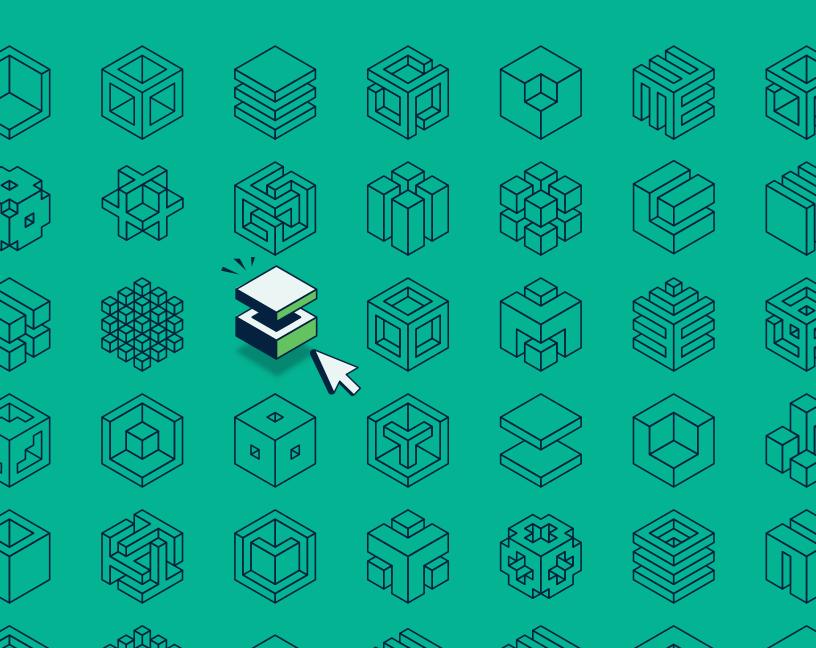
Workload automation software

Comparison guide



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Why embrace automation?

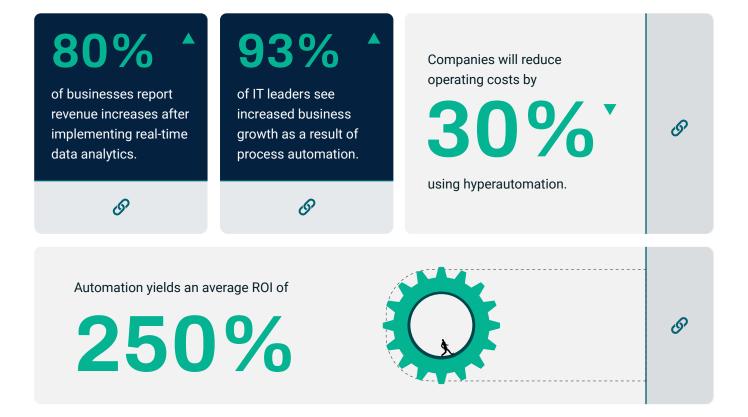
45% of CEOs think their companies won't be viable in 10 years, citing rampant inefficiency as one reason for this prediction.

The most obvious way to protect a business from collapse in today's world, you might say, is to make use of the abundance of automation technology on the market. But simply adopting single-function automation tools isn't the answer — as many leaders of well-known organizations have discovered. Of the same pool of CEOs, 59% say their technology investments haven't fully delivered for multiple reasons, including integration complexity, the technology not meeting expectations and data issues.

Driving real change with new software requires an awareness of success factors like the flexibility of supporting infrastructure, a platform's ability to build and maintain end-to-end processes and how easily it can scale.



When you get technology right, the outcomes are loud and clear.



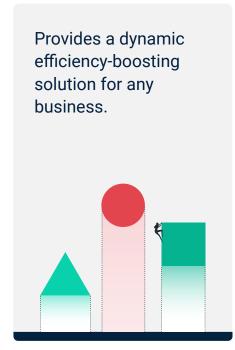
Because they can support tangible results for the long term, workload automation (WLA) solutions are a cornerstone technology for evolving businesses.

The unique power of workload automation

Workload automation is not merely about scheduling jobs. It's about choreographing an intricate dance of processes across diverse environments, from on-premises services to the cloud and big data applications to ERP systems.

Automated process orchestration helps your IT team and organization as a whole break free from the restrictions, time constraints and costs of manual work.

Modern workload automation:



Transcends traditional job scheduling boundaries with adaptive solutions.

Offers a competitive edge for organizations of all sizes and in all sectors.

Selecting the right tool for your specific organizational needs and strategic goals is key to attaining your desired results. Ideally, your platform will be flexible, easy to integrate and customize and capable of managing large volumes of interdependent processes.

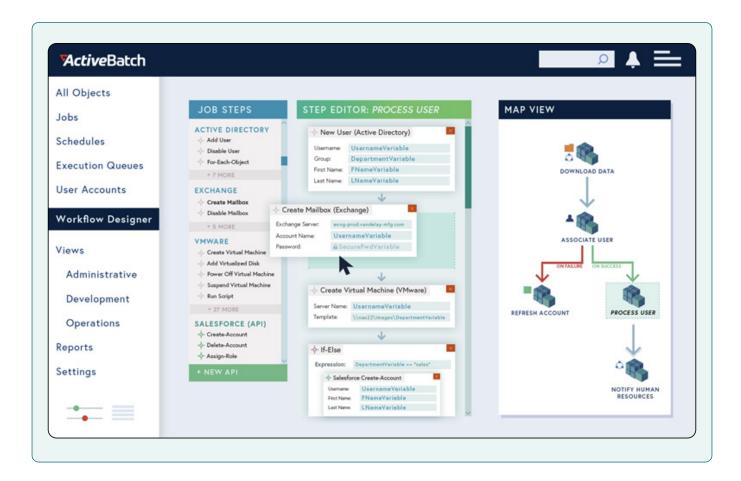
Compare workload automation tools

Below, you'll find a list of enterprise job schedulers, task scheduling tools and workflow automation solutions. First, an overview of how they compare, then a breakdown of each.

Solution	What it is	What it does	Standout feature	Deployment options
ActiveBatch by Redwood	Workload automation and enterprise job scheduling	Manages workloads, processes and data between disparate endpoints	Super REST API Adapter that connects to any endpoint with a REST API	On-premises with the option to deploy cloud-based schedulers and execution servers
RunMyJobs by Redwood	Enterprise job scheduling for hybrid and cloud-based workloads	Process orchestration for cloud-native applications and systems	Fully hosted infrastructure through SaaS offering	SaaS or on-premises
Tidal by Redwood	Enterprise workload automation and workflow orchestration	Complex workflow scheduling and advanced workload visualization	APM Data Stream for feeding Tidal data to a data warehouse	On-premises or in the cloud
Stonebranch Workload Automation	Workload automation for IT operations	Centralizes automation silos	Intelligent, event-based scheduling	SaaS or on-premises
JAMS Scheduler	Enterprise workload automation	Automation and job scheduling to support business processes	Flexible scripting capabilities for custom integrations and APIs	On-premises
VisualCron	Automation and task scheduling tool	Task scheduling in Windows environments	100+ pre-built tasks for easy scheduling	Windows operating system
Z-Cron	Task scheduler	Schedules routine tasks and backups	Task monitoring with email notifications	Windows operating system
Advanced Task Scheduler	Multi-function Al task scheduler	IT network operations	FTP and batch capabilities	Windows operating system
System Scheduler	Task scheduler	Organization-wide deployments	Action scheduling in third-party applications	Windows operating system
Task Till Dawn	Task scheduler	Business or personal desktops	Import/export to exchange tasks	Windows or macOS
Robolntern	Robotic office automation and task scheduling	Small business and IT task automation	Database and file transfer functionality	Windows operating system
Flux	Job scheduler and file orchestrator	IT workflow automation, including batch jobs and file transfers	Web-based monitoring with automated error handling	On-premises or cloud-based
Rundeck	Runbook automation	Business, IT operations and help desks	Connects infrastructure and monitoring tools	On-premises

01. ActiveBatch by Redwood





Overview

ActiveBatch by Redwood is an extensible enterprise job scheduler that enables users to orchestrate IT and business processes, including managed file transfer (MFT), data warehousing/ETL, ERP, CRM and much more.

ActiveBatch connects to virtually any endpoint through its Job Steps Library or Service Library. It provides dozens of out-of-the-box features and capabilities for automating and orchestrating across functions, including a Super REST API Adapter for creating job steps without custom scripting.

This allows users to manage third-party applications, including Windows Task Scheduler, cron jobs and robotic process automation tools from a central coordination point. By orchestrating applications from a single point of control, users can also easily assemble and manage end-to-end processes that incorporate infrastructure services.

Features

- Custom alerting on numerous conditions for faster response times
- Event-based automation for real-time processes and accurate data
- Extensive reporting and analytics for auditing, troubleshooting and more
- Granular date/time- and interval-based scheduling with support for business calendars and time zones
- Health Service that proactively monitors system performance and sends optimizations through the Action Center

- Hundreds of pre-built integrations for common actions across common platforms and systems
- Machine resource optimization to reduce delays and cloud/VM costs
- Super REST API Adapter to connect to any endpoint in your tech stack
- Workflow constraints and dependencies to improve reliability

Pros

ActiveBatch makes it possible to manage enterprise transfers alongside other internal systems and applications, so it's easy to incorporate transfers into both IT and business processes and enable end-to-end file transfer workflow automation.



ActiveBatch does not offer a SaaS version and would not be a good fit for organizations only looking for SaaS-based automation solutions.



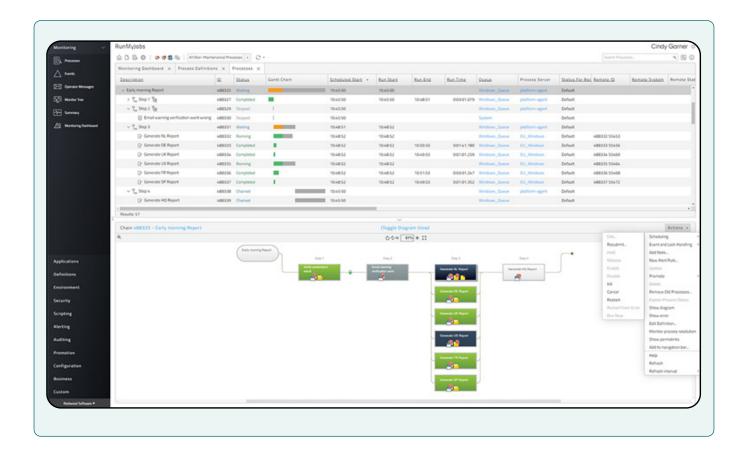
Energy management company ACES boosted its workload capacity by 1,000%. Learn why they chose ActiveBatch.

Learn More →



02. RunMyJobs by Redwood





Overview

RunMyJobs is a full stack workload automation solution that enables users to manage and monitor unattended processes across hybrid and multi-cloud environments — SAP and non-SAP. RunMyJobs was built ground-up for the cloud and is available as a SaaS solution and for on-premises deployments. With RunMyJobs, updates are automatic, and scalability is seamless and highly reliable.

RunMyJobs offers event-driven process automation through a low-code graphical editor with an extensive library of templates and wizards. By streamlining the development process, IT teams deliver accurate data and results faster than ever.

RunMyJobs provides dozens of features and capabilities that make it easy to orchestrate and manage complex workloads. Its native functionality in cloud environments provides scalability and hands-off infrastructure, while special features for developers streamline DevOps right out of the box.

Features

- 40+ pre-built connectors and a Connector Wizard to integrate any system or app without coding, scripting or hardware
- Built-in predictive SLA monitoring with early alerting
- Cascading changes to reusable process steps, sequences, calendars and more
- Dynamic workload balancing distributes workloads evenly across resources to optimize performance and prevent server overload
- Fully integrated MFT with direct integrations for SAP and other ERPs

- Intuitive, drag-and-drop user interface accessible from any browser without installation
- Publishing of automated processes as microservices or interactive service endpoints
- Scheduling across multiple time zones
- Source control, rollback and audit trails for complete lifecycle management
- Support for over 25 scripting languages, including Python, R and PowerShell

✓ Pros

RunMyJobs is SAP's #1 job scheduler with the most SAP certifications, including S/4HANA and RISE with SAP. It can be deployed in the cloud or on-premises and supports Windows, Linux, AIX, HPUX, macOS, OpenVMS and Solaris operating systems. As a result, it can handle file transfers in almost any environment, making this a highly flexible solution, especially for finance departments.

X Cons

RunMyJobs is designed to automate and orchestrate processes across IT, business and finance functions, so it's ideally suited to large and sophisticated enterprises rather than small organizations.

SW//M

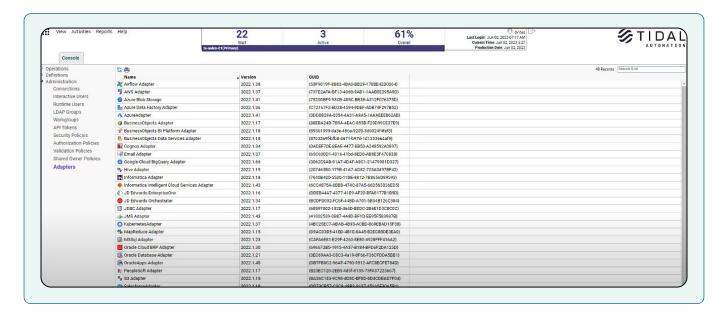
Utility company SWM orchestrated large amounts of data and achieved higher customer satisfaction with RunMyJobs.

Read their story →



03. Tidal by Redwood





Overview

Tidal by Redwood automates complex, end-to-end processes to support IT efficiency in any business. On-premises and in the cloud, Tidal delivers advanced automation with easy-to-use scheduling tools and 60+ pre-built integrations, including pre-built adapters for JD Edwards and Oracle databases.

With Tidal, IT teams can schedule time-based and event-based actions across applications, physical infrastructure, middleware and other resources. Monitoring is straightforward using custom-defined alerts and configurable dashboard widgets.

Integrate targets into your workload automations and minimize the manual effort associated with development and scripting with Tidal's API and CLI. Tidal supports fully integrated resource management and job scheduling across business, operational and IT processes.

Features

- 60+ pre-built integrations, including legacy and modern solutions
- Accurate scheduling across time zones
- API and CLI for easy integration of targets
- · Critical jobs tracking and SLA analysis
- · Event-based scheduling and alerts
- Role-based access control and enterprise-grade security
- Tidal Repository for managing and replicating schedule changes

✓ Pros

Tidal integrates extensively with Oracle products, including JD Edwards. It has advanced alerting capabilities, facilitating quick response and adaptation across complex, interdependent processes. Its modern user interface and pre-built integrations make it an efficient platform for developers and administrators to navigate.



Tidal is best for teams looking to orchestrate complex workflows across the enterprise rather than just batch schedule siloed jobs.

Tidal customers call it a "mission-critical app."

See what else they have to say →



04. Stonebranch Workload Automation

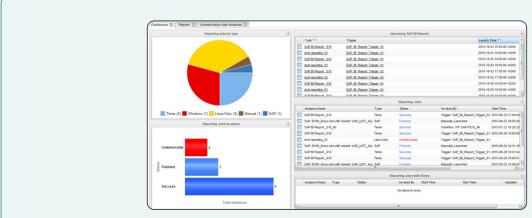


Image: courtesy www.stonebranch.com

Features

- · Drag-and-drop workflow designer and event triggers
- Easy connection to containers or deploy agents in containers
- · Enhanced scripting capabilities to support more definitions and logic
- File transfer via FTP/S, SFTP, SCP, HTTP/S, WebDAV and AFTP
- · Full audit trails and fast recalls for all file transfer operations
- · Proprietary UDM protocol for compaction, encryption, certificate exchange and fault tolerance
- Real-time embedded analytics
- Support for LDAP, AD and SAML
- · Virus protection for inbound and outbound transfers
- Unlimited third-party integrations using pre-built connectors, custom scripts or open-source marketplace

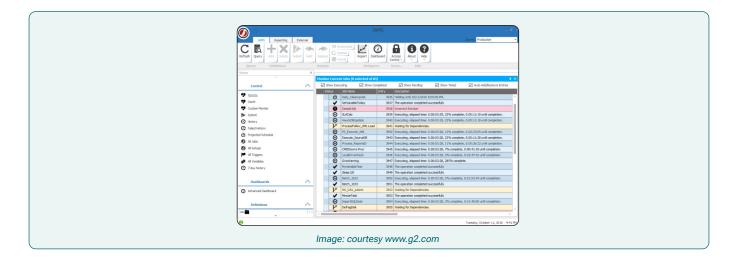


Stonebranch makes it easy to orchestrate scripts, jobs, tasks and IT processes across disparate environments for incorporating file transfers into any enterprise workflow.



Stonebranch's outdated user interface can be difficult to learn, according to some users.

05. JAMS Scheduler



Features

- · Ability to run parallel jobs or sequential jobs with input variables
- · Alerting for faster responses to unexpected issues
- · Central monitoring for all batch processes
- · Cross-platform scheduling with direct integrations for SAP applications and systems
- · Custom views and filters, including audit trails and historical statistics
- · Featured integrations include SQL Server, SAP, Informatica and Banner
- · Granular permissioning and clear security roles to prevent unauthorized changes
- · Job distribution to easily meet spikes in demand
- Load balancing, including off-loading to optimize resource usage
- Recovery and rerun jobs for addressing common issues

Pros

JAMS provides a single set of tools that apply to a variety of automation use cases, including financial batch processing, ETL, ERP automation, business intelligence and more.



Response times can be slow, possibly due to connectivity issues or frequency of updates. Troubleshooting scripts can be timeconsuming in JAMS.

06. VisualCron



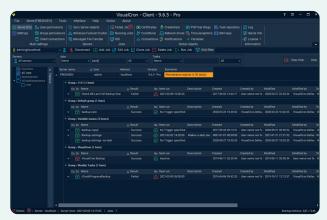


Image: courtesy www.visualcron.com

Features

- 300+ pre-built tasks support actions across a variety of technologies
- · Desktop reminders and message triggers via SMS, email, Teams and more
- · Easy job cloning to create new tasks
- · Execution of PowerShell scripts
- · Extended logging for easy debugging
- Flow and error handling
- Product development based on customer requests
- SQL command execution and task automation in Google BigQuery or Active Directory
- · Support for FTP/S, SFTP, SCP, as well as SSH, WebDAV and HTTP
- · Support for .NET, REST and SOAP APIs



VisualCron is lightweight and easy to use — ideal for business and help desk users who need to run applications or file transfers without writing custom scripts. However, VisualCron's task manager has plenty of capabilities that make it useful for IT operations.



VisualCron doesn't yet support loadbalancing, and licensing and cost can be problematic in some deployments.

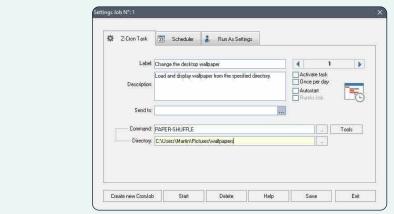


Image: courtesy www.ghacks.net

Features

- · Desktop or network server installation
- File and directory management, including cleanup, archiving and compression
- · Monitoring for system services with email notifications
- Option to run Z-Cron at startup or as a system service
- Over 100 easy-to-use, pre-built tools or actions for common tasks
- · Parameters for starting and stopping applications
- · Remote open and close for VPN connections
- Task scheduling by day, week, month or regular defined times (minutes/hours)
- · Virus scanning and disk defragmenting



Z-Cron offers free Windows-based software and can be licensed in combination with other useful tools such as Z-DBackup and Z-FTPcopy.



The Z-Cron scheduler can be used for a lot of common tasks, but some scheduling options will require additional licensing.

08. Advanced Task Scheduler





Features

- · Ability to organize an unlimited number of tasks in nested groups
- · Control statements for dynamic workflows
- · Execution of FTP/S, SFTP and HTTP/S tasks
- · Granular date/time scheduling with file and other event triggers
- · Installation of client-server configurations on the same machine or a separate one
- · Logging for all automated tasks
- · Perl, Python, Nodejs or Ruby script running
- · Replication of tasks across any machine with Advanced Task Scheduler
- · Support for TCP/IP and SSL for server connections
- · Unlimited number of client connections to any server

✓ Pros

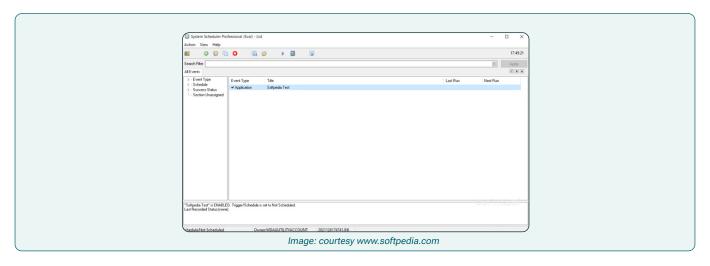
Advanced Task Scheduler is a free task scheduler that can run on Windows or Wine for Linux distributions. The licensed network version is a client-server model where the server can be installed on embedded systems, PLC, terminal servers, web servers and any other remote system with TCP/IP.



Compared to other straightforward task schedulers, Advanced Task Scheduler requires more experience with technology to manage tasks.

09. System Scheduler





Features

- · Ability to send keypresses to third-party applications
- · Application exit code errors
- · Email notifications
- · Execution of batch files and scripts
- Included email support
- · Option to deploy as a system service to execute jobs while logged off
- · Pop-up reminders for appointments, tasks and more
- · Shutdown and rebooting of remote computers
- · Window Watcher for monitoring applications and triggering automatic responses



System Scheduler makes it easy to sort and view all events, a feature that isn't available in all scheduling software.



The free version of System Scheduler won't run tasks if you're not logged in — you'll need the Professional version for that.

10. Task Till Dawn



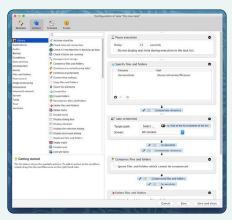


Image: courtesy www.macupdate.com

Features

- Automatic connection to network drives
- · Automatic update checks to notify users of new versions
- · Built-in graphical editor with pre-built actions
- · Compatible with both Windows and macOS for cross-platform workflows
- Date/scheduling and event-based scheduling
- · Import/export functionality to share tasks across workstations
- · Limits on when a schedule should be counted as missed
- Notification delivery through Windows Infocenter, Notification Center (macOS) and more
- Portable option to run Task Till Dawn via USB
- · System hibernation scheduling and task automation upon system waking



Task Till Dawn is the only lightweight scheduler on our list that will work across macOS and Windows and is available in English, German, French or Spanish.



Task Till Dawn doesn't provide a way to monitor running processes or to get result codes without executing a script.

11. Robolntern





Features

- Ability to manage FTP and SFTP operations
- · Automation of Excel, Word and Access operations
- · Encryption and decryption of files with OpenPGP
- · Multiple triggers for a single task
- Task execution with event triggers for email, files, database queries and more
- Option to run macros, stored procedures and database SQLs or transfer ODBC data
- PDF and email management
- · Python, Javascript, Visual Basic, R or PowerShell script running
- · Scheduled task modification
- · Zipping and unzipping of files and folders



Robolntern is a free, open-source tool that enables users to automate and schedule a wide variety of front-office tasks without having to write scripts, making it a powerful tool for non-technical professionals.



Robolntern lacks key features necessary for IT operations or even help desk teams. For example, its pre-built triggers offer limited functionality.

11. Flux



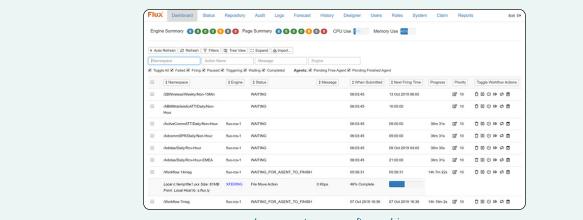


Image: courtesy www.softwareadvice.com

Features

- · Comprehensive expressions for date/time scheduling
- · Dependencies, conditional branching and looping
- · Distribution across clusters for high-availability and failover
- · Error handler workflows to automatically respond to errors
- · Event-based triggers, including database conditions, email and file detection
- · Flux Designer for graphical workflow design
- · Java API and REST API for cross-platform workflows
- · Management of users and roles through Active Directory, LDAP or Flux's security subsystem
- Support for FTP/S and SFTP
- · Workflow execution and monitoring via web browser



Flux makes it easy to automate and manage processes at the enterprise level. It provides much more capability and scalability than cheaper alternatives on our list while maintaining simplicity for non-IT users.



Flux falls into a middle ground between desktop task schedulers and enterprise job schedulers, so some organizations may find Flux's capabilities redundant.

11. Rundeck



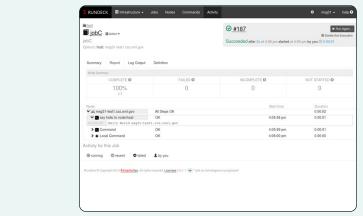


Image: courtesy www.github.com

Features

- 24/7 support available
- · Audit trails for all actions with easy-to-search logs
- · Fine-grained access controls
- · High-availability clusters, node health checks and automated failover
- · Job schedule forecasting
- · Out-of-the-box integrations for GitHub, Jenkins, Jira, AWS and more
- Remediation procedures
- Self-service
- Support for Active Directory, LDAP and single sign-on (SSO)
- · Webhooks for rule-based processing, debugging and more



Rundeck provides enterprise automation and scheduling for a wide range of task lists and makes it easy for IT professionals to set up self-service for business and help desk users.



Rundeck users often report difficulty migrating to clustered environments, which can make it difficult to scale.

Checklist for selecting the right workload automation platform

Ready to engage with a software vendor and find the right fit? Start by reviewing the following factors. Assess compatibility and extensibility. Your software should seamlessly integrate with your existing IT infrastructure, including cloud services, databases and various applications and platforms. Compatibility reduces the likelihood of disruptive issues and helps maintain a smooth workflow across all your systems. Prioritize cross-functional process orchestration. Opt for a workload automation platform that excels in orchestrating end-to-end processes across your entire organization and IT environment and enables secure interaction with third parties. Look for fully integrated managed file transfer and the capability to handle sensitive data movement. Check for security and compliance features. Security is paramount, especially when automation tools access multiple data sources and systems. Your solution should have strong, industry-leading security measures like encryption, rolebased access control and audit trails. Verify that it complies with relevant industry standards and regulations to protect your organization against legal and security risks. Evaluate scalability and flexibility. Choose a platform that can grow with your business and adapt to future needs. It should be able to handle increased workloads and additional processes as your organization expands or shifts directions. Flexibility in handling different environments and conditions is crucial for long-term utility. Consider user experience and support. A user-friendly interface is essential for efficient use and adoption. Check for intuitive navigation and accessible training resources. Attentive, partnership-focused vendors provide responsive and knowledgeable customer support and service for troubleshooting and consulting-like guidance. Analyze cost and ROI. Compare the pricing structures of different software options and evaluate them against the

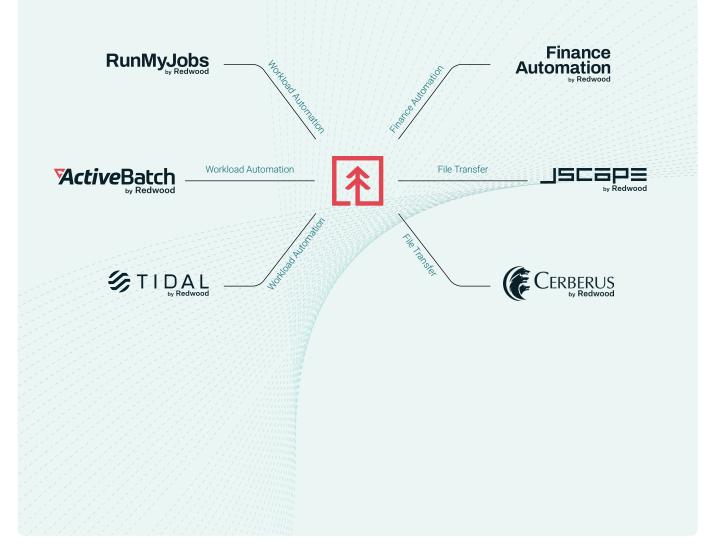
features and benefits they offer. Consider the total cost of ownership, including installation, training

and maintenance. An ideal platform fits your budget while promising a reasonable return on

investment through increased efficiency and reduced manual labor.

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