

EMA RadarTM Report for Workload Automation and Orchestration 2023

ActiveBatch by Redwood Vendor Profile

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Intelligent Automation

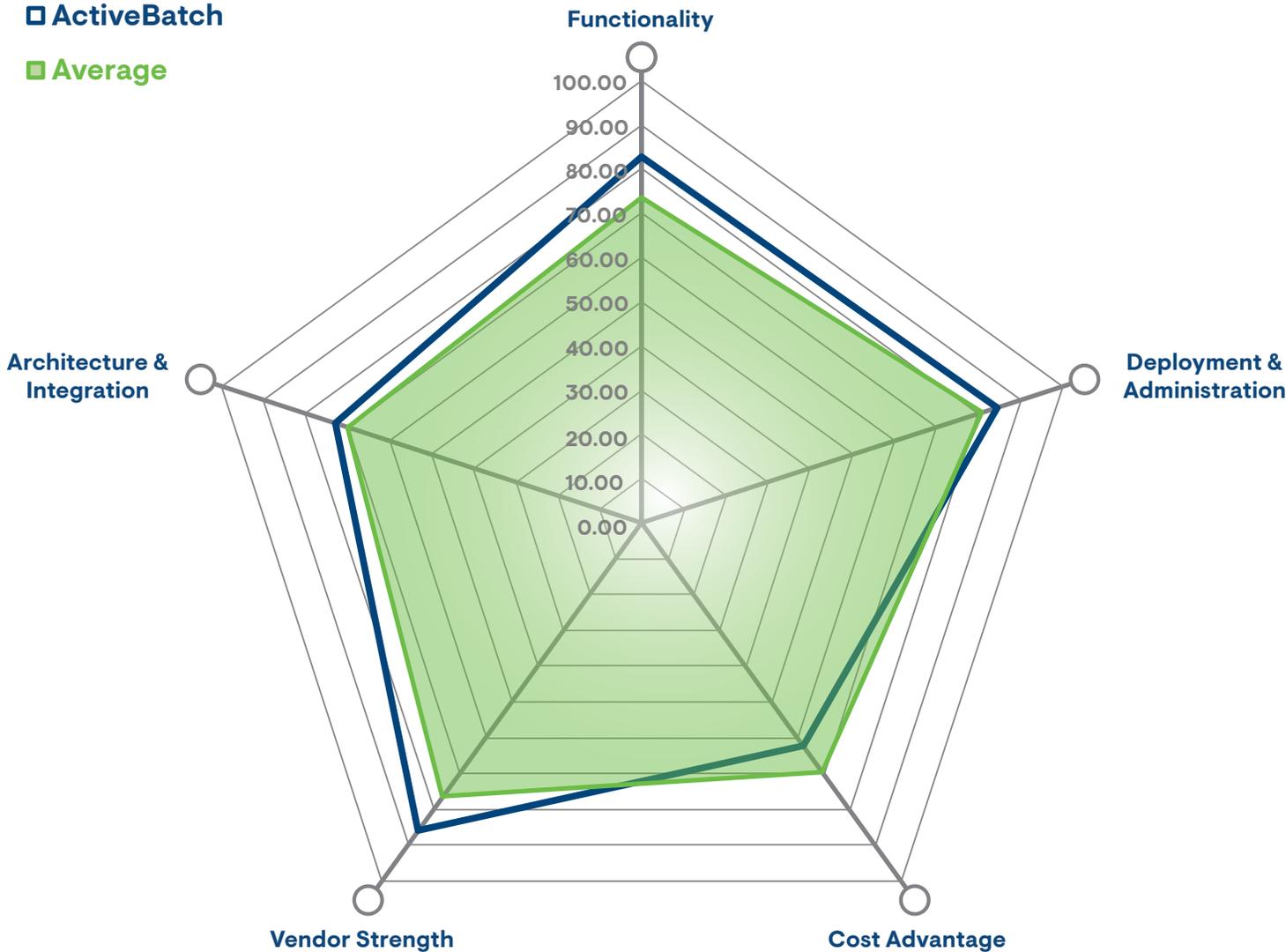




Overview

ActiveBatch by Redwood is once again a Value Leader. ActiveBatch offers a user-friendly workload automation (WLA) platform that enables effortless automation of business and IT processes. It requires no coding or development skills, providing ready-to-use connectors, Windows support, a super REST adapter, and prebuilt actions. The platform boasts a no-code drag-and-drop interface with guided tools for creating workflows. It facilitates workload optimization through job allocation, dynamic scaling, and cloud provisioning. Users can refine workflows with a graphical Workflow Optimizer and Simulation Mode. ActiveBatch provides performance recommendations via background analysis, enhancing efficiency. It offers monitoring dashboards, a self-service portal, SLA monitoring, and notifications for centralized control. It's an efficient upgrade from in-house systems and OS schedulers.

Redwood Software merged with Advanced Systems Concepts, Inc. (ASCI) in February 2022, adding the ActiveBatch product to Redwood's portfolio. ASCI was founded in 1981 in Hoboken, New Jersey, and became the first of several automation software companies with a strategic investment by Turn/River Capital, a leading technology-focused growth equity firm, in November 2019. The merger came after a similar investment in Redwood Software by Turn/River. Today, Redwood Software includes ActiveBatch, Tidal, and RunMyJobs workload automation and orchestration products.



Architecture



Key Features Summary

Intuitive Drag-and-Drop UI

ActiveBatch simplifies automation with a drag-and-drop interface and a diverse library of ready-to-use job steps. It supports various enterprise applications like Informatica, Dynamics AX, SAP, and cloud services, like AWS and Azure. The no-code approach ensures easy workflow creation while maintaining lifecycle management, including versioning and audit trails.

Super REST API Adapter

This is an enhanced feature that enables teams to rapidly build API connections to any application, server, or service. APIs and associated processes can be developed and maintained in a single window to gain end-to-end visibility. Developers and other IT resources can build API calls to any endpoint, meaning they spend less time integrating new tools.

Flexible Job Scheduling

ActiveBatch offers diverse scheduling choices, including advanced date and time calculations. It optimizes job execution beyond scheduling, using constraint-based logic. Jobs activate once specific conditions, like data availability or task completion, are satisfied. Real-time triggers are available too, responding to events like file system changes, ServiceNow actions, system startups, and more.

Action Center and Health Service

The ActiveBatch Health Service continuously analyzes workflows and system performance and recommends actionable improvements to keep automations optimized and running at peak efficiency. Users get expert advice they can put into practice without needing to be experts themselves.

Simple Standardization With Job Templates

Common workflows can be saved as job templates that can be shared across automated processes for higher consistency and greater efficiency. Instead of manually updating individual jobs, changes made to templates automatically flow through to all processes that reference them.

Self-Service Portal

ActiveBatch empowers business and non-technical users to view status and execute their own processes through a simple web interface. Business users can be more proactive and self-sufficient, which frees up IT time from routine status requests and ad hoc job executions.

CyberArk Integration

ActiveBatch offers streamlined management of user account data and access credentials through integration with CyberArk. This integration ensures secure retrieval of credentials for automated tasks from a centralized source, reducing the need for manual updates in individual processes when authentication details change in CyberArk.

Managed Smart Queues

ActiveBatch gives organizations the ability to dynamically scale their workload processing capacity automatically and cost-effectively. Smart Queues automatically provision temporary cloud virtual machines that only run while they process the workload, minimizing costs compared to “always on” servers and processing capacity.

ActiveMFT

ActiveMFT is an interoperable managed file transfer solution that works with any protocol and is platform-independent. The architecture is designed to support both compliance and high-availability needs.

Evaluation Summary

Deployment & Administration

Ease of Deployment	
Deployment Time/Effort	Outstanding
Conversion Facilities	Strong
Job Discovery and Import	Outstanding
Staff Training	Outstanding

Support & Services

Customer Support	Strong
Professional Services	Outstanding

Ease of Administration

Console Ease of Use	Outstanding
Upgrade Process	Solid
Test Environments	Solid
Automation of Management	Outstanding

Cost Advantage

Flexibility of Pricing Model	Outstanding
Pricing Scenarios	\$\$
SaaS Availability	None

Architecture & Integration

Architecture	
Business Focus	Outstanding
Scalability	Outstanding
Dynamic Workload Placement	Strong
Breadth of Platform Support (including agentless)	Outstanding
Breadth of Application & Database Support	Strong
Disaster Protection	Outstanding
Containerized Workloads	Strong
Container Deployment	Limited
Mainframe Support	Solid
Shared Server/Multi-Team Support	Outstanding

Integration & Interoperability

Comprehensive API	Strong
Cloud Integration	Strong
CMDB Integration	Solid
ITPA Integration	Solid
Infrastructure Configuration and Observability	Outstanding
MFT Integration	Outstanding
Data Pipeline Integration	Solid
Communication/Collaboration Integration	Limited
Heterogeneity Across Environments	Outstanding
DevOps Support	Strong
MLOps Support	Solid

Functionality

Features	
Automation Design Flexibility	Outstanding
End-to-End Monitoring	Outstanding
Compliance Management	Outstanding
Triggering	Outstanding
Self-Service Portal	Outstanding
Forecasting, Analytics, Reporting	Outstanding
Alerting	Outstanding
Security	Strong
What-If Scenarios	Solid
Conditional Logic and Auto-Remediation	Outstanding
Logging and Auditability	Outstanding
Business User Features	Outstanding
Big Data Support	Strong
RPA Orchestration	Limited

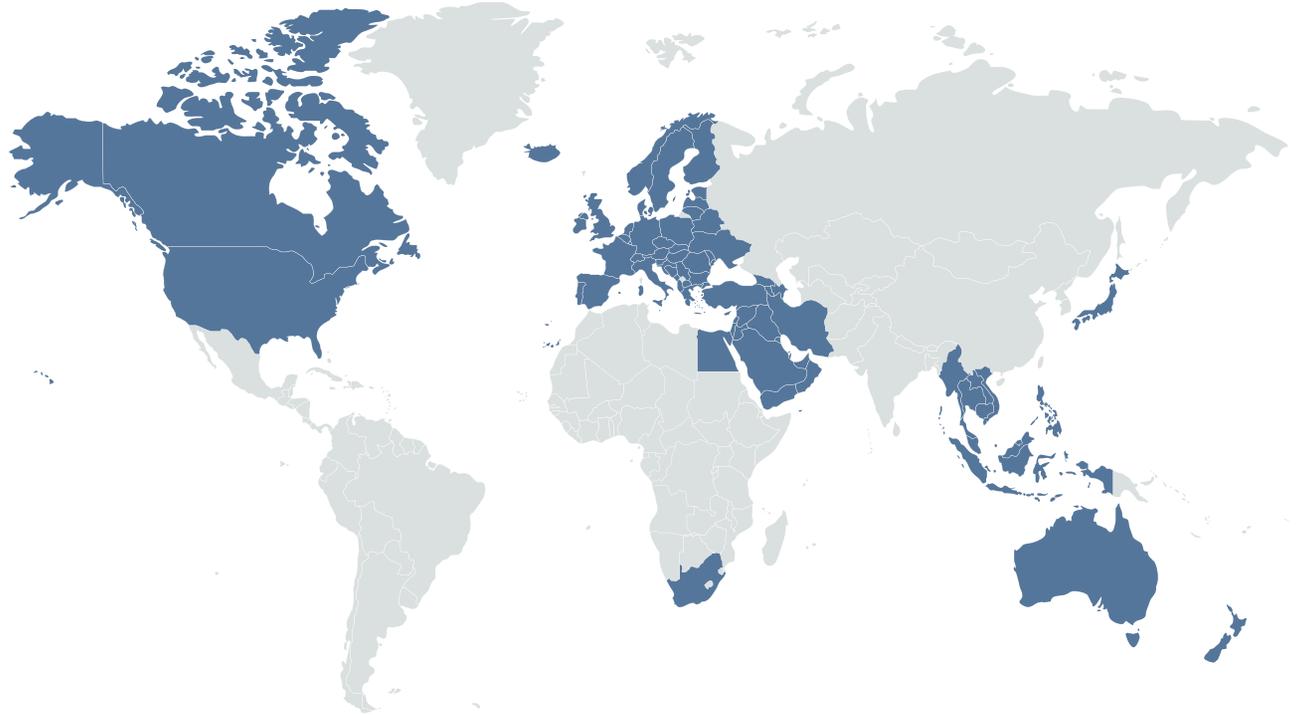
Ease of Use

Simplicity of GUI	Outstanding
SLA and Policy Awareness	Outstanding
Root Cause Analysis	Strong
Mobile Device Support	Outstanding
Language Support	Solid
Available Help Resources	Outstanding



Vendor Strength	
Vision	Outstanding
Strategy	Outstanding
Financial Strength	Outstanding
Research and Development	Strong
Partnerships and Channel	Strong
Market Credibility	Outstanding
Geographic Coverage	Outstanding

Active Clients



Product Available In:

English, though ActiveBatch supports the usage of world language and non-English characters in the naming of ActiveBatch objects, within job log files, within documentation and commenting fields, etc. where input by the user.

Number of Customers:



Favorite Features From Customer Interviews



The ServiceNow integration allows us to automate tickets for many production issues.

We used the API to build out our own dashboards for non-scheduling team users.

Anyone who cannot get value out of this product at this price point is certainly doing something wrong.

The Operations View makes it easy to see jobs in queue, jobs in flight, jobs completed.



ActiveBatch is the glue that holds all the data processes together.

I like how easy it is to set up repeatable processes.

We like the robustness of alert notifications.

ActiveBatch can run jobs in parallel and monitor it all so you know what is going on. You can launch a dozen Cron tabs in parallel, but you cannot monitor that. Our 6.5-hour job was reduced to 40 minutes.



We take advantage of load balancing and round robin.

The Reference Jobs function is a favorite feature. Using a Master Job for setup, you can change the master and all those that reference it change.

Internal variables make it very powerful.

The UI is very easy to use, and it is easy to train others.



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