JOB SCHEDULING TOOLS REPLACEMENT STRATEGY

Replace Products from CA, BMC, and IBM

ASG job scheduling solutions for the mainframe help manage your organization's critical batch processes and automation needs. ASG's integrated solutions can easily replace your current scheduling solution, whether it contains products from CA, BMC, or IBM.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

ASG-Zeke™ for z/OS® is an automated job scheduler that dynamically schedules and dispatches batch jobs to automate production workloads by testing for available resources. It is part of the ASG Operations Management product family and maintains a large and established customer base of over 500 sites. ASG-Zeke provides wide-ranging functionality including system command scheduling, automatic PARM calculation and substitution, step-level condition-code validation, workload balancing via "logical pooling" (which automatically routes the job to the CPU with the lightest workload), schedule forecasting and simulation, and SAF security.

REPLACEMENT STRATEGY

ASG is the specialist in replacing your existing scheduling systems. More than 95% of ASG-Zeke customers were converted from other technologies.

ASG's Conversion Services division meticulously outlines methodologies and builds automated programs to handle any conversion situation quickly and accurately. Currently, ASG has automated conversion routines for virtually all mainframe scheduling solutions. Each program has the ability to convert more than 80% of a database automatically, and specifically verify the work.

REPLACEMENT PROCESS

ASG has successfully converted customers from all major third-party mainframe schedulers including CA-7, CA-Scheduler, CA-Jobtrac, IBM's Workload Scheduler (formerly known as OPC), and BMC's Control-M.

The process starts with a free analysis of your current scheduling workload, which is accomplished by using standard reports from your existing scheduling product and directing them to our development lab for input into existing conversion programs. The results of the analysis will determine the time and scope of the project. The use of these conversion utilities allows automatic conversion of the scheduling database, resulting in 80% (and above) conversion rates with minimal manual intervention.

ASG Professional Services personnel are highly trained to handle the specific issues in converting a scheduling database, simplifying the process, while reducing any risk factors. Our main goal throughout the project is the transfer of knowledge to your key personnel, which is critical to a successful conversion.

BENEFITS

- Manages scheduling throughout the enterprise
- Schedules and submits events at machine speed
- Automatically responds to messages and monitors every aspect of a job schedule, 24 hours-a-day
- Operates with minimal operator intervention, reducing human errors
- Improves system throughput and efficiency by checking physical and logical resources (e.g., availability of tape devices and initiators) before dispatching a job
- Reacts automatically to system conditions
- Provides step-level condition-code checking and allows job cancellation based on condition codes
- Supports the execution of REXX EXECS which permit a customer to fully exploit the capabilities of IBM's SAA REXX language to address any unique system requirements affecting a production schedule
- Eliminates the need to alternately log on to another TSO session, which significantly improves communication, control, and productivity
- Presents all schedule information on a single screen and highlights all exceptions (abends, late jobs, etc.) automatically, using the ScheduleView feature
- Supports concurrent schedules within the same job names (versioning)

REAL LIFE SCENARIO
LARGE DEFENSE CONTRACTOR

A defense contractor had six separate CA-7 and CA-11 databases in use on multiple CPUs located around the country. Half of these systems even had scheduling databases that would run on any of three shared machines. Their goal was to convert all systems to run ASG-Zeke and ASG-Zebb, and to add data standards into the batch cycle, eventually bringing many of the systems into the main data center in California. Their time frame was to have everything converted by the end of the year, with the project starting mid-February.

The ASG Conversion Team went to each location and converted each database, one at a time, while interfacing with specialists from each location. The conversions from CA-7 to ASG-Zeke are handled by specific conversion utilities designedto automatically convert over 90% of the database.

After completion of the conversion, specially designed comparison utilities were run to verify the new ASG-Zeke database against CA-7. Multiple months of daily batch cycles, along with holiday, and end-of-quarter and year processing were verified fully before implementation. Full ASG-Zeke training was also performed. The training and full transition of each of these Defense Contractor's sites to ASG-Zeke and ASG-Zebb was completed by the end of October.

	ASG-ZEKE™	CA-7®	CA-SCHEDULER®	CA-JOBTRAC®	BMC CONTROL-M®	IBM WORKLOAD SCHEDULER (FORMERLY KNOWN AS OPC)
Functionality						
Fill-in-the-blank job definition	X	X	X	X	X	X
Queue-based monitoring						
Flexible job dependency	X	X	X	X	X	X
Calendaring definition	X	X	X	X	X	X
Job status via SMF	X	X	X	X	X	X
"End-of-step" condition processing via SMF	X	X	X	X	X	X
Real-time resource management	X	X	X	X	X	X
Part of integrated enterprisewide solution	X	Limited		X	X	Limited
Single management point	X	Limited			X	Limited
Easy-to-maintain architecture	X			X		
Ease of use	X		X	X		

ASG Technologies is a global software company providing the only integrated platform and flexible end to end solution for the information powered enterprise. ASG is the only solutions provider for both Information Management and IT Systems and has over 3,000 customers worldwide. To learn more visit www.asg.com.