



Research Report

CA Workload Automation AE Certified with SAP Solution Manager

Introduction

In February 2014 at the CA Technologies Analyst Symposium, company CEO Mike Gregoire unveiled a major transformation for the company, shifting the focus away from growth through acquisition to using internal development resources to fuel innovation and achieve differentiation. Gregoire also revealed that the company planned changes in their go-to-market strategy, including strengthening partner relationships and offering new packaging and delivery options.

In the area of Workload Automation, CA Technologies has aggressively advanced this strategy with the April 2014 announcement of CA Workload Automation iDash, a predictive analytics tool that, from a single unified point-of-control, collects and correlates workload information so workloads can be prioritized based on business needs and required SLAs. Additionally, CA Workload Automation AE (CA WLA AE) integration with SAP represents another solution developed in-house (in conjunction with DataXstream, an SAP systems integration partner) and is an example of the company's continued commitment to its SAP partnership.

CA WLA AE version 11.3.6 (formerly AutoSys), CA Technologies' workload automation solution for unified, real-time workload scheduling across physical, virtual and cloud environments, has been certified by SAP for its integration with SAP Solution Manager. This enables users to manage and monitor jobs from within SAP Solution Manager for dynamic workload provisioning, and eliminates organizational silos between CA AutoSys and SAP teams, improving visibility and efficiency while reducing cost and complexity.

Background

CA Technologies' Workload Automation portfolio provides automated, self-service scheduling and monitoring of cross-enterprise workloads and includes four scheduling engines: (1) CA Workload Automation AE (2) CA Workload Automation DE (3) CA Workload Automation ESP Edition and (4) CA Workload Automation CA 7 Edition. SAP Solution Manager is a systems management solution from SAP that is designed to schedule and manage SAP (ERP, CRM, BI etc.) jobs. SAP Solution Manager, "ERP for IT" centralizes the management of these systems and the associated end-to-end business processes. Integrating CA Workload Automation AE with SAP Solution Manager enables jobs scheduled in CA WLA AE to be managed from within the SAP Solution Manager interface. This means that SAP Solution Manager administrators don't require additional training on CA WLA AE, and can quickly and easily schedule, monitor and document both SAP and external non-SAP jobs (such as SQL Server, Informatica, and Cognos) as well as manage business processes.

SAP CA Partnership

An overlapping customer base and customer demand for better integration and transparency between CA Technologies' and SAP's solutions is driving the partnership and integration strategy. Joint customers span multiple industries including manufacturing, automotive, beverage, and retail. This announcement represents another step on the roadmap for SAP/CA Workload Automation integration and is an example of the companies' ongoing trusted partnership.

The first step was the CA Workload Automation Agent for SAP, which enables SAP administrators to execute SAP jobs from all CA WLA scheduling engines. Future plans include new CA WLA AE integrations with SAP Process Integration and Business Intelligence solutions as well as the ability to manage HANA jobs and integrate with financial closing cockpit. In addition, strategic plans include providing common SAP integration capabilities/integrations for all 4 engines within the CA WLA portfolio (AE, DE, ESP and CA 7).

CA WLA AE and SAP Solution Manager Integration – A Closer Look

CA Workload Automation AE, certified by SAP for integration with its Solution Manager, allows customers executing enterprise-wide mission-critical workloads to take advantage of CA's Workload Automation solutions from within the SAP Solution Manager interface. This eliminates the need to manually import CA WLA AE jobs into SAP Solutions Manager and also enables the documentation of those jobs from within SAP Solution Manager. These capabilities give SAP application teams the ability to unify workload management across the enterprise, improving visibility, efficiency and productivity and driving down costs.

This integration enables a wide range of use cases including:

- Job Scheduling
 - Standalone job scheduling for simple job creation/modification
 - Job documentation including both SAP and external jobs in SAP's Project Documentation application
 - Detailed Job Request feature enables business users to request the creation, modification, and deletion of jobs, and is fully integrated with SAP SOLMAN Incident Management and Change Management
- Job Monitoring to enable business users to monitor/manage job execution
 - Comprehensive job listing of job executions (SAP and non-SAP)
 - Business Process Monitor provides proactive rule-based SAP BPmon notifications from CA WLA AE job execution

Summary Observations

As applications and workloads become increasingly complex, and as businesses adopt private, public and hybrid cloud environments, managing and prioritizing workloads for optimal performance and availability can be an overwhelming task for IT administrators. Integration with other vendors' applications may require administrators to learn new management tools, decreasing efficiency and productivity. By automating tasks and providing integration between enterprise applications that span on and off-premise infrastructures, organizational silos are eliminated and workload management is seamless and transparent.

SAP continues its leadership position in key markets, holding the largest market share in both ERP and Business Intelligence and Analytics software in 2013 (Source: Gartner 2014). CA Technologies is able to leverage this strength and provide added value to joint customers through its commitment to integration with the SAP product portfolio.

CA Technologies' background in systems management positions them well in the growing market for secure, automated, cross-enterprise, hybrid cloud-enabled workload automation tools. This heritage combined with a revamped strategy that embraces innovation, proactive management, a renewed emphasis on partners (like SAP) and channels, and "as-a-service" delivery models for many of its software products, bodes well for CA Technologies' future.