BMC Control–M for Oracle Retail

Quick implementation and superior management for the retail applications that serve your brand

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Organizations choose Oracle® Retail® to perform business-critical functions like managing merchandise, pricing, and point-of-sale processing. All these functions are delivered as batch programs. To execute these functions successfully in the correct sequence and capture output for problem analysis, extensive scripting is required. This approach is very time consuming, which leads to delays during implementation, and it requires ongoing investment for support and suffers from ongoing operational problems due to complexity and poor visibility.

THE BMC SOLUTION

BMC Control-M for Oracle Retail is an application integration module that extends Control-M Workload Automation with built-in knowledge of the Oracle Retail environment and adds capabilities for building and running Oracle® Retail Merchandising System® and Oracle® Retail Price Management® batch services. This brings the power and simplicity of Control-M to managing Oracle Retail batch workflows.

REDUCE IMPLEMENTATION TIME

Writing and testing the scripts used to run Oracle Retail processes consume as much as 30% of the time spent by application developers when implementing Oracle Retail. Control-M provides a wizard-like graphical form for defining jobs and their parameters. The process is simple and intuitive for Oracle Retail users while also completely familiar for Control-M users. Additionally, Control-M automatically processes program return codes ensuring jobs wait for successful execution of their predecessors. When errors do occur, Control-M interprets Oracle retail return codes into meaningful error messages.

INCREASE SECURITY

Many Oracle retail processes require user name and password credentials to be provided. Control-M secures this sensitive information within its connection profiles to avoid exposure that may become a source of security breaches or audit failures.

MANAGE AND VIEW JOB EXECUTION PROGRESS

During job execution, Control-M provides a rich graphical operational environment. All jobs are shown in a flow diagram that visualizes progress, relationships, priorities, and the business-relevant flow of processing. Full operational control over job execution is provided, including Kill, Restart, and multithreading support, from a single easy-to-use graphical solution.

KEY BENEFITS

- Save up to 30% of the time and cost required to implement Oracle Retail batch services
- Gain improved operational visibility into the execution of Oracle Retail batch services
- Manage composite batch workflows consisting of Oracle Retail and other enterprise applications
- Meet Oracle Retail batch service SLAs with proactive batch service monitoring and early notification of potential errors
- Empower business users to manage their Oracle Retail application workload with a non-technical web application or a mobile app
- Ensure all audit and governance requirements are easily met

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Define Oracle Retail jobs via a simple to use, graphical form
- Automatically handle return codes without scripting
- View job progress, manage restarts and job threading
- Manage business-relevant service levels
- Get a single, enterprise view for Oracle Retail and all other enterprise applications
- Analyze future activity with statistics-based predictive forecasting
- Manage file transfers that may be part of Oracle Retail business services

SIMPLE ACCESS TO JOB OUTPUT

Oracle Retail manages job output in complex file structures that delay and complicate debugging and problem analysis.

Control-M automatically retrieves native Oracle Retail job output so that it is available directly from the Control-M user interfaces. This speeds up and simplifies access to the information required to fix Oracle Retail problems. Since this capability is provided for all Control-M job types, programmers and on-call staff use one simple interface to access output for Oracle Retail, file transfers, relational database queries, and all other Control-M jobs that may be part of the composite batch business service.

MANAGE SERVICE-LEVEL AGREEMENTS WITH REAL-TIME SIMULATION

SLA definitions are embedded in this view so that when errors arise, you immediately see relative priorities and potential business impact. All workload in the enterprise is managed within this single view so all relationships among Oracle Retail jobs as well as dependencies and connections to other applications or file transfers are also shown.

Once a problem is reported, what-if scenarios provide real-time simulation of potential fixes so that the best approach can be formulated through iterative experimentation within a "virtual" sandbox that insulates the production environment.

BUILT-IN FILE TRANSFER

Moving files nowadays is an essential component of batch processing, frequently used to provide input or to disperse the output of applications. With Control-M, file transfers are just another supported job type so they are built and managed just like Oracle Retail. It's simple to create a flow with Oracle Retail, File Transfer, and any other supported job types. Control-M then makes sure the specified files are transferred securely, efficiently, and successfully.

SELF-SERVICE FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

Many business users responsible for pricing, store management, and similar retail functions need to have insight into the status of Oracle Retail processing. Control-M Self-Service gives these users a simple web application that lets them manage their application workload. They see only the services they are interested in. The view is business-oriented with names and descriptions that are meaningful to business users and that require only minutes of training.

MOBILITY

The same business-oriented service view is available on iOS and Android™ devices using a dedicated app.

SIMPLE CHANGE FOR APPLICATION DEVELOPERS

When developers and business analysts create or modify production workflows, they usually have to submit changes to schedulers using unstructured and sometimes unaudited request methods like Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheets or Visio® diagrams. Control-M Workload Change Manager is a simple web application that automates and simplifies the creation of application workflows, resulting in faster application implementation and improved service delivery.

GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING

Control-M logs and captures all events, user actions, and changes made to the environment and to job definitions. All this information is available via the Control-M Reporting Facility, which provides both interactive and batch modes for generating reports.

Reporting is used to satisfy audit requirements and produce management reports and operational reports, which can map trends in service level attainment or track job execution volume.

To learn more about BMC Control-M for Oracle Retail, visit bmc.com/control-m.

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