



JOB SCHEDULING NIGHTMARES

** And How You Can Avoid Them*

The Scenario:

For more than a year, the CEO of this options trading firm received a daily report every morning at 7:45AM detailing the previous day's trades and the firm's profitability. Windows Task Scheduler was used to schedule the delivery of this report. When the delivery of the report stopped one day, IT staff were left scrambling, trying to find out which machine the report was coming from and, more importantly, why it stopped.

The Problem -

Most scheduling errors occur when someone makes a change to the schedule. Finding the root cause of the issue and addressing it can be time-consuming and stressful.

The Solution:

JAMS is an enterprise job scheduling system that controls all of processes running across all systems from one console. If any job fails, JAMS alerts you so you can instantly respond and ensure the workflow continues. Through JAMS' audit controls, you can see what changes may have been made and who made them.



The Scenario:

With a large roster of small to medium sized businesses seeking help with 401k retirement plans, life and health insurance and asset management, this financial services company was running itself into the ground manually tracking and scheduling weekly, monthly and quarterly processing.

The Problem -

With so many different things to keep track of, it's easy to let important information slip through the cracks and make errors that can have some serious repercussions – for yourself and your clients.

The Solution:

JAMS enables the company to completely automate the end of day, week, month and quarter processing. A JAMS process can have an unlimited number of associated job and file dependencies, so that a job can depend on the completion of another job, the completion of a remote job or the value of a JAMS Variable. JAMS also checks the success of critical programs along the way and pages on-call staff if things aren't going as planned – so you can troubleshoot problems before they even get off the ground.


“ We've been using JAMS for about **15 years** and it's been very reliable. **I like the flexibility of the product and ease of use.** I can't think of anything that JAMS cannot do for us. It's a very good product.”

The Scenario:

Picture this: A manufacturing client orders raw goods from various locations world-wide to be delivered using numerous carriers (land, air and/or ocean) to their manufacturing sites - which are also world-wide. The client will also ship the finished product from the manufacturing sites to final destinations.

The Problem -

Getting all the data straight for just the one client can be mind-boggling enough as it is, but as one of the world's largest logistics and transportation companies, this organization has to keep track of and coordinate hundreds of clients, carriers, freight bills, and more, ensuring each part of the chain works smoothly together to keep customers happy.



This is exactly what
I have to deal with.
...HELP!

The Solution:

Fortunately, the Freight Bill and Audit area of the company relies on JAMS to process data for its clients. After receiving input from the carriers via EDI Batch/FTP feeds, the data is loaded into the data warehouse via batch processes and reports are generated based upon the output. These reports are then automatically distributed to the relevant parties so that customers know when products are shipped and delivered as well as when invoices are paid.

The Scenario:

For this organization, Windows Task Scheduler is the job scheduling tool of choice. The problem is, you need to be an Admin to use the program - which means that when they have a developer who needs to automate routines in his applications, they would need to give him Admin status.

The Problem -

Being designated an Admin on your company's network gives users the power to make changes and perform actions that can affect your entire infrastructure. How many people can you really trust with that power?

The Solution:

Thanks to detailed access control, JAMS is completely secure. For example, a user may be able to submit a job without being able to see the job definition. And you don't have to be an administrator to use JAMS - which means what you want to stay protected, stays protected.

“Everything, and I mean everything, is automated in JAMS. Backups, maintenance, everything runs in Jams. We have over 600 jobs running daily. If we need to change the schedule we change JAMS, not the job. It's great.”

Enterprise Scheduling Checklist

In distributed enterprises, it is difficult to overestimate the critical role job scheduling plays in keeping applications flowing smoothly and efficiently. Given that it is routine for tens of thousands of jobs to pass through a data center daily, a flexible, scalable job scheduler is more indispensable than ever.

The following is a detailed list of evaluation criteria that you can use to benchmark the features and functions of various job schedulers your organization is considering. This checklist provides a way to thoroughly assess how well a given product meets your needs now and in the future.

	VENDOR A	VENDOR B
Scheduling		
Date/time based scheduling		
Event based scheduling		
Ad hoc scheduling		
Multiple jobs can be tied together into a "stream"		
Job dependencies		
Job dependencies between different schedulers		
File presence, absence & available dependencies and events		
Variable comparison dependencies		
Hooks for user defined dependencies		
Workload Management		
Resource based workload management		
Supports queues to manage executing job counts		
Able to load balance across multiple servers		
Easy to add or remove servers from the environment		
Calendars		
Supports multiple, user defined calendars		
Dates are expressed in natural language syntax		
Dates can be passed to jobs in multiple formats		
Exception Management		
Supports notification via e-mail or user defined method		
Notifies of failed job		
Notifies of job running too long		
Notifies of job completing too quickly		
Notifies of job pending too long		
Notifies of job missing it's run window		
Integrated restart/recovery instructions		
Auditing		
Extensive history is kept of every job executed		
Powerful, complete history query capabilities		
Security		
Supports standard Windows identifiers and ACLs		
Passwords are encrypted in the database and on the network		
Ability to grant the right to submit a job that will run under a different Windows account		
Fine grain security		
Job Execution Environments		

Supports numerous "out of the box" execution methods		
SSH support		
Public/private key management		
Easily extensible execution methods to support any application or database.		
Able to pass multiple parameters to a job		
Multiple exit status handling options		
Able to scan log files for error or success patterns		
Reporting		
Extensive array of predefined reports		
Integrated report designer for custom reports		
Automatic report generation		
Many report output options - PDF, HTML, XLS, CSV, Text		
Application Integration		
Fully exposed .NET class library		
Drop in job submission menu control		
Easily customized job submission menu		
Event driven monitoring API		
PowerShell Support		
Extensive set of cmdlets with help		
Objects exposed via PowerShell Provider		
Supports executing PowerShell jobs		
Workflow Foundation Support		
Supports executing Workflows		
Can acquiesce idle Workflow processes		
Provides WF Activities for job scheduling		
Provides user interaction WF Activities		



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