BMC Control-M Workload Archiving

Achieve the highest service delivery quality with insights from historical job output

Business Challenge

Output created by batch jobs and logs maintained by Control-M are critical pieces of information required by on-call programmers, business analysts, and IT staff when failures occur. This data is also required to satisfy auditing and governance regulations.

Today, organizations find it challenging to gather and maintain this data in a way that would be efficient to store and easy to retrieve. Many practices, such as running backups or storing data in agent-specific file systems, are expensive to implement and maintain and make finding the right information at the right time exceedingly difficult. Such practices can result in audit failures and elongate repair times, thus degrading overall service delivery.

THE BMC SOLUTION

BMC Control-M Workload Archiving is a data archiving solution that quickly delivers historical output and logs for problem analysis directly from familiar Control-M interfaces. This solution also enables organizations to easily satisfy audit requirements needed to meet governance and compliance policies.

A simple graphical administrative interface makes it fast and easy to establish and automate policies for retaining specific types of data for the required retention periods.

With the ability to quickly search and analyze archived data, application developers and IT operations staff work together to detect and address application problems, ensuring the quality of the business services that are delivered.

KEY BENEFITS

- Reduce time to repair by gaining immediate access to historical job output and log information
- Simplify problem analysis with seamless access to output from the same familiar interfaces used to manage workload
- Identify anomalies with version compare function
- Retain historical output to meet audit and governance requirements with site-specific retention rules
- Quickly locate the required information with flexible search capability
- Comply with security and access control standards by eliminating the need to access agent hosts for output retrieval
- Eliminate costs of file system storage and its management for output retention on agent machines
**REDUCE MEAN TIME TO REPAIR**

Job output and Control-M Log information is essential to analyzing job failures and formulating proper corrective action by seeing how the failing job executed previously. Perhaps the job or the environment changed and having access to, and comparing, the current and past executions can quickly highlight and identify the cause of the failure.

Workload Archiving enables simple, centralized retention of job output and log data and makes it accessible directly from Control-M user interfaces. Additionally, any two versions of output can be compared using the “Compare” operation. The versions are showed side by side with their differences highlighted for easy viewing.

**FIND DATA WITH FULL TEXT SEARCH**

When unsure which output contains the information you are seeking, use text search to locate the relevant entries. Any string can be used as the search criteria.

**GIVE DEVELOPERS THE HISTORY THEY NEED**

When building or modifying batch applications, especially when correcting problems or addressing functionality gaps, developers can gain clearer insight into the current problems and formulate better solutions quickly by having self-service access to historical job output.

Using simple yet powerful tools to view historical output and logs from existing workflows, developers can more easily determine failure patterns and identify trouble spots or sections of workflows that are not running efficiently, thus helping to focus the work and speed up needed development and testing.

**MAKE AUDITS SIMPLE**

Producing the artifacts of past job executions is a common audit requirement. The required information can be viewed interactively from either the workload automation client or from the simple control-M self-service web application. If a copy of the information is needed, workload archiving makes it simple to either export job execution history via “export” or to provide the actual output and logs for the required jobs using the “save” function.

**HOW IT WORKS**

Workload Archiving is a separate process with its own database. However, it is a logical extension of the Control-M Enterprise Manager.
As jobs complete execution anywhere in the environment, regardless whether the jobs are managed by an Agent, a Remote Host, or on a z/OS host, Workload Archiving retrieves a copy of the output and log (as defined by Retention Rules), compresses the data, and stores it in the Archive database.

This approach delivers a single, centralized repository where output is retained as long as needed to meet organizational standards and policies.

**Retention rules**

Output and Log collection and retention is controlled by rules that specify what should be archived and for how long. For example, Payroll output needs to be kept for seven years, but output from backups is retained only one month. File transfer output that details which files are involved may be kept for one year, but the logs related to these jobs are not required at all.

**All output from all jobs**

All output for all jobs visible in the Enterprise Manager is eligible for archiving. That includes all application jobs, OS jobs, and z/OS jobs. Subject to retention rules, Archiving collects the data available in Control-M via the Output and Log functions.

**Guaranteed collection via automatic retry**

Output collection is initiated automatically within seconds of job completion. Workload Archiving uses the same facilities for collecting output that is used for displaying output interactively to users.

If the output is not available for any reason, such as a network failure that makes an agent unreachable, Archiving will automatically retry until the output has been collected.

**Access archive directly from Control-M clients**

After installation, retrieval of archived output is available from the Workload Automation client and from Control-M Self-Service.

Within the Monitoring Domain, “Archive Search” is added to the job context menu. This function searches the Archive for instances of output for the specific job from which the function was invoked.

In the History Domain, a general search function is added that can be used to specify flexible and complex search criteria. Similarly, Archive Search and access to historical output is available from Control-M Self Service.
Configuring workload archiving

Archive configuration is managed with a few simple forms available in the “Tools” menu of the Control-M Configuration Manager.

Using these forms, you can manage retention rules, limit the size of collected output, and gather statistics that help you manage the Archive database.

FULLY INTEGRATED WITH THE BEST WORKLOAD AUTOMATION SOLUTION

Workload Archiving is an integrated component of the BMC Control-M solution so that as new job types are added or additional jobs are scheduled, their output is automatically archived without requiring any additional configuration.

BMC delivers software solutions that help IT transform digital enterprises for the ultimate competitive business advantage. We have worked with thousands of leading companies to create and deliver powerful IT management services. From mainframe to cloud to mobile, we pair high-speed digital innovation with robust IT industrialization—allowing our customers to provide amazing user experiences with optimized IT performance, cost, compliance, and productivity. We believe that technology is the heart of every business, and that IT drives business to the digital age.

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