Digital Business Automation Transformation

Transitioning legacy automation tools to a robust solution that can improve your overall automation strategy
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Executive Summary

In today’s digital-first business world, it’s essential to keep pace with the rapid evolution of digital technologies. That means bridging your current infrastructure, data, and applications with modern digital-first technologies. It also means delivering applications and new business services faster by supporting DevOps and big data initiatives while ensuring security and scalability.

You can meet this challenge by embracing Digital Business Automation—the next wave of IT automation. Digital Business Automation builds upon and bridges existing infrastructure, data, and application technology platforms with new digital-first technologies and processes.

A recent BMC survey of 650 IT decision makers in 12 countries found that 92 percent believe adopting Digital Business Automation across the enterprise is a business imperative—the only way to keep up with technological advancement.

Control-M provides a powerful vehicle for transitioning to Digital Business Automation. With Control-M, you can move beyond traditional workload automation to take advantage of modern IT technologies and processes that enhance service delivery, boost employee productivity, and accelerate application deployment.
TRANSFORMING YOUR AUTOMATION ESTATE

The vast majority of companies do not have sufficient automation technology for their digital transformation projects and needs. Companies are relying on automation tools and technologies that were purchased from vendors in good faith 20 to 30 years ago, or were built using internal skills and readily available tools that were not meant to operate as an enterprise-class automation platform.

Many of the vendors from which companies purchased automation tools have been acquired by other companies, stagnated in their functionality development, lost intellectual assets, or are not evolving. As a result, these tools are unable to meet the challenges that digital transformation, DevOps, CI/CD automation, Big Data (Hadoop), Cloud, and other IT streamlining technologies are presenting to the business.

It is imperative that companies look to consistently evolving automation technologies that will be able to morph and change as your company morphs and changes to meet business goals. Control-M is the only solution that has kept up with the ever-evolving IT landscape to provide state of the art automation functions in the new IT infrastructures that customers are leveraging to accomplish digital business transformations.

BMC has continually enhanced Control-M over the years, evolving it from its origins as a mainframe batch scheduler to a distributed job scheduler and then to a workload automation solution. Now BMC has further evolved Control-M, enhancing it with capabilities that power the transition to the next wave of IT automation. There are four major phases in the evolution of Digital Business Automation. Figure 1 shows the characteristics of applications, data, and infrastructure in these phases.

To transition to Digital Business Automation, you must address three major challenges, as illustrated in Figure 2:

- **Accelerated applications**, meaning rapid-fire delivery of new applications and updates while maintaining reliability and security
- **Many disparate data sources** with multiple formats, and unstructured data
- **Increasing infrastructure complexity** resulting from rapidly evolving computing platforms such as private, public, and hybrid clouds, software-defined architectures, containers, etc.
Control-M automates and manages business application batch services at the nexus of infrastructure, data, and applications to address these challenges. Moreover, Control-M integrates with and builds upon your existing infrastructure, data, and application technology platforms. Consequently, you can leverage your infrastructure investment while transitioning to modern technologies in an incremental fashion. This approach also allows you to keep business processes running reliably and securely throughout the transition.

“We harness world-leading systems to provide our clients with an extraordinary service. Control-M allows us to integrate and unify all these systems where no natural integration existed.”

Tasliem Williams, Senior Manager of System Administration, Maitland Group

The payoff is substantial. Control-M simplifies and automates complex workflows to help you deploy new services faster, while significantly reducing operating costs. BMC customers report that Control-M reduces workflow deployment time by up to 80 percent and slashes administrator time from months to days.

“When we look at how much work we push through our environment running multiple platforms, we estimate that we would need 30 full-time personnel working seven days a week to do the amount of work that our team of six does with Control-M.”

Don Snios, Senior Manager of Operations and Scheduling, Ingram Micro
AUTOMATION CONSOLIDATION – METHODOLOGY & MIGRATION

Digital Business Transformation projects require automation that is robust, scalable, and adaptive. It is nearly impossible for any digital transformation project to move forward with disparate toolsets that come from different vendors, do not integrate with one another, and do not have the adaptive capabilities needed to change course as the business changes course. This is why you need to consolidate your automation from vendor tools and home-grown solutions to a Digital Business Automation platform.

At BMC Software, we know how important automation consolidation projects are to your business. We have done over 2,000 automation consolidation and migration projects with customers of many sizes, and in multiple industries. We’ve helped companies transition to Control-M from tools from companies like CA Technologies, IBM, Allen System Group, Tidal, and Redwood along with platform-based tools such as Microsoft Windows Task Scheduler, CRON, OOZIE (Hadoop), SAP R/3, and PeopleSoft.

BMC’s transition methodology starts with planning. Every automation consolidation/migration project we do starts with two specific steps:

1. **Understand the current automation estate** – Collection and review of all the automation tools in use in a given customer environment, interfaces being used, types of automation being run, homegrown interfacing that is being used, and other specific customer requirements to understand the automation needs of the customer now and in the future.

2. **Create a Rough Order of Magnitude statement** – Taking the collected information and analyzing it to create a baseline migration time frame and cost model.

Once the steps above are completed, a full review of our findings are given to a customer. The report ensures the customer is completely informed on the project scope, how long it would take to execute (including estimates for use of internal customer resources), and projected costs.

All automation consolidation/migration projects are customized to a customer’s environment, current automation tool sets, and automation needs. As a general representation, there are two base types of automation consolidation/migration projects:

- **Advisory Consolidation/Migration** – For customers with the resources to execute their own validation and testing tasks with only expert coaching and support. BMC Consulting provides advisory services designed to enable and empower you to execute the majority of the most labor-intensive tasks. The advisory-level service includes BMC supported planning, architecting, product installation, and preliminary migration activities, as well as onsite support at strategic times during the remainder of the project for a subset of the current automation estate.

- **Comprehensive Consolidation/Migration** – This is BMC Software’s most commonly used service offering. BMC experts lead all primary project phases and supply resources to execute a majority of the project tasks. Key activities of the service include:
  - Solution design workshops
  - Product installation and configuration
  - Environment migration
  - Schedule and execution validation
  - Parallel testing
  - Production transition and go-live support
  - Comprehensive knowledge transfer

After the Automation Estate Review, Rough Order of Magnitude Statement, and agreement on the type of project required, a statement of work will be created to outline the scope of the project, services licensing terms, and other terms and conditions needed as part of a consolidation/migration project engagement with BMC Customer Success.

After the statement of work is created, agreed to, and signed by BMC and the customer, a project plan will be created to begin the engagement. As part of the engagement, BMC uses internal and partner-based expertise to execute the tasks on the project plan. If there is anything found during the execution of the project plan that would have a material impact, a change request will need to be made. Change requests will be reviewed by both BMC Customer Success and the customer to understand any issues the change may create and any project timeline changes required to accommodate the change after approval by both parties.
CONVERSION/MIGRATION TOOLS

Consolidation/migration projects are part art and part science. At the heart of the science of consolidation/migration projects are conversion and migration tools. Every vendor will tell you that they have conversion and migration tools that will take care of the conversion and migration of your automation processes. However, no tool does a perfect conversion, which is why consolidation/migration projects are part art and part science. You will also notice that most vendors do not share these tools with you or teach you how to use them should you need to do another consolidation/migration project due to a specific business need (i.e., an acquisition of a company).

This is where BMC Software and Control-M diverge from the industry. The conversion and migration tools used for any consolidation/migration project are included as regular functionality of Control-M. Our conversion and migration tools have their own development and support teams and continue to evolve as we do more projects and as our market changes. The conversion and migration tools are documented and available to any licensed Control-M customer and can be used by the customer to do their own conversions and migrations should the need arise. This is not true with the vast majority of other vendors.

But, as mentioned before, no conversion/migration tool is perfect. These tools are meant to do the “heavy lifting” of a consolidation/migration project, not the entire conversion in a fully automated way. Control-M’s conversion and migration tools have a very high conversion rate, and the Rough Order of Magnitude statement uses this conversion rate as a basis to understand the amount of time it would take to convert/migrate to the Control-M product and assign a services rate cost. As BMC Customer Success continues to do consolidation/migration projects, they provide input to our conversion/migration tools development team to help to continue to perfect our conversion and migration tools. Further information on the Control-M Conversion Tool is available on our website.

RISK MITIGATION – STICK TO THE PLAN

Conversion, consolidation, migration, replacement; whatever you want to call your project, it is normal to embark on this kind of project with a certain amount of concern regarding risk to your business. Your job scheduling/workload automation toolset is an integral part of the execution of your daily business. At BMC, we take these projects as seriously as you do. We have built a planning process that is extremely reliable, conversion and migration tools that are fully transparent and dependable, a services partner network that has expertise with all the major job scheduling/workload automation tools in the marketplace, and internal professional services team that is second to none. Over 2,000 customers have used our Control-M professional services practice to move from products like CA-AutoSys, CA-7, CA-Scheduler, CA-Manager, CA-Automic, CA-Appworx, CA-UC4, CA-Job Management Option, IBM TWS/z & TWS/d, Tidal, ASG-ZEKE, ASG-Zena, and many others. Our professional services group has moved customers from platform-based automation solutions such as Microsoft Task Scheduler, CRON, OOZIE (Hadoop), SAP R/3 SM37 & 38, Oracle PeopleSoft Process Scheduler, and homegrown solutions as well. It is all about what this section’s heading says, “Stick to the Plan”. Your project will be properly scoped and planned for a successful completion to meet your goals and your timeframes and executed by high quality resources that understand your incumbent toolset and Control-M, and facilitate the execution of your project the right way.

CONCLUSION

BMC Software and Control-M are industry leaders. BMC Customer Success and our associated services partners have helped build this leadership position through a commitment to delivering conversion and migration tools that are reliable and continuously evolving, while ensuring your automation consolidation/migration project will be executed successfully. Over 2,000 customers can't be wrong. You can see the successes of our customers on the Case Studies/Success Stories page on our website.

Let us help you achieve digital transformation by moving to Control-M Digital Business Automation!
FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about how Control-M can facilitate your digital transformation, join us at bmc.com/it-solutions/digital-business-automation and https://jobsascode.io/