

Robot/REPLAY®
Interactive Job Management

The Team That Automates The Unautomatable

Need to automate processes that normally require operators working “hands on”? Think it would be nice to have interactive processes run automatically while your operators worked on more important issues? Like to save time and money while increasing the efficiency of your interactive processes? If this sounds like wishful thinking, it's not. When you combine Robot/SCHEDULE®, the System i automated job scheduler, and Robot/REPLAY, its automation sidekick, you create the perfect team. A team that can even automate the unautomatable—interactive applications that used to require a person to fill out screens and make selections. Now, the impossible is reality.

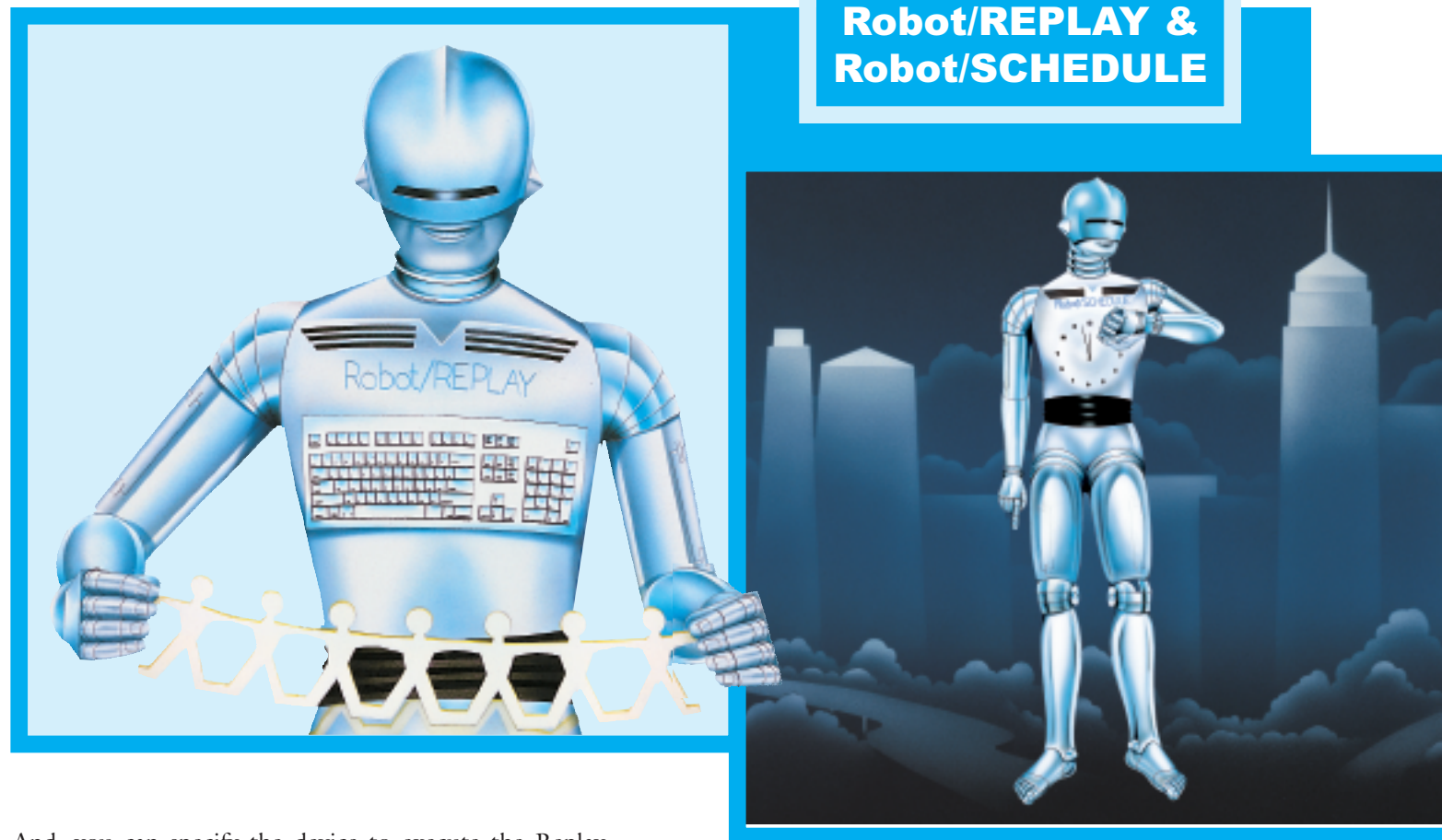
Everyone understands the benefits of automating with Robot/SCHEDULE: managers like it because the systems run by Robot/SCHEDULE run more smoothly, efficiently, reliably, less expensively, and with fewer errors; operators and other users like it because Robot/SCHEDULE always runs reports and closings automatically and on time while freeing them from boring repetitive tasks.

However, some of you haven't been able to enjoy the benefits of Robot/SCHEDULE because you use interactive applications that require you to fill out one or more screens before you submit the job. These types of applications need an operator in constant attendance, making them expensive and unwieldy.

Automate The Unautomatable

Help/Systems products automate the functions of operating your IBM® System i™. You can even automate the unautomatable using Robot/REPLAY, our special plug-in for Robot/SCHEDULE. Rather than trying to automate interactive applications using tricks or gadgets, Robot/REPLAY mimics and copies the human operator who works with these applications.

Just start Robot/REPLAY and enter the values you need to run your interactive programs. Robot/REPLAY runs them, on time and in the right order, day after day and week after week.



And, you can specify the device to execute the Replay object ahead of time, guaranteeing that there will be no device conflicts when it comes time to run.

Execute Interactive Applications, Automatically

Just put Robot/REPLAY into learn mode and fill out your interactive application's batch submission or menu screens just like you did before. Only this time, it's different. As you work, Robot/REPLAY records the screen images you see and the information you enter into the screen (including variable information). It stores these images and this information in a Replay object.

Later, when Robot/SCHEDULE executes your Replay object, Robot/REPLAY calls your initial program and mimics what you did, keystroke by keystroke, screen by screen.

The System i “thinks” it's working with a human in an interactive session. Instead, it's interacting with Robot/REPLAY in a batch job.

Robot/REPLAY & Robot/SCHEDULE

Avoid Boring Repetitive Effort

Many application packages have extensive record and option screens that you must fill out before running your reports. For example, if you have ten sales reports to run every Friday, you have to enter the selection criteria ten times.

That's all changed. Once Robot/REPLAY learns how to run one report, just copy the Replay object to create a new object and play back the screens, changing any values that need changing. Then, review your work, make any corrections, and you're ready to run. Think of the possibilities:

- Generate entire sets of reports from a single Replay object
- Automate testing procedures
- Automate file transport processing using Robot/REPLAY and FTP

Pass Variable Information

Robot/REPLAY can automate interactive programs even if screen values, such as date, time, and fiscal period, change every time you run the application.

Robot/REPLAY supports Robot/SCHEDULE reserved command variables, system-wide values used throughout our products. With reserved command variables, you can communicate variable information to Robot/REPLAY and other products. You just enter the reserved command variable name in the screen image. Robot/REPLAY interprets the variable and substitutes the correct value when the Replay object is executed. You, or your programs, can update these variables before Robot/REPLAY runs the reports.

Enjoy Error-Free Month-End Closings

Use Robot/SCHEDULE and Robot/REPLAY to make interactive and batch jobs react to one another and create a closing procedure or a nightly run. These tools let you run procedures unattended, on time, and in the proper order. If you have Robot/NETWORK®, the network management software from Help/Systems, the jobs can be on different systems or partitions.

If the unexpected happens and the procedure stops, Robot/SCHEDULE can send you a message using Robot/ALERT®, the automated messaging software from Help/Systems. Robot/ALERT lets you send messages from your System i to alphanumeric, numeric, or tone pagers; cell phones; PDAs; laptops; and PCs. Use Robot/ALERT broadcast lists to notify specific people or to set up a problem escalation list to ensure that an issue gets resolved quickly.

Once you've fixed the problem, you can restart the procedure at the point where it stopped. With Robot/SCHEDULE, Robot/REPLAY, and Robot/ALERT—and a little imagination—there is no limit to what you can automate.

Join 21,000 Customers Using Our Automated Operations Solution

It's no accident that when you combine Robot/SCHEDULE, the world's best job scheduling software for the System i with its automation sidekick, Robot/REPLAY, you can automate the unautomatable. You're actually combining committed development, marketing, sales, support, and administrative people with strong management, processes that really work, a powerful drive to succeed, and a complete dedication to quality.

Award-Winning Robot Automated Operations Solution

Whether you have a single System i, or a network of them, Help/Systems is committed to providing you with products that automate their operation.

The products of the Robot Automated Operations Solution look and act the same. All of the Help/Systems products talk to each other through the solution's common component interface. This integration makes all the products powerful, yet easy to learn and use.

Our product expertise has won us many awards from numerous publications. And, our customers have awarded us 60,000 times with product purchases.

Commitment To Excellence

Help/Systems became America's first ISO 9001-certified software company in 1992. Since then, we have maintained our certification under the updated 9001:2000 standard. This international quality standard covers software design, development, marketing, product support, and training. Help/Systems demonstrated that it has an excellent software quality assurance system in place, full management commitment to quality, and a well-trained and motivated staff. This certification applies to all company procedures for ensuring customer satisfaction—from those done by the receptionist to the duties of the CEO.

