

Don't Let Background Processes Slow You Down

Improve Process Efficiency and Productivity with SAP Central Process Scheduling by Redwood

In a round-the-clock economy, no business can afford to have its business process automation software creating bottlenecks that slow down the fulfillment of customer orders – or worse, the entire supply chain. Effective management of background business processing, therefore, is essential.

But this management becomes quite difficult because of the complex interaction of applications needed to run these processes – the financial close process, for example. Because these compound applications can affect integration, performance, and process management and increase risk of error, managing them can seem an inefficient and costly challenge.

The SAP Central Process Scheduling application by Redwood – an adaptive, event-driven job scheduling and process automation solution – allows you to take on this challenge. Specifically designed to integrate process automation for SAP and non-SAP application environments across distributed and heterogeneous platforms, SAP Central Process Scheduling by Redwood provides a critical, central point of control for all job processing (see **Figure 1**).

Take Control of Your Background Processing

SAP Central Process Scheduling by Redwood uses a robust repository and a highly available, distributed environment to ensure reliable and accurate processing of your business application workload – across all applications and operating system environments.

Even in heterogeneous environments, SAP Central Process Scheduling manages all of the background processes from one or more applications on one or more servers. And because this application offers low-level integration with SAP applications – like SAP ERP, SAP Business Suite, SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence (SAP NetWeaver BI), SAP ERP Financials Closing Cockpit, and SAP industry solutions – managing business processes becomes a much simpler task. The result? A centralized solution that helps reduce the cost of managing the increasingly complex, multi-application workload that business organizations demand.

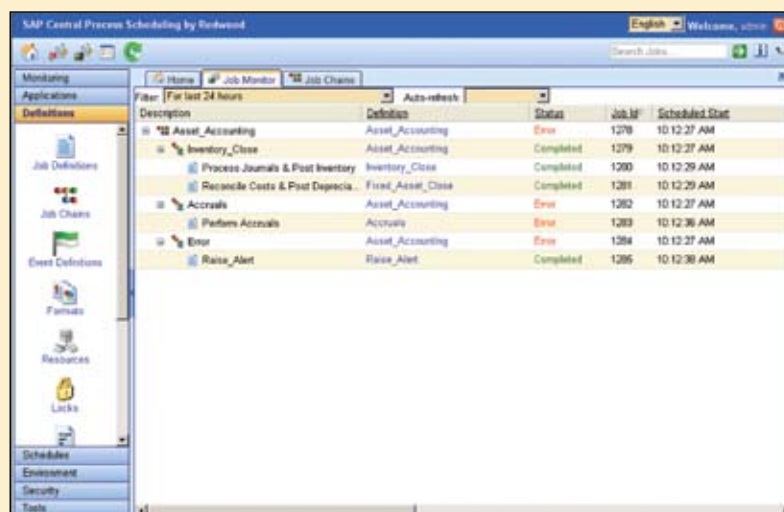
Tackle Business Requirements

Through its unique integration with SAP's business applications, SAP Central Process Scheduling also enables business users to manage and control underlying processing to ensure a flexible response to business requirements (see sidebar on the next page). For this, SAP Central Process Scheduling delivers:

1. Business application integration: Through its ability to detect and respond to events in both business and IT environments, SAP Central Process Scheduling provides a common automation and scheduling service that will fit into most organizations' enterprise service-oriented architecture (enterprise SOA).

2. Event management: One of the key differentiators of SAP Central Process Scheduling is its ability to react to events that occur across the enterprise, automatically triggering business processes in response. This event-driven functionality initiates jobs immediately rather than depending on inefficient, time-consuming, manual triggers.

Customers report that SAP Central Process Scheduling's flexibility allows them to more quickly and easily handle special processing requests.



Description	Definition	Status	Job ID	Scheduled Start
Asset_Accounting	Asset_Accounting	Error	1278	10:12:27 AM
Inventory_Close	Asset_Accounting	Completed	1279	10:12:27 AM
Process Journals & Post Inventory	Inventory_Close	Completed	1280	10:12:29 AM
Reconcile Costs & Post Deprecia	Fixed_Asset_Close	Completed	1281	10:12:29 AM
Accruals	Asset_Accounting	Error	1282	10:12:27 AM
Perform Accruals	Accruals	Error	1283	10:12:36 AM
Error	Asset_Accounting	Error	1284	10:12:27 AM
Raise_Alert	Raise_Alert	Completed	1285	10:12:38 AM

FIGURE 1 ▲ SAP Central Process Scheduling provides a single point of control for managing and monitoring all background processes

SAP Central Process Scheduling by Redwood: An Overview

This process-scheduling application helps organizations address the business challenges they face today – from reducing cost of ownership and increasing productivity to responding quickly to changing demands and improving flexibility – by enabling:

- Fast, efficient management of business-critical application processes
- Management of complex processes through centralized control of cross-enterprise networks
- Flexibility in process scheduling, enabling users to base process start conditions on real-time external business events, file events, time and date, time windows, system load, and process dependencies
- A single scheduling environment for all kinds of processes, eliminating the need for multiple scheduling tools and eradicating conflicts between solutions from different vendors
- Uninterrupted processing through automated restart of processes, dynamic load balancing, and high availability features
- Seamless integration with other open-system products and applications, avoiding the pain of poorly specified application program interfaces and “paper interfaces”
- Integration with SAP Solution Manager and other systems management and network management frameworks, maximizing the return on investment you can get out of these tools

3. Enterprise calendaring: SAP Central Process Scheduling doesn't just allow users to define an explicit job start date and time: It enables them to use an intelligent forecasting and adaptive job calendar, supported across multiple timezones.

4. Workload management: SAP Central Process Scheduling gives users a central point from which to control all of

the background jobs that underpin essential business processes. From this central point, they can manage, configure, and monitor scheduled and unscheduled tasks across the enterprise (see **Figure 2**).

5. Security management: SAP Central Process Scheduling provides the security needed to ensure that only authorized personnel can perform administrative or operational tasks. This security is applied at several levels and can be integrated with existing enterprise security standards.

Summary

SAP Central Process Scheduling is much more than a simple tool that automates background jobs for the SAP software landscape: It's a flexible process-automation application that leverages its position at the heart of the SAP NetWeaver infrastructure to ensure reliable and accurate processing of business application workloads across applications and operating system environments.

For a more detailed look at some of the capabilities of SAP Central Process Scheduling, see the SAP NetWeaver Unleashed column by Dr. Astrid Tschense-Oesterle in this issue of *SAP Insider*. And for more information about this solution, visit www.sap.com/solutions/solutionextensions/centralprocessscheduling. ■

FIGURE 2 ▼ SAP Central Process Scheduling provides a real-time view of all executing tasks

