DATASHEET

Rethink automation.

UC4 Automates PeopleSoft Enterprise

Fast, Accurate, and Flexible Business Processing

With today's enterprises running an average of 100 to 300 mission critical applications, effective management of business processes across applications is essential. These growing interdependencies, coupled with increasing user demands, require a tool that integrates PeopleSoft Enterprise into a comprehensive process solution. When choosing a third-party scheduler for PeopleSoft, the decision needs to be based on the scheduler's ability to automate business processes across an entire enterprise.

Why The UC4 Platform?

The UC4 platform provides an Oracle validated integration with the PeopleSoft Process Scheduler in UNIX, Linux, and Windows environments. The integration leverages the PeopleTools interface, communicating with the PeopleSoft application server through the PeopleSoft Component Interface. Working with the PeopleSoft Process Scheduler, the UC4 platform launches jobs and processes, tracks their status, and retrieves output. The UC4 platform runs and monitors all PeopleSoft processes including SQR Reports, Application Engine, Crystal Reports, nVision, and Cobol SQL from one central console. The UC4 platform can run multiple Process Schedulers from a single point of control.

The UC4 platform can import PeopleSoft processes and jobs and automatically turn them into the UC4 platform modules. This significantly shortens implementation time. The UC4 platform can automatically populate inline bind variables, making it possible to automate processes that before could only be run manually.

What Sets The UC4 Platform Apart

What sets the UC4 platform apart from other schedulers, and has earned it the status of most innovative job scheduler, is its unique set of features that provide the most powerful, flexible, and comprehensive enterprise application automation environment in the industry.

- Object-oriented architecture
- Single point of control
- Cross application integration
- Conditional business rules
- Dynamic, data-driven automation
  Output scanning ▪ Workload balancing
- Output capture and distribution
- Migration between environments
- Reporting and auditing
- Scriptless programming
- Role-based security

These features apply to PeopleSoft, as well as all other applications in your enterprise environment.

Object-Oriented Architecture

To produce a true return on investment, an application automation tool must reduce the time it takes to develop and maintain business processes. The UC4 platform excels in this area through its objected-oriented architecture.

Objects such as printers, database logins, agents, and queues are defined once and stored in the UC4 relational database. The objects are then combined to define PeopleSoft processes and jobs. With the ability to directly access PeopleSoft process names and run control definitions, PeopleSoft process and job creation is reduced to minutes.

Object changes are made once, and the new definition automatically applied everywhere the object is used. The end result is a significant reduction in the time it takes to build and maintain processes and jobs and combine them into enterprise business processes.

Single Point of Control

The UC4 platform provides a single point of control for multiple PeopleSoft process schedulers, as well as all other enterprise applications. When a PeopleSoft process or job is eligible to run, the UC4 platform submits it to the appropriate PeopleSoft Process Scheduler to be executed. The UC4 platform monitors the status of the processes and displays the status in the UC4 Explorer window. A single Explorer window displays the status of all processes running on all PeopleSoft Process Schedulers and all applications, greatly simplifying the operator's job.

Cross Application Integration

Job streams can be created that include jobs from PeopleSoft as well as many other applications, UC4 Automates PeopleSoft Enterprise Fast, Accurate, and Flexible Business Processing creating a seamless job flow across applications. Cross application integration is key to creating seamless, fully automated enterprise business processes.

Conditional Business Rules

Full automation of PeopleSoft business processes depends on the ability to implement conditional business rules. The UC4 platform excels in this area, offering an extensive set of tools to define business rules that can be applied before, during, and after a process or job executes. Even the most complex set of rules can be modeled easily in the UC4 platform.

Dynamic, Data-driven Automation

True application automation requires the ability to interact with an application and its underlying data. Data might include inventories, sales orders, account balances, and any number of other types of information.

The UC4 platform has the unique ability to query any enterprise database, and execute "If...then" actions based on the values returned. This gives the UC4 platform tremendous power to execute PeopleSoft jobs based on the state of enterprise databases, and not just on a set date and time. For example, the UC4 platform can monitor inventory levels and when they reach a certain level, execute a PeopleSoft reorder business process. The result is automated business processes that execute when needed and in a minimal amount of time.

Output Scanning

Schedulers can retrieve only the standard statuses provided by the PeopleSoft API. The danger is that a process may complete with a SUCCESS status and not produce the correct output. This can happen when bad data is used at the front end of the process.

The UC4 platform solves this problem with output scanning. The UC4 platform can scan any type of fi le including data files, system output logs, and reports, and then change the process status in the UC4 platform based on the results. Scanning makes it possible to catch errors early in a business process when there is still time to correct the problem and complete the process within the allocated batch processing window.

Workload Balancing

With today's resource intensive applications, overloading servers is always a concern. PeopleSoft alone puts significant demands on a server. Throw in additional applications, and the situation can become challenging.

The UC4 platform includes several features that make it possible to manage the workload placed on servers: queues that monitor and control the number of jobs executed through the UC4 platform at any given time, agent capacity limits that control the total number of jobs that can be sent to any one server, agent groups that can distribute the load across a group of servers, and job priorities that ensure the most critical jobs are executed first.

Output Distribution

Reports are only useful when they get in the hands of staff that can act on them. The UC4 platform can automatically capture the report output from PeopleSoft jobs and other applications, and distribute the output via e-mail, printer, or other output device. Users can also view reports online directly from the UC4 client, and print the reports to their local network printers.

Migration

Migrating PeopleSoft business processes and jobs from a development environment to a test environment, and subsequently into production, can be one of the most difficult, time consuming, and error prone tasks in an implementation project. The UC4 platform greatly simplifies this task with its Export and Import utilities.

Migration is as easy as building a list of the objects to export in the development environment, running the export, moving the export file to the target environment, and importing the fi le. Export lists can be saved for consistent, repeatable exports. Mappings of objects whose names change from one environment to another can be created and saved as well. With the UC4 platform, migration becomes an integral part of the PeopleSoft application automation solution.

Reporting and Auditing

The UC4 platform includes an extensive set of reports providing information on development activities and operations. An integral Report Writer can be used to create custom reports based on data from the PeopleSoft database as well as any other enterprise database. The reports are an excellent way to track and audit activities in the system to document Sarbanes-Oxley compliance.

Scriptless Programming

Even today, many of the better known job schedulers are still script launchers. Their main strength is the ability to run scripts on more complex schedules than those available from the schedulers built into applications. But scripts are difficult and time-consuming to write and maintain.

The UC4 platform uses unique application interfaces to eliminate scripts and bring all of the UC4 platform features to every application, not just PeopleSoft. The interfaces perform the critical actions needed to execute a job: running the job, passing parameters, monitoring status, trapping error codes, and capturing output. This approach greatly reduces development time.

Role-based Security

When automating PeopleSoft and integrating it into your enterprise, there will be many different groups of people using the application automation tool. From a security standpoint, the tool should provide users access only to the areas of the product they require to do their job.

The UC4 platform uses role-based security, making it possible to give users edit or view only access to each specific object, and to restrict access to only the features they need. For example, an operator can be given access to run and monitor specific jobs, but not to create or edit jobs. Developers can be given privileges to create and edits jobs, and run them in the development environment, but be given view-only access in the test and production environments.

About UC4 Software

UC4 Software is the leading provider of intelligent service automation solutions that enable organizations to connect IT service delivery with business demand. Combining real-time intelligence with just-in-time execution ensures customers can automate processes that traverse on-premises, virtualized and cloud computing platforms at low risk and cost. More than 1,600 companies worldwide have successfully enhanced application processing performance and improved IT efficiency using UC4's business acceleration solutions. Customers include, American Suzuki Motor Corporation, Cadbury, eBay, Eastman Kodak, General Electric, Mattel, McGraw Hill, Panasonic, Robert Bosch, Sun Microsystems, Symantec, T-Systems and Verizon.

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