

White Papers

Robot/SCHEDULE® and Robot/CLIENT®

Is Robot/SCHEDULE an enterprise scheduler?

by Tom Huntington

V.P. of Technical Services

Are you under pressure to manage and control your business processes from one central scheduler? Many Operations teams are. Upper management likes this idea. It sounds good to have a single technology controlling all batch processing. Production control staff like the idea of having only one tool to learn. Perhaps you found these benefits so enticing that you've started to look into "enterprise schedulers."

Before you go too far, you should ask a basic question about your operations: What platform runs the bulk of our mission-critical batch processing? If your answer is "the System i," you have a System i-centered shop. That means you want a scheduler that runs on the IBM® System i,[™] yet addresses your other platforms.

Why should it run on the System i? The System i continues to be your most reliable platform. If you run your primary scheduler on a Windows server for example, the server and the scheduler will be less available than the System i. This could have a negative impact on your mission-critical batch jobs.

This argument is logical, but many people have been seduced by the glitz and glamour of seeing their schedule in a graph or chart on a Windows desktop. While this looks good, it is not what makes running your schedule a success. Your focus should be on getting the job done on the operating system that is running the bulk of your job schedule. The important parts of a scheduler are its capacity to automate the schedule, its ease of deployment, and its ability to report on the batch processing it executes. Robot/SCHEDULE is a very robust scheduler for i5/OS, Windows, and UNIX batch processes. Robot/SCHEDULE's extensive reports document job setup, history, and forecasting. And, if you're still hungering for those glitzy graphs, Robot/SCHEDULE 10 offers a new look and feel. You can use its Java based graphical user interface (GUI) to work with your jobs, build a blueprint of your schedule, and check your job schedule activity quickly using SAM, the Schedule Activity Monitor.

Enterprise scheduling for the System i

If the bulk of your scheduling is done on the System i, Robot/SCHEDULE can be your enterprise scheduler. Robot/SCHEDULE can handle all the work of the System i platform. It is designed to automate the schedule, be deployed easily, and produce useful reports.

I know some of you are saying, "Whoa!" You probably think that although mission-critical jobs run on the System i, you still have to support Windows and UNIX jobs. What many people *don't* realize is that Robot/CLIENT works with Robot/SCHEDULE to let you schedule jobs on these platforms as well!

By using Robot/SCHEDULE and Robot/CLIENT, you can have a System i-based enterprise scheduler. Your team needs to learn just one scheduler and you can schedule all of your jobs from the System i. This integration of Robot/SCHEDULE and Robot/CLIENT provides System i-centered scheduling.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Robot/CLIENT, it is agent software that you run on your servers. When you load and register Robot/CLIENT on a server, you give the server a name. Then, when you want to send jobs to the server, you create a job in Robot/SCHEDULE using the RCLEXEC command. This job includes the server's name and the command you want to execute. Robot/SCHEDULE distributes the tasks to your servers. The number of tasks you can send to the servers is unlimited, and Robot/SCHEDULE can wait for one task to complete before it sends the next.

To work with UNIX machines, you simply create a script for the task to be executed. The script is launched at the scheduled time through the integration of Robot/SCHEDULE and Robot/CLIENT.

The System i enterprise scheduling solution

Many Help/Systems customers are already using Robot/SCHEDULE with Robot/CLIENT. And, a lot of them do not even realize that they are doing enterprise scheduling!

For example, many customers use the combo to automate the process of moving data using FTP. In a typical scenario, Robot/SCHEDULE runs a series of batch processes on the System i that builds data for an application on the server. In the past, many companies relied on time-oriented scheduled jobs, or had an operator manually send the data to the server. Now, with Robot/SCHEDULE and Robot/CLIENT, they can send data automatically using FTP and start the batch job on the server!

Robot/SCHEDULE and Robot/CLIENT is a great enterprise scheduling solution because the System i is so reliable. It is always available and ready to run the schedule for your entire enterprise. At Help/Systems, we know that it makes sense to base automation on a system that is always available. The stability of the System i helps ensure that the entire enterprise is ready for scheduling. And, the new Robot/SCHEDULE user interface will make even your Windows administrators very happy.

The next time someone in management or on your staff brings up the buzz words “enterprise scheduling,” remind them that you already have the most powerful enterprise scheduler for your environment—Robot/SCHEDULE. Simply add Robot/CLIENT, the agent software for your server, if you don’t already have it.

Your production scheduling team will be happy because they need to know only one scheduler and implementation is fast and simple. Your management team will be happy because you’ve solved the need for a central repository of business processes and saved lots of money compared to other enterprise scheduling solutions. You’ll be happy because you are enjoying the benefits of System i-centered enterprise scheduling with Robot/SCHEDULE and Robot/CLIENT.



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Automated Operations
& Business Intelligence*

952/933-0609
info.info@helpsystems.com
www.helpsystems.com