8 Job Scheduling Ideas

The more you automate, the better your data center runs. Here are eight ideas that can help you with job scheduling.

1 Make your life easier by creating the calendars you need.

You may think that having multiple calendars is complicated. In reality, it's often better to have different calendars that do exactly what you need rather than trying to make one calendar do it all. For example, if you have tricky month- and year-end dates in your job schedule, create a fiscal calendar. Robot/SCHEDULE runs each job based on the calendar attached to the job.

2 Reduce product maintenance by switching from date objects to OPAL tables.

Date objects expire annually. OPAL tables allow you to enter dates far into the future and require maintenance only when you need to add new dates to the table. Plus, many jobs can use the same OPAL table to determine if the job should be run or skipped.

3 Simplify your dependent job stream by using group jobs.

Job dependencies within groups are easy to find in the Robot/SCHEDULE Explorer and easy to understand. Selecting the group control job in the Tree view displays its member jobs in the List view—in the order they should run. If a member fails, you can easily restart the group processing at that member.

4 Visualize your dependent jobs with the Robot/SCHEDULE job schedule blueprint.

Take the guesswork out of understanding dependencies in your night processing. Create a graphical blueprint that illustrates the relationships between your jobs, including reactivity and group membership.

5 Automate manual job runs.

Robot/REPLAY helps you automate critical interactive jobs. Eliminate errors with reserved command variables that automatically calculate variable dates or substitute constant values, like department numbers or names. Your auditors will be thrilled that the risk of human error has been removed from processing critical data.

6 Consolidate all your computer operations consoles.

With Robot/SCHEDULE 10.0 and Robot/NETWORK 10.0, you can monitor critical events in your System i network like never before. The Robot/NETWORK Status Center lets you respond to network events from a single PC, while the Map Center provides a display of your network.

7 Actively monitor how well you are meeting your Service Level Agreements (SLAs).

Robot/SCHEDULE's Job Monitors can tell you if a job ran too long (job overruns), completed too quickly (job underruns), or started later than its scheduled run time (late start). You specify the criteria for each job at setup time.

8 Get the big picture of batch processing in your data center.

Using Robot/SCHEDULE 10.0 and Robot/NETWORK 10.0, you can generate consolidated reports (Good Morning Report, Audit reports, and Cross-System Jobs reports) that span your network and allow you to perform system-by-system comparisons.