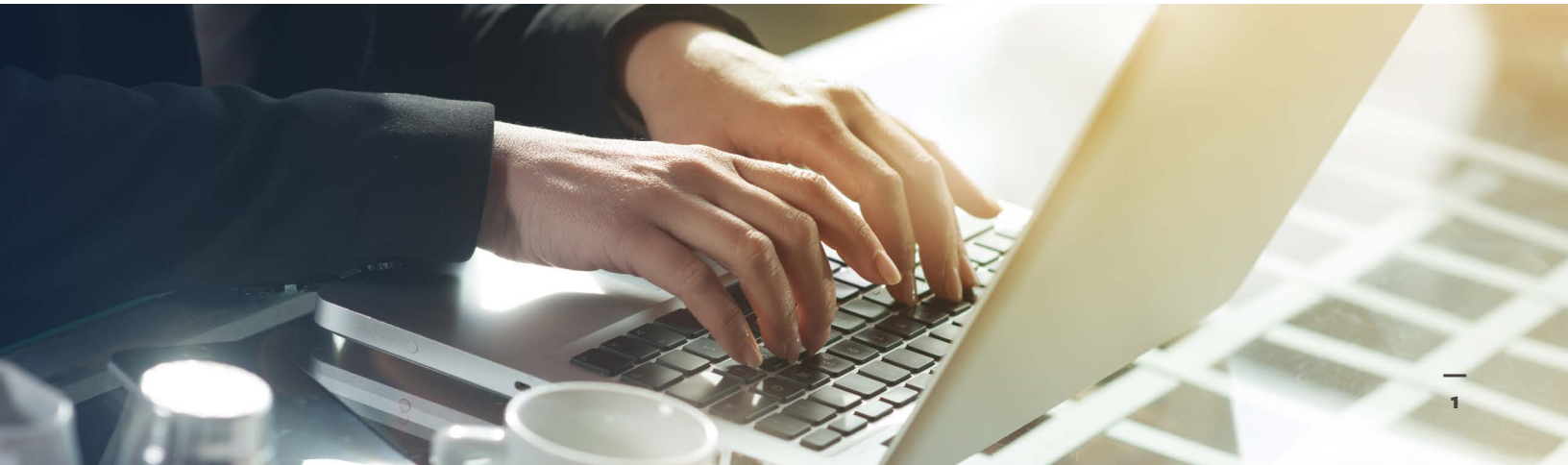
Your IT job scheduling environment may have much in common with this parcel delivery company. You've probably accumulated multiple disparate schedulers that are scattered across the enterprise. Each one supports a different aspect of an overall business process. The schedulers differ substantially. Some may be homegrown. Some may have come with certain operating systems. Others may have found their way into your environment with the various application components or platforms they support. Still others may be standalone tools.

Complicating the problem is that the schedulers are typically isolated in loosely coupled silos. The silos don't have an overall view of the business process involved. Without this comprehensive view, determining the status of a process or tracking down a problem is a cumbersome, largely manual effort.

To make matters worse, you have to pay for and maintain multiple licenses and skill sets to keep these disparate schedulers running. Like the parcel delivery company, the inefficiencies and resulting costs are unacceptable.

To eliminate inefficiencies and drive down costs, you need to consolidate. By bringing all your scheduling tasks together in a single enterprise workload scheduling solution, you gain a single, comprehensive view of scheduling across the enterprise. That view clearly and concisely presents how each of the workloads relates to the business process it supports.

BMC Software has helped more than 2,000 customer organizations consolidate their multiple job definitions into a single enterprise workload scheduling solution. The efficiency gains from these consolidations are significant, and they translate into substantial cost savings.



INCREASED BUSINESS FOCUS

In just about all industries, enterprise applications are at the heart of many critical business processes. Today's composite enterprise applications consist of multiple components that interoperate to deliver services that support business processes. Schedulers bind these components together. So, in essence, schedulers run the business and are an integral part of any IT shop.

IT is under increasing pressure to improve the quality of business services while driving down costs. The fragmented and siloed nature of scheduling, however, is preventing IT from achieving that objective. Coordination among schedulers to support a particular business process often involves manual procedures, which drives up a major cost contributor: labor. It also slows processing and increases the risk of errors that could negatively impact service delivery.

What's more, the inability to prioritize workloads in accordance with the business processes they support makes it difficult to answer questions that can impact costs, such as the following:

- What is the status of the overall process?
- Will the workloads finish on time?
- Are there any problems in the process?
- If so, where do they originate, and what is the best path to remediation?

By consolidating your disparate scheduling tools and processes into a single enterprise workload scheduling solution, you'll align more closely with the business, while also slashing scheduling related costs.

Without answers, it is extremely difficult to manage the service level agreements (SLAs) that govern business processes. Additionally, not having a business process perspective on scheduling prevents IT from prioritizing actions based on business impact. The result is a first-in-first-out approach that drags down efficiency.

Consolidation of scheduling automates manual procedures found in traditional scheduling. The results include faster processing, fewer errors, and higher quality service delivery.

Consolidation also gives IT an enterprise-wide view of scheduling that includes workloads running on operating systems, applications, physical and virtual machines, cloud, and the mainframe. Some enterprise workload scheduling solutions also relate individual and composite workloads to the business processes they support. Consequently, IT can focus on those activities with high business impact, maximizing efficiency.

The enterprise-wide view also facilitates troubleshooting. Multiple siloed schedulers make it difficult to identify the causes of problems. In many cases, IT has to call costly meetings with groups of people to identify problem sources. With the comprehensive process view afforded by consolidation, IT can quickly see where problems are occurring and move swiftly to resolve them, even before customers are aware of them. That shrinks mean time to repair (MTTR), thereby improving availability and significantly lowering problem management costs.

LOWER TCO

It stands to reason that total cost of ownership (TCO) is higher with multiple, disparate schedulers than with a single enterprise workload scheduling solution. With the fragmented approach, you have to purchase, maintain, and track multiple licenses with little opportunity for volume discounts. You also have to keep multiple skill sets on board to administer and support the schedulers.

Once you consolidate, you derive benefit from managing and maintaining a single license and a single scheduling skill set across the enterprise. That lowers licensing expenses, minimizes training efforts, and reduces staffing costs. Consolidation also frees up infrastructure resources previously required to support multiple schedulers. And that cuts scheduling-related infrastructure costs.

GREATER AGILITY

Consolidation leads to greater agility and lower costs in responding to changes in the business environment. For example, it's difficult to scale an environment with multiple schedulers, and expanding it to accommodate either organic growth or growth due to mergers and acquisitions is costly. A consolidated environment is far more amenable to growth.

Consolidation also makes it easier to drive business innovation with new applications and technologies. Developers no longer have to grapple with integrating multiple schedulers, some of which are connected through manual processes. Instead, they work with a single scheduling solution that tightly integrates and synchronizes scheduling across multiple application components.

A single enterprise scheduling solution allows you to determine, in advance, the impact of adding or changing job flows, thus eliminating the risk of costly surprises. In addition, the automation introduced by consolidation decreases the amount of time the IT staff spends on repetitive scheduling activities. That frees up a considerable amount of time, allowing IT to take on more workloads without increasing staff.

IMPROVED COMPLIANCE

Today's enterprises are being hit with an increasing number of industry standards and government regulations. Failure to comply exposes the organization to public embarrassment and financial risk.

Achieving and demonstrating compliance in a fragmented scheduling environment is a difficult and time-consuming process that involves much manual effort. Even if you achieve compliance, you have to ensure that you maintain compliance when you make changes to the infrastructure. And managing change in this environment is difficult at best. Scheduling consolidation simplifies compliance and facilitates change management, reducing the risk of noncompliance and lowering compliance-related costs.

REAL-WORLD SUCCESSES

Companies of all sizes and in virtually every industry are already enjoying the benefits of enterprise workload scheduling. Enterprise solutions are yielding dramatic gains in efficiency and productivity, and significant decreases in costs. Here are a few examples.

Travel Industry Services Company

A global firm that provides distribution, IT, and point-of sale solutions to travel industry companies wanted to implement advanced, single-point, controlled production scheduling across the enterprise. Previously, the firm had operated two separate and overlapping scheduling solutions for an environment that encompassed MVS™, Unisys, UNIX®, Windows, and SAP® systems.

By standardizing on a single enterprise scheduling solution, the firm achieved the following:

- Eliminated duplicate licenses and support costs
- Identified and deleted 1,200 obsolete object linking and embedding for process control (OPC)/E-based applications
- Improved its ability to meet SLAs
- Eliminated overlapping training programs

Enterprise workload scheduling solutions are yielding dramatic gains in efficiency and productivity, and significant decreases in costs.

Chemical Manufacturer

The scheduling staff of this global chemical manufacturer was struggling to support complex, multistep SAP processes. With enterprise scheduling, one SAP administrator and one supervisor are able to manage the complex batch environment that spans 60 locations, 15 countries, and three continents. Approximately 600 different jobs are scheduled to execute nearly 14,000 times in a month. Because scheduling administrators are able to work from a single point, IT was able to absorb a quadrupling of daily job volumes without increasing staff. In addition, IT was able to reduce the number of file transfer scripts from 90 to 10, which simplified management and improved the accuracy of File Transfer Protocol (FTP) jobs.

Transportation Company

One of the largest transportation logistics companies in North America used enterprise workload scheduling to gain a comprehensive view of batch schedules so the staff can see how mainframe jobs integrate with jobs on distributed systems. The company expects that visibility to ultimately reduce the time it takes to develop schedules and analyze issues. The staff saw immediate benefits, with a 48 percent reduction in CPU utilization for jobs converted to the load/unload utility provided with the enterprise management workload solution.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

By consolidating your disparate scheduling tools and processes into a single enterprise workload scheduling solution, you'll align more closely with the business, while also slashing scheduling related costs. You'll enjoy greater agility in meeting the changing demands of the business. And you'll position your organization for the future by providing a scheduling foundation that is scalable and accommodating to new technologies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit: **bmc.com/control-m**

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From mainframe to cloud to mobile, we pair high-speed digital innovation with robust IT industrialization—allowing our customers to provide amazing user experiences with optimized IT performance, cost, compliance, and productivity. We believe :

- **Technology is the heart of every business**
- **IT drives business to the digital age**

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