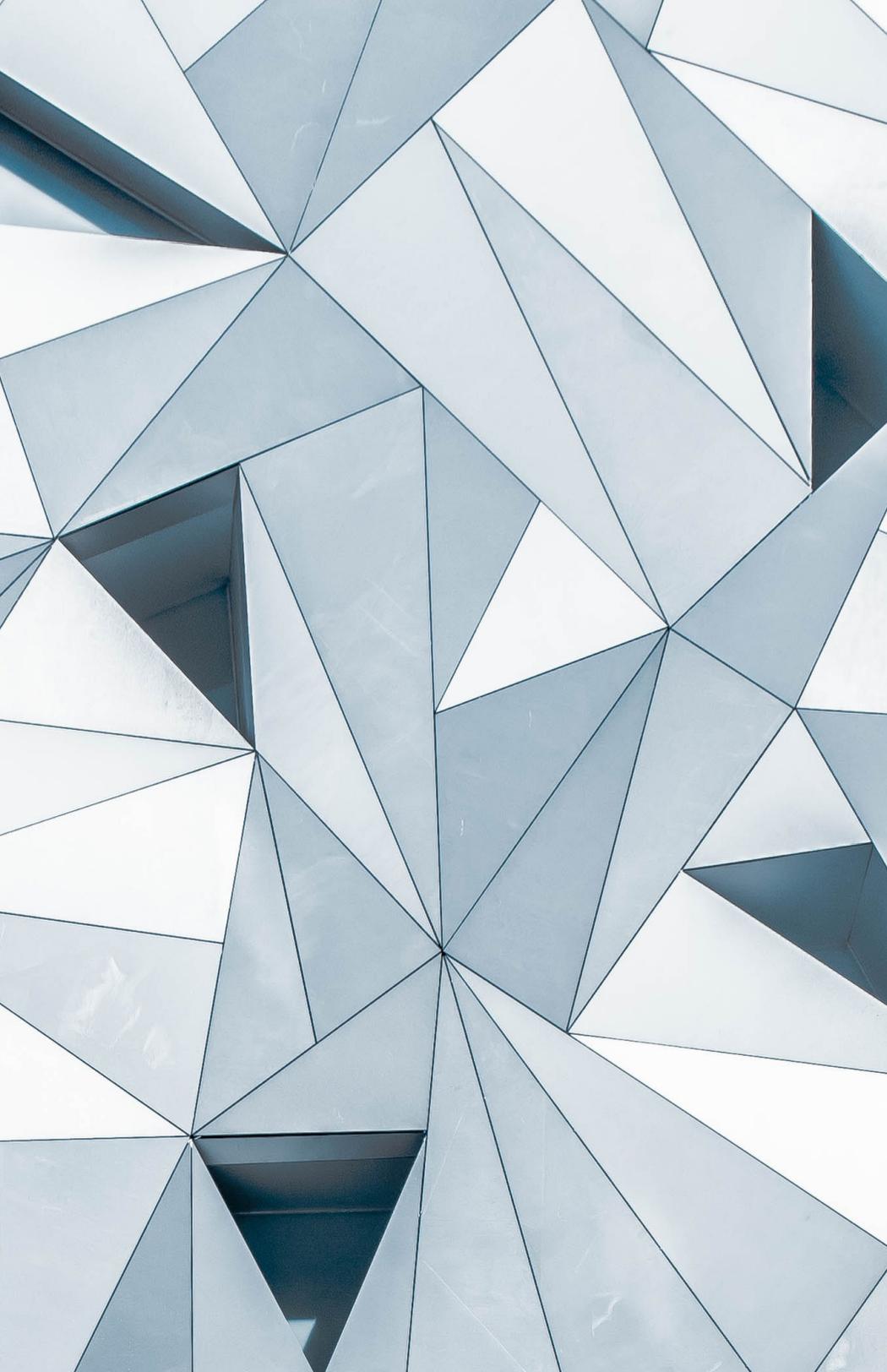


Job Scheduling vs. Enterprise Workload Automation





Job Schedulers ≠ Workload Automation

What is Job Scheduling vs. Workload Automation?

Job Scheduling has been a standard IT process for years—decades, in fact. More recently, the term Enterprise Workload Automation has come into use.

Let's explore why and differences between the two.

JOB SCHEDULING focuses on time- or calendar-based processing and is usually contained within one silo such as an application, ERP system or database.

WORKLOAD AUTOMATION manages workflows across an enterprise. These workflows are complex, event- and/or calendar-driven, with dependencies woven into other workflows and jobs. Workflows can extend across multiple ERPs, applications, databases and platforms—in the cloud, on-premises or both—spanning legacy systems and emerging technologies.

As organizations grow more complex, the siloed approach becomes impossible to manage, resulting in process misalignments, missed service level agreements (SLAs) and failure to support the business.

Business and IT Transformation Call for Modern Automation

A study by industry analysts Enterprise Management Associates* revealed the following:



of companies surveyed started using enterprise Workload Automation within the previous four years



of companies surveyed had changed or were considering changing vendors

Activity in 75% of the market is unusual for a mature product—in this case, one that's been around for 40 years.

Why? And why now?

The reason is simple:

Business demands continue to evolve. Workload Automation—and its users—are innovating to address them.

But the issues are anything but simple.

Seismic shifts such as distributed environments, global business, digital transformation, IoT, Big Data and AI are transforming the enterprise. The need to process data with unprecedented speed, accuracy and transparency is revolutionizing the IT landscape. And automation is reaching across multiple functions and business processes like never before.

*The Shifting Role of Workload Automation, Enterprise Management Associates, 2018



Challenges of Traditional Job Schedulers

Conventional Job Schedulers can't keep pace with these rapid changes and complex requirements, where every point of transition poses a risk. Dependencies may be unseen, inaccurate data transmitted and jobs stalled mid-stream.

In this all-too-frequent scenario, breakdowns are typically not visible until processing is due to complete. This can derail SLAs, require extensive IT resources to remediate and impact business outcomes.

Challenges of conventional Job Schedulers include:

Limited to ERP or application-specific scheduling

Multiple schedulers across the enterprise to manage

Limited functionality of native schedulers

Lack of visibility across the enterprise

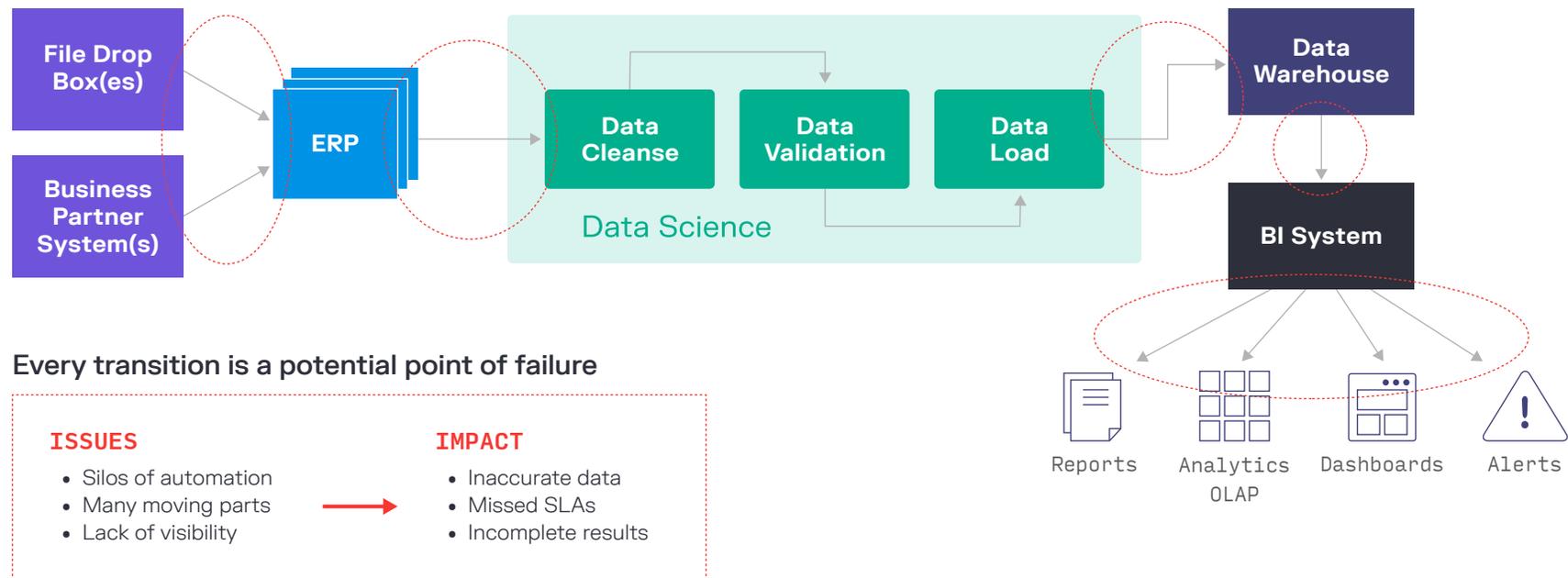
Calendar-driven scheduling only

Manual processes

Inability to manage in cloud or hybrid environments

Every Enterprise Workflow Is Threatened by Many Potential Pitfalls

With traditional Job Schedulers, every transition point is a potential point of failure



Workload Automation Simplifies Complex Environments

Enterprise Workload Automation, by contrast, orchestrates all the moving parts. Integration points are no longer risky business.

Key benefits include:

Centralized control of all scheduling / business process functions in one solution

Stronger integration between ERPs, databases and applications

Improved ability to meet SLAs for internal and external customers

Elimination of manual processes reduces the number of errors

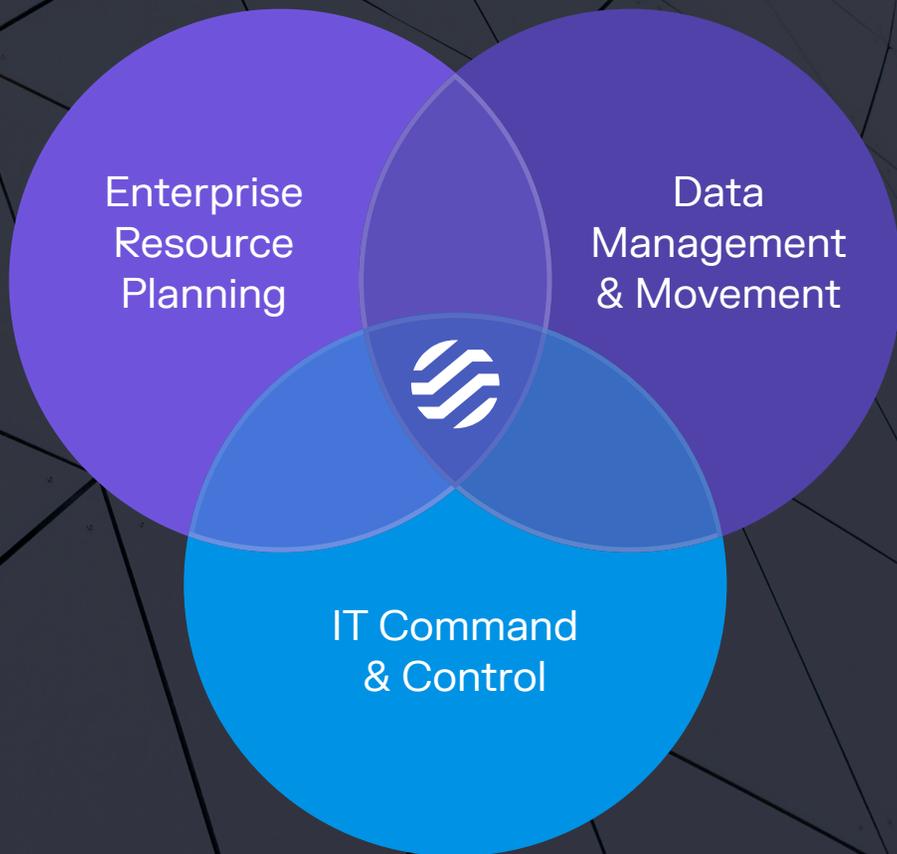
Monitoring of entire enterprise via a single dashboard

Complete and accurate data for reporting

Ability to meet demands for complex scheduling

Management of processes located anywhere: on-premises, in the cloud or both

Driving Operational and Strategic Value



The value of Workload Automation is well understood in traditional functional areas of ERP, Data Management and Movement, and IT Command and Control.

Workload Automation delivers value throughout the enterprise:

Improved business outcomes with the ability to meet and exceed SLAs

Higher resilience that means fewer delays or outages

Better return on IT due to improved resource utilization

Enhanced enterprise-wide collaboration through smoother communication with business owners

Improved auditability and regulatory compliance via documented processes that are repeatable and reliable

Faster CI/CD and time-to-value for new business processes with rapid prototyping and advanced automation function

Make the Right Choice for Your Organization

What should you look for in a Workload Automation solution?

Many Enterprise Workload Automation solutions share some characteristics but there can be striking differences. Thorough examination of the details is needed to determine the best fit.

A basic list of requirements should include:

Easy to install and use

Pre-built integrations that easily connect to your ERPs, databases and applications

Scalable to meet the demands of growth

Ability to handle complex, dependency-laden business processes

Robust alerting and notification when an error occurs

Works in on-premises, cloud and hybrid environments

Provider with a strong commitment to customer support and product development

Flexible, transparent licensing options to manage TCO and meet the needs of your business





Case Study – Oshkosh Corporation

The following is an excerpt from a PeerSpot customer review.
[Read the full review.](#)

“If it wasn't for Tidal, we would not have been able to get [our MRP process] to work as needed. I don't know if I can put a value on that.”

Jon Fredrickson, JDE Manager, Oshkosh Corporation

“Our biggest use case for Tidal is to automate jobs that we submit through JD Edwards, our ERP system. Our second use case would be automating maintenance...And our third use case is using it for any automation tasks that we come across...If we're going to automate something, we're going to use Tidal to automate it. We integrate Tidal with Linux, Windows, iSeries, SQL Server and Oracle, in addition to JD Edwards.

This will replace other solutions on multiple boxes, including our Robot scheduler...will cross four different JD Edwards implementations, including production and non-production scheduling of jobs.

The setup was very straightforward. We had it up and running in a day.

It saves us about 20 hours of work each week.”

Conclusion

Companies of all sizes face increasing pressure from customers, investors and regulators for speed, accuracy and transparency. Inefficient, error-ridden processes can't sustain today's business needs. As a result, automation is reaching into all corners of the organization.

Job Schedulers provide limited, siloed capabilities that don't support modern, complex workflows. Multiple points of failure, lack of visibility and control, manual processes and inability to manage complex scheduling are some of the shortfalls that drive companies to seek a better solution.

Workload Automation has a long history of supporting enterprise environments and continues to evolve along with businesses and their needs. Workload Automation solutions are built to orchestrate workflows with diverse technologies and complicated scheduling requirements. They provide a single point of control, enable enterprise-wide visibility and eliminate manual processes. Workflows are documented, repeatable and reliably executed, helping fulfill SLAs and satisfy compliance and regulatory requirements as well as other business-critical requirements.



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