

Frequently Asked Questions
SAP Central Process Scheduling
by Redwood

SUCCESSFULLY AUTOMATE CROSS-APPLICATION BUSINESS PROCESSES

AN INTEGRATED SOLUTION FOR EVENT-DRIVEN PROCESS SCHEDULING

THE BEST-RUN BUSINESSES RUN SAP™



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OVERVIEW OF SAP® CENTRAL PROCESS SCHEDULING BY REDWOOD

CENTRALIZED FUNCTIONALITY FOR PROCESS MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

What is the SAP Central Process Scheduling application by Redwood?

The SAP® Central Process Scheduling application by Redwood is the SAP standard for IT process automation. The product is codeveloped by SAP and Redwood Software Inc. and is validated, shipped, and supported by SAP. SAP Central Process Scheduling has become the new process-scheduling foundation for SAP internal software development, including the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform, and is the preferred process-scheduling solution for SAP customers.

What business needs does SAP Central Process Scheduling address?

As IT landscapes become more complex, IT departments depend on an integrated platform to automate cross-application processes. To automate these business processes successfully, companies require central process-scheduling and process-automation software that can trigger applications and business processes based on business events.

SAP Central Process Scheduling enables you to schedule real-time, event-driven background tasks in response to critical business events – and to do it from a central location. Its central process-scheduling functions can run independently or operate in conjunction with existing SAP software. SAP Central Process Scheduling interoperates with SAP NetWeaver components, including the SAP Solution Manager application management solution and the SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence (SAP NetWeaver BI) component. It also interoperates with SAP business applications such as the “closing cockpit” of the SAP ERP Financials solution, which helps expedite financial-close processes. This integration enhances business processes and results in powerful functionality for process management and control.

How does SAP offer the SAP Central Processing Scheduling software?

You can obtain the latest version of the SAP Central Process Scheduling software in one of two ways, as follows:

- **Basic functionality, available with SAP NetWeaver license** – This option is installed by default with SAP NetWeaver and allows SAP NetWeaver customers to deploy and use basic process-scheduling functionality in their SAP landscape. It is provided at no additional charge as part of the standard shipment of SAP NetWeaver.
- **Advanced functionality, available via add-on license to SAP NetWeaver** – This option allows you to install and use a wider set of advanced central process-scheduling functionalities. Customers of SAP NetWeaver or SAP Business Suite applications can obtain it via a license upgrade, or it can be licensed as a separate application. Additional functionalities include process scheduling across multiple SAP software systems, non-SAP process automation, OS command automation, support for file events, load balancing, alerting, scripting, and other advanced features.

STREAMLINE SCHEDULING FOR OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS

A CENTRALIZED SOLUTION FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY AND SAVINGS

How can SAP Central Process Scheduling add value for my company?

SAP Central Process Scheduling offers a centralized SAP-licensed and SAP-supported solution for IT process automation. It replaces internal and third-party job-scheduling and process-automation solutions. In addition, it can provide one scheduling solution for the entire landscape, including both SAP and non-SAP software. It also supports governance, mitigates risk, and helps ensure compliance through documentation and reporting of IT processes.

Cost Reductions

SAP Central Process Scheduling reduces costs and overhead in several areas, including:

- IT resources during and after software deployment
- Efficiency during financial period-end closing cycles
- Integrity and reliability of business intelligence data

Business Benefits

In addition to reducing costs, SAP Central Process Scheduling offers the following benefits:

- Improved operational efficiency
- End-to-end monitoring and control of business processes
- Faster and more reliable IT operations

What are the operational advantages of SAP Central Process Scheduling?

SAP Central Process Scheduling runs on all platforms supported by SAP NetWeaver and is a foundation for SAP application development. It no longer requires the Oracle database. A successor to applications that provide only local process scheduling, SAP Central Process Scheduling enables centralized management across the landscape and control of processes supported by both SAP and non-SAP software.

SAP Central Process Scheduling enables full integration of IT process automation with SAP business solutions, including:

- SAP ERP Financials
- SAP Solution Manager
- SAP NetWeaver BI

THE ARCHITECTURE OF EFFECTIVE BUSINESS-PROCESS AUTOMATION

CENTRALIZED SCHEDULING OF PROCESSES ACROSS APPLICATIONS

What is the architecture of SAP Central Process Scheduling?

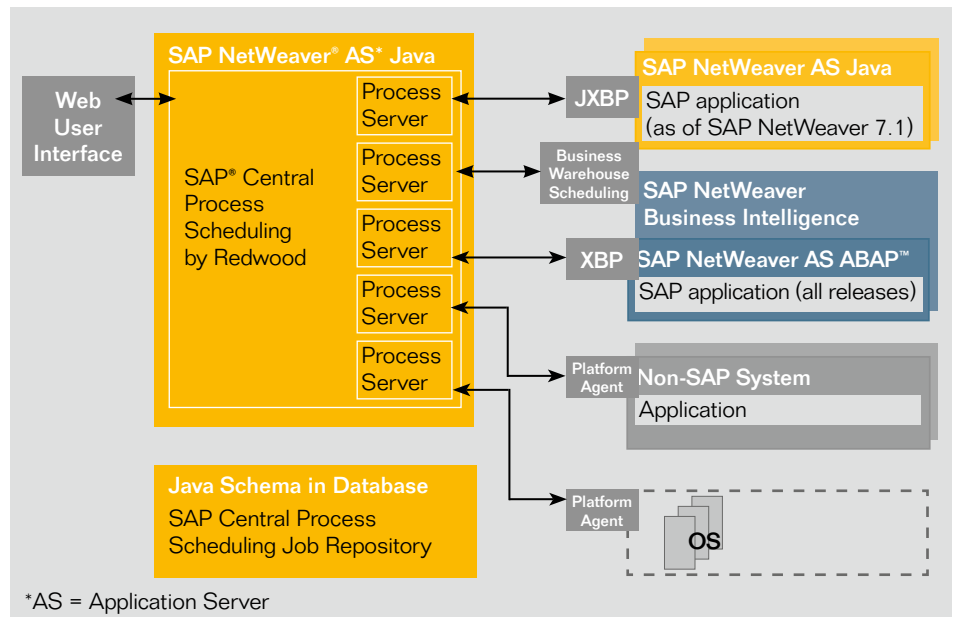


Figure: The Architecture of SAP Central Process Scheduling

The figure shows the architecture required for SAP Central Process Scheduling. The architecture includes the following:

- **Job repository** – This is where all process and job-scheduling details such as activities, events, and business rules are stored. The job repository keeps a record of which jobs need to be started, in which application, under what conditions.
- **Process server** – The process server is the software used to schedule, control, and execute jobs. It hosts services that allow different types of jobs to be run, and it communicates with the job repository to manage the workload dynamically across applications. If a business process needs to start an activity in the background of an SAP application, the process server uses standard SAP software interfaces to initiate this step.
- **Web user interface (UI)** – The Web UI acts as a single point of control from a Web browser, providing real-time information about the status of each step in a process.
- **Platform agent** – This agent is required in order to enable SAP Central Process Scheduling to communicate with non-SAP systems or with servers on which no SAP application is running.

BASIC AND ADVANCED PROCESS-SCHEDULING FUNCTIONALITIES

FROM SINGLE-SYSTEM PROCESS CHAINS TO CROSS-SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

What functions are offered by the SAP Central Process Scheduling software that comes standard with SAP NetWeaver?

Basic process-scheduling functions of the software that comes standard with SAP NetWeaver include the following:

- The ability to schedule processes in the ABAP™ programming language, including those from older SAP releases (starting from the predecessor of the SAP NetWeaver Application Server component, formerly known as SAP Basis, release 3.1)
- Administration and control of all background activities running in SAP applications from a central point
- A central user interface from which jobs can be triggered, managed, and monitored within each SAP software system
- Centrally displayed job logs and spool lists of the individual applications in the SAP landscape
- The ability to create complex process chains and dependencies between single chain steps (within the local SAP software system only)
- Event-driven activation of processes

Other basic functions, such as periodic job chains, status-dependent job starts, and comprehensive calendar functions, are also available.

What additional functions offered by SAP Central Process Scheduling are available via add-on license to SAP NetWeaver?

In addition to the basic functions listed above, this option includes the following advanced functions:

- Central management of processes running across several SAP applications
- Management of background activities in non-SAP software
- The ability to define multiple process servers for one system to ameliorate load balancing and serve other purposes requiring high availability
- The ability to implement exception alerts via e-mail and Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)
- The ability to create custom scripts using the Java programming language
- The ability to start activities at the OS level (for example, you can check for the existence of files, then trigger follow-on activities or integrate this information with system maintenance functions such as backup)

The scope of the functions enabled by a license upgrade or separate license is dependent on the license you purchase.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFICIENT PROCESS MANAGEMENT

NEW BENEFITS AND FEATURES OF SAP CENTRAL PROCESS SCHEDULING

What are the benefits of SAP Central Process Scheduling in comparison to its predecessor, Redwood Cronacle?

Redwood Cronacle is a Redwood product and a predecessor of SAP Central Process Scheduling. SAP Central Process Scheduling is licensed and supported by SAP. Whereas Redwood Cronacle provided process scheduling as a separate application, one of the most important benefits of SAP Central Process Scheduling is that it fully interoperates with the SAP NetWeaver technology platform. This integration enables features such as database independence as well as easier user management for the scheduler.

What are the main differences between the earlier versions of SAP Central Process Scheduling and the current version?

- Earlier versions of SAP Central Process Scheduling were stand-alone applications running outside the SAP NetWeaver platform. Now, the basic process-scheduling functionalities of SAP Central Process Scheduling are fully integrated into SAP NetWeaver and are included in the SAP NetWeaver installation. Additional functionalities are also available through an add-on license.
- The current version of SAP Central Process Scheduling is compatible with the same operating systems and databases as SAP NetWeaver 7.0. It no longer requires the Oracle database.
- Because the current version of SAP Central Process Scheduling interoperates with SAP NetWeaver, you can fully leverage the SAP support infrastructure.

How is the SAP Central Process Scheduling that comes standard with SAP NetWeaver different from the V6 basic version?

- In the basic SAP Central Process Scheduling software delivered with SAP NetWeaver, there is no restriction on the number of SAP applications that can be connected to the scheduler.
- It is no longer possible to schedule jobs across SAP software systems using the basic SAP Central Process Scheduling software included with SAP NetWeaver.

How is SAP Central Process Scheduling that is available via add-on license to SAP NetWeaver different from the V6 and V7 full versions?

- Upgrading to the advanced SAP Central Process Scheduling software via add-on license to SAP NetWeaver provides you with access to additional features such as the business automation enabler, exclusive to SAP. You can use this tool to streamline workflow by linking business processes supported by existing SAP applications.
- With the SAP Central Process Scheduling software available via add-on license to SAP NetWeaver, it is possible to use the new Java background-processing infrastructure – allowing you to manage Java processes centrally.

Does SAP Central Process Scheduling replace transactions SM36 and SM37?

SAP Central Process Scheduling enables you to plan and monitor processes centrally and more comfortably, but it will not replace transactions SM36 and SM37. These transactions remain active and still enable you to plan jobs locally, if this matches your business needs. However, SM36 and SM37 will not be developed further by SAP and will be put into maintenance status.

AN INTEGRATED SOLUTION FOR MANAGING CROSS-SYSTEM PROCESSES

LINKING SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO STREAMLINE WORKFLOW

What is the benefit of SAP Central Process Scheduling being integrated into SAP NetWeaver?

SAP Central Process Scheduling is available for all the same platforms and databases as SAP NetWeaver itself. Access rights are integrated into the user management engine of SAP NetWeaver. Therefore, using single sign-on is possible, if it is configured.

In addition, the advanced SAP Central Process Scheduling software (available via add-on license to SAP NetWeaver) interoperates with other SAP NetWeaver tools and applications. This enables the coordination of cross-application process scheduling based on real-time business events.

How does the business automation enabler enhance interoperation across SAP applications?

The business automation enabler is the unique link between SAP Central Process Scheduling and the business processes supported by your SAP applications. The business automation enabler currently connects SAP Central Process Scheduling with SAP Solution Manager, the closing cockpit in SAP ERP Financials, and SAP NetWeaver BI. This exclusive feature of SAP Central Process Scheduling now enables business processes to control the IT workload, not the other way around.

What are the advantages of interoperation with SAP Solution Manager?

The combined functionality of SAP Central Process Scheduling and SAP Solution Manager enables you to streamline groups of business processes such as central job documentation. In conjunction with SAP Solution Manager, SAP Central Process Scheduling also enables you to manage change requests and monitor business processes throughout the life cycle of an SAP job. Starting with a request, processes can be defined, approved, tracked, and monitored centrally from within SAP Solution Manager.

What are the advantages of interoperation with the closing cockpit in SAP ERP Financials?

SAP Central Process Scheduling empowers the closing cockpit in SAP ERP Financials to manage the financial period-end closing cycle across multiple SAP applications and across the entire enterprise, including SAP and non-SAP processes. It streamlines workflow by:

- Speeding the close by using event-based closing-task automation
- Reducing or eliminating the need for spreadsheets that manage local closing processes
- Facilitating consistent results, accessible data, centralized control, and effective monitoring

Interoperation of SAP Central Process Scheduling and the closing cockpit in SAP ERP Financials provides a reliable, repeatable period-end closing procedure. The automated workflow helps you minimize errors and delays for even the most complex combinations of manual processes, IT systems, and geographic locations.

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SAP CENTRAL PROCESS SCHEDULING

UTILIZING REDWOOD SERVICES AND EXISTING SAP SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Where do customers go for support?

If you have a valid agreement in place for support services, you may access the SAP support system in the usual way as outlined in your specific agreement. You can simply open a message under the component XX-PART-REDWOOD on the SAP Service Marketplace extranet. Messages will be processed in accordance with the SAP standard guidelines. A support expert can use the standard service connection between SAP and the customer to log on to the central scheduler. A troubleshooting guide will be available.

Which services are offered for this solution?

Professional services for installation, upgrade, and configuration are available from both SAP and Redwood Software.

Where can I find the product documentation for SAP Central Process Scheduling?

The documentation is included in electronic form in the installation of SAP Central Process Scheduling. You can access it by clicking on the Product Information button in the Web UI. More documentation is available on the SAP Developer Network (SDN) site: www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/nw-scheduling.

Where are training courses for SAP Central Process Scheduling offered?

Redwood Software offers a full range of training courses through Redwood Education. For details, visit www.redwood.com/education. SAP will be incorporating content from SAP Central Process Scheduling into its standard training programs as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR SAP CENTRAL PROCESS SCHEDULING

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS AND INSTALLATION DETAILS

What are the technical requirements of SAP Central Process Scheduling?

SAP Central Process Scheduling is a Java application and runs on the SAP NetWeaver 7.0 platform with support pack 14 or later.

Are there technical restrictions of the SAP Central Process Scheduling software provided with the standard shipment of SAP NetWeaver?

Yes, there are a few restrictions, as follows:

- Processes that run across different SAP applications cannot be defined and triggered.
- Scheduling on non-SAP systems is not supported.
- OS-level jobs cannot be defined centrally in the UI. They must be defined in the back-end SAP software individually and can only be monitored by the current SAP mechanism, which means these processes are “fire-and-forget.”
- Load balancing is not supported.
- File events and non-SAP events cannot be used to trigger processes.

How is SAP Central Process Scheduling installed?

While it is part of the SAP-managed ramp-up program, SAP Central Process Scheduling will be delivered as one SAP component archive (SCA) file to be deployed using the Java Support Package Manager (JSPM).

When SAP Central Process Scheduling is generally available, its basic process-scheduling functionality will be part of the standard SAP NetWeaver 7.0 shipment and will be installed by default with SAP NetWeaver. No separate installation procedure will be required.

Are there special hardware requirements for SAP Central Process Scheduling installations?

When a process runs in the background, it makes demands on CPU, main memory, and hard-disk resources in the system where the background processes are running. Demands are also made on the SAP Central Process Scheduling software system, but as task execution does not typically take place on the SAP Central Process Scheduling server hardware itself, these demands are not extensive. SAP Central Process Scheduling initiates and coordinates the execution of activities in connected systems. The demands placed on the performance of the hardware resources and the number of process servers required depends on the scope of the scheduling activities. A sizing guide with more detailed information is available in SDN.

What is the procedure to determine the number of process servers needed for my SAP Central Process Scheduling installation?

To determine the number of process servers needed, the following are counted:

- SAP software systems and applications identified by an SAP ID
- Any physical or virtual “host” on which processes are managed on an OS level (these processes can include OS command, command line interface, OS scripts, and so on)
- Any physical or virtual “host” on which non-SAP applications or systems (such as customer-specific applications) are managed, if they do not already have a host process server allocated

Are there any release dependencies among SAP Central Process Scheduling and the SAP applications in my company’s landscape?

To manage general background processing in SAP applications, SAP Central Process Scheduling uses standard SAP job-scheduling interfaces. These interfaces are long-standing elements of SAP shipments and have been enhanced regularly. In older applications, certain correction levels may need to be implemented before some scheduling functions can be used.

Upgrading an SAP NetWeaver software system to a new release, however, does not generally have any negative consequences for the scheduling functions. There is also no need to upgrade SAP Central Process Scheduling to a new release.

To take advantage of the interoperation offered by the advanced SAP Central Process Scheduling software (available via add-on license to SAP NetWeaver), the appropriate releases of the relevant SAP applications must be in place.

Can SAP Central Process Scheduling also be used for central background processing in older SAP software systems?

Yes, you can use SAP Central Process Scheduling with all ABAP-based applications from older SAP releases (starting from the predecessor of SAP NetWeaver Application Server, formerly known as SAP Basis, release 3.1). Depending on the release version, it may be necessary to transport a correction first, to enable the full functionality of the XBP interface. With the basic SAP Central Process Scheduling (provided at no additional charge as part of the standard shipment of SAP NetWeaver), this scheduling is still restricted to local SAP software systems only.

Can my company continue to use the background-processing solution of a different SAP partner?

Other job-scheduling solutions can still be used, as they use a standard interface called BC-XBP. This interface will continue to exist; however, new functionality will be added to SAP Central Process Scheduling. Such functionality may become certifiable to third-party vendors at the sole discretion of SAP after strict validation and testing.

MOVING AHEAD WITH AN INTEGRATED PROCESS-SCHEDULING SOLUTION

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SOFTWARE FOR YOUR COMPANY'S NEEDS

Which option for SAP Central Process Scheduling will best meet the needs of my company?

Any SAP customer with an existing license for SAP NetWeaver can use the basic SAP Central Process Scheduling software that comes standard with SAP NetWeaver. The additional features of the advanced SAP Central Process Scheduling software are available for all SAP customers through the purchase of an add-on license. The table below describes the advantages, restrictions, and features of both options.

Two Options for SAP® Central Process Scheduling

Software Option	Basic Functionality Delivered with SAP NetWeaver® Technology Platform	Advanced Functionality Available Via Add-On License to SAP NetWeaver
License Type	Included with standard license for SAP NetWeaver technology platform	Separate license or upgrade of existing license for SAP NetWeaver
Description	Allows organizations to define, manage, and control jobs across the entire SAP® landscape from a central point of administration, subject to the restrictions detailed below	Allows organizations to define, manage, and control jobs across the entire IT landscape from a central point of administration, subject to the restrictions detailed below*
Restrictions and Features*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Is restricted to the Computing Center Management System (CCMS) scheduling functionality ■ Allows triggering of SAP jobs from one central user interface for the whole SAP landscape, but not across multiple SAP software systems ■ Requires each SAP software system to be managed individually but does not place any restriction on the number of SAP software systems being managed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enables centralized scheduling for processes and applications outside the SAP landscape and across multiple SAP software systems ■ Enables OS command automation, file events, load balancing, alerting, scripting, and other advanced features

*Exact functionality enabled is dependent on scope of license purchased.

How can I find out more about the ways SAP Central Process Scheduling could benefit my company?

For more information about how SAP Central Process Scheduling can support solutions for your company, please visit us online at www.sap.com/solutions/solutionextensions/centralprocessscheduling.

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