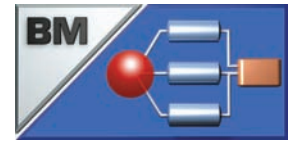


K+S IT-Services - Central job scheduling with BatchMan® in Solution Manager



K+S IT-Services GmbH – IT service provider and process co-designer of the K+S Group



K+S is one of the world's foremost suppliers of special and standard fertilizers, plant care and salt products. The consolidated subsidiary, K+S IT-Services GmbH, operates for them in Kassel, Germany the applications centrally for about 40 European sites in an SAP® environment with 12 live systems. Since 2005, K+S IT-Services GmbH has been working in a FlexFrame landscape, where servers from FSC (Fujitsu Siemens Computers) with Intel basis are used. FlexFrame was introduced in order to make managing the required IT infrastructure easier, to use resources more effectively and to be able to react to new business requirements more quickly. In the course of the switch, the job scheduling for the applications was transferred from the computer center/production into the application development.



JobScheduling in SAP® - Deciding to Use BatchMan®

After the evaluation phase, K+S IT-Services GmbH decided to introduce BatchMan® as the scheduler. The main reason for this decision was the complete integration of the scheduler into the SAP® System. Other reasons included the following:

- » Simple handling
- » Considerably lower maintenance costs
- » No additional hardware
- » Can also be used on development and test systems, thereby integrating into the ITIL Change Management
- » License costs only arise for live systems, not for development and test systems
- » Better graphics for network representations
- » Smooth transition to the FlexFrame landscape
- » Only minimal amount of training needed

„We found it quite pleasant to work with HONICO; the negotiations went smoothly. We also liked the close cooperation with the people at the technical product support, who helped answer detailed questions already during those first days on site.“

Regina Kählich, K+S IT-Services GmbH

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Evaluation - JobScheduling in SAP

Before introducing BatchMan®, TWS (Tivoli Workload Scheduler) from IBM on the hardware platform RS6000 in AIX was used for years at K+S IT-Services GmbH. Switching the system landscape on the basis of FSC Intel and the SLES9 (Linux) operating system required an upgrade to a more recent version of the scheduler. About the same time, the previous maintenance contract expired and more costs were expected due to changes in the licensing model. For this reason, K+S IT-Services GmbH decided to look for an alternative. Since the employees in the application development area were to take on a large part of the responsibilities and they were already familiar with SAP®, the new job scheduling system choice was obvious: BatchMan®, which is a solution fully integrated in SAP.

Implementation

First, BatchMan® was tested in December 2004 on a development system. During this phase, the concepts were mainly developed for job scheduling, for calendars, alerts, checkpoints, resources, RFC connections etc. In June 2005, BatchMan® was installed on the first live system. This was carried out before the actual switch from AIX to Linux. Concurrent with the transfer of the SAP® systems to FlexFrame, BatchMan® was installed step by step on all other SAP® systems. At the same time, the future BatchMan® users were trained. The switch of all SAP® systems was completed in July 2006. The last step was the transfer of all non-SAP® jobs on BatchMan® into the SAP® Solution Manager System. In October 2006, the TWS computers were switched off. Now the job control runs centrally in BatchMan® for all SAP® and non-SAP® systems via the Solution Manager system. During the switch, only two days were needed for on-site support. The rest of the collaboration took place via phone calls and e-mails directly with the technical BatchMan® Support.



Migration from TWS to BatchMan®

Since there is no migration tool for the migration from TWS to BatchMan®, K+S IT-Services GmbH used the opportunity to verify and optimize all processes. Here, kludges in TWS could be simplified using BatchMan® Tools. When transferring application jobs for the first live system, technical support from HONICO was on site. The other live systems were switched in collaboration with the application development. For this, two to six hours work were needed in each case. In the scheduling, there were no problems that could not be eliminated immediately.

Project Data

Live since July 2006

Employees:

1 employee from SAP® Basis is responsible for

- » Installation and maintenance of BatchMan®
- » Scheduling system jobs
- » Support for employees responsible for the application jobs
- » Approval of application jobs
- » Quality management
- » Training

Time needed in day-to-day business (without BatchMan® installation and upgrade): max. 2 hours a day (approx. 60 working days)

Eleven employees from application development are responsible for scheduling the application jobs. Time involved in the day-to-day business: max. 80 minutes