Oracle SOA Suite and The Modernization of Job Scheduling

Oracle and UC4 Software Partner to Deliver Modernization Strategies

HIGHLIGHTS

The Business Case for Batch Workload Automation
- Address batch concepts in Modernization initiatives
- Provide flexibility to adapt to business changes
- Extend SOA processing to background and legacy applications to provide end-to-end business processing
- Enable true automation across the enterprise

Technical Benefits of SOA
- SOA offers business processes across applications and platforms
- Services are location independent
- A loosely coupled approach provides agility
- The search for other services is dynamic, and services are reusable.
- Integrates with tools such as ETL, ERP, CRM, DW/ETL, BI/Reporting, vertical core applications (retail, finance, healthcare, etc.)

The Continued Need for Batch Processing
Many Enterprises rely heavily on background (batch) processing, especially to support legacy systems. Oracle and UC4 provide the products to modernize these legacy batch systems. Oracle SOA Suite brings the benefits of being able to quickly meet customer demands, lowering technology costs, making business rules more visible and easier to alter, and reducing the reliance on expensive custom development for integration of legacy systems with other applications.

Historically, the best way to utilize existing computing resources and manage workload was batch—the cornerstone of application processing for the last four decades. The breakthrough of batch enabled businesses to handle increasingly large volumes of data with minimal intervention. Also, batch mitigates the cost of 100% real-time transaction processing.

The SOA Modernization Architecture as defined by Oracle provides product-independent structure based on industry standards. It is capable of supplying the same functionality that organizations are used to in their legacy environments. For example, high performance databases, application server grids, and batch processing.

Batch Processing and SOA Collide
The drivers that compelled business leaders 40 years ago are still relevant, and background processing certainly has a place in new development. The benefits of cost reduction, application efficiency, improved regulatory compliance, reduced SLA pressure, organizational agility, and process integration remain on the modern IT agenda.

And, despite technology gains, the cost of 100% real-time processing is still prohibitive. IT departments must implement solutions, not pure technologies, and so many organizations use a mixture of on-line and as-needed processing to suit their needs.

Batch processes need to be scheduled at pre-determined intervals with extensive logging and restart capabilities. They can also be very complex, involving invocation of many different routines/services based on the outcome of the last step of the job executed. Some of these job routines could be modernized into fine-grain web-services. Or, the complete batch job could be modernized into a coarse-grained web-service. As a result, there is a need for tighter integration between batch processes, job schedulers and other enterprise applications to provide the agility that business needs.

UC4 Software Provides Background Workload Automation for Oracle SOA Suite
UC4 Workload Automation Suite provides web services to initiate, monitor, and manage background and Oracle SOA Suite processes on the basis of calendar, date, time, or event. UC4 brings a highly adaptive solution to Oracle Modernization architecture, providing the framework to extend SOA processing to all applications. Together, Oracle and UC4 provide true end-to-end business processing.
Agile, hybrid processes are exactly what the enterprise will need in order to take advantage of the best choice tools that they have currently deployed or plan to implement. SOA-based pools of accessible web services (internal and external) and legacy systems will need to be integrated into business processes to create the complete solution.

Background workload automation fills the gap between traditional job scheduling and business process management by providing needed background flow control capabilities that the Oracle Modernization initiatives require.

Features for Oracle Modernization
UC4 provides a number of powerful features to provide performance and integration into Oracle Modernization Architecture including:

- Complete integration with Oracle applications such as Oracle e-Business Suite, JD Edwards Enterprise One, Oracle Retail, Oracle Utilities and PeopleSoft Enterprise.
- Native availability on most hosting infrastructures (operating system and application stack) for better alignment with IT strategy.
- Advanced technology based on an object and service oriented architecture, enabling event driven principles and web services.
- Unlimited scalability in terms of number of servers or applications that can collaborate to provide background workload automation services.

The background workload automation capabilities provided by UC4 are not limited to the scope of the Oracle Modernization project and can easily be spread throughout the entire enterprise environment.

An Extensive Range of Modernization Benefits
The combined UC4/Oracle solution provides benefits that address modernization drivers:

- Reducing cost - evolving to a background workload automation solution that is less costly to maintain.
- Gaining agility - responding to dynamic business changes proactively versus reactively, and ramping up in accordance with business needs, or rapidly incorporating new business units.
- Standardizing skills - providing a background workload automation solution for modern standards-based open systems solutions.
- Maintaining quality of service - optimizing background workload automation reliability by using a solution that is natively fault-tolerant and protects against catastrophic failures.

What about SOA and Oracle BPEL?
Oracle BPEL is a tool offering enterprises the ability to streamline and rethink existing business processes. Oracle BPEL coordinates web services actions. Where business processes are extremely complicated, Oracle BPEL on its own is not always enough. In addition, it is important to remember that not all processes are web services.

Most real-world integration scenarios involve multiple applications (or application components) which run on distinct physical machines across an enterprise network, and may be developed in different languages and run on different operating systems. The typical scenario for integration involves the flow of events and request/reply interactions between service-components distributed across a heterogeneous network.

UC4 provides an infrastructure platform that supports the intelligent routing of information, including both events and requests, across distributed service components over a network. UC4 also provides a framework (including APIs and tools) for creating business applications as a collection of modular service components.

Oracle and UC4 working together
UC4 Software is a proud member of the Oracle Modernization Alliance and has been an Oracle certified partner since 1993.