maxScheduler Job Scheduling Enhancement

Your iSeries is extremely efficient at running jobs that operators submit to it, however these jobs often need to be repeated on a different day and time.

Often jobs can be missed or processed incorrectly due to human error or you may have equally important jobs that use a great deal of processor time and are better run out of normal hours. If true systems automation is implemented on an iSeries machine you can ensure that your system runs smoothly without requiring constant interaction.

maxScheduler is a user-friendly and highly functional batch management system and it offers a complete solution for batch management on a stand alone or networked iSeries machines.

As iSeries professionals will know, the automation of jobs is only a small part of the challenge of job scheduling. The major issues are around the flexibility offered by a job scheduling utility and the value adding benefits it provides that enable your schedules to be managed proactively and efficiently. This is where maxScheduler comes into its own.

Business Benefits

Productivity can easily be affected by managing your resources in a proactive manner, to ensure operators are not duplicating tasks unneccesarily. This along with improved customer and user satisfaction will help turn your organisation into an even smoother operation that will reduce your department's visibility to escalauting costs.

The main priority for job scheduling is to automate the batch jobs usually triggered on the fly by systems operators. This takes up valuable resources if your operators are inputting these jobs day and night when they could be working on other more valuable tasks for your organisation. Often the choice for any organisation is the manual submission of your batch jobs or by complex CL programs which, although effective, do not offer the true flexibility required. CL programs can be expensive to maintain and manage especially if your business is dynamic, demanding greater flexibility from your development teams to integrate additional jobs into the overnight batch run.

In a normal environment we come to expect an allocated margin of human error, as manual input of jobs is extremely exposed to this. These jobs can be entered on the wrong day, time or even completely missed from processing altogether. maxScheduler can help to prevent these all too regular occurrences that effect your organisation both physically and financially.

On some occasions you may be able to overcome the problems mentioned above. However, if a critical month-end accounting task is missed, a stock-count not run or an essential back-up not submitted your business may seriously suffer.

Technical Benefits

maxScheduler employs a unique real time run book that enables the complexity of your job scheduling requirements to be managed efficiently – whatever your particular needs and whatever your business throws at you.

Once a job is defined and its place set within the schedule, manual override is generally not something that you would recommend. Not so with maxScheduler. The real time run book allows you not just to view and understand the jobs that are scheduled for that particular time period, but also to make changes and amend the schedule in real time. Your credibility for problem solving and delivering solutions to the business will increase dramatically.

You can enquire on historical jobs - as maxScheduler holds complete job history and the run book can predict what jobs are going to run in the future. There is a run book override feature, allowing you to re-run historical jobs and change any attributes about a future job. For example you may want a job to be run 1 hour later than normal next time this job runs or you may want to run an extra command within a particular job.

maxScheduler allows you to do just that. Not only does maxScheduler enable you to build a schedule that meets the standard needs of your operation, but you can also use your creativity to endow that schedule with the intelligence it needs to manage any situation you can predict – exactly as you would want it managing.

Defining jobs within maxScheduler couldn't be easier too – or more robust! All standard features of a job definition can be set within maxScheduler - command to be processed, programs to call, library lists and job queues to use, etc. but you can also specify more advanced job scheduling such as job dependency management, job conditioning, nested and dependent groups. These all provide your business with the advanced job flow definition it needs. An additional enhancement to maxScheduler also includes the use of spool file banners on reports, these can be freeform or inserted into a distribution list to ensure that the right documents go to the right people. It should also be noted that the spool files can be duplicated or moved to multiple output queues for automated distribution.

Some systems require operators to enter data onto a screen, such as dates and times, which obviously can not be run as a normal batch job. To solve this issue we have developed an Interactive Scheduling option that can capture keystrokes or sessions for replay with batch job submission and all without operator intervention. This function supports all maxScheduler's normal and user defined variables, which gives you repetitive job automation at any time.

maxScheduler can schedule to a standard weekly pattern where you identify times on each day of the week for the job to run. You can also use date list scheduling where you simply identify a list of dates and times and the job will run when specified. There is also full support for cyclic scheduling. The standard cycles are daily, weekly, monthly and yearly but you can define your own cycles if required - and the cycles you define can be as complicated or as simple as you require! You can also use maxScheduler as a repository for jobs that do not run on a predictable frequency.

maxScheduler can offer unlimited flexibility to you to define standard schedules or the most off-the-wall, exceptional schedules you could possibly imagine.

Specifications

- Runs on any version of IBM OS/400
- Perpetual & Unlimited calendar
- Full job run history
- Real-time Run book
- Allowance for job conditioning
- Unlimited scheduling options
- Fully Networkable
- Full Integration with all other Maximise modules and your existing environment both inbuilt and through shipped OS/400 commands.

For further **information**
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