



stonebranch

BON-TON



Results

- Improved functionality
- Superior ease-of-use
- Seamless conversion from ASG-Zeke job scheduler
- Enhanced flexibility
- Convenient dashboards and fully customizable reports

“We chose Stonebranch because they had better features and were a true Enterprise Scheduler at an excellent value. In addition to having superior functionality, Universal Automation Center was easy to learn and incredibly versatile.”

“It is now much simpler to handle tasks and workloads.”

Charlie Dorner

Manager of Computer Operations,
The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc.

The Bon-Ton Stores Inc. Replaced ASG-Zeke with Universal Automation Center

American operator of 256 stores sought modern automation solution to replace their legacy job scheduler.

Background

The Bon-Ton Stores Inc., an American department store chain with corporate headquarters in York, Pennsylvania and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, operates 256 stores, which includes nine furniture galleries

and four clearance centers, in 23 states in the Northeast, Midwest and upper Great Plains under the Bon-Ton, Boston Store, Bergner’s, Carson’s, Elder-Beerman, Herberger’s and Youngers nameplates.

Challenge

The Bon-Ton Stores Inc. was utilizing a legacy mainframe job scheduler known as ASG-Zeke. ASG-Zeke was unable to handle tasks running on platforms other than z/OS. Jobs were run with z/OS tasks and moved to a different server to return the COND parameter. This was deemed inefficient and unacceptable.

Modern workload automation solutions support multiple business applications and workflows, including cross-system dependencies. It automates entire business systems, including heterogeneous server environments, considering planned activities and information.

“We wanted an enterprise scheduler that would enable us to easily schedule tasks on our multiple platforms”, says Charlie Dorner, Manager of Computer Operations at The Bon-Ton Stores Inc. “It was time for us to implement a modern workload automation solution.”

There is a rapid change from traditional batch-based automation towards real-time workload automation, orchestrating an intelligent decision making process for IT automation.

Solution

After conducting a thorough review of available automation solutions, The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. chose Stonebranch's Universal Automation Center (UAC) as their new workload automation solution.

"We chose Stonebranch because they had better features and were a true Enterprise Scheduler and an excellent value," says Dorner. "In addition to having superior functionality, Universal Automation

Center was easy to learn and incredibly versatile. It was a truly Graphical User Interface with convenient widgets on a modern dashboard."

This made the end user's daily tasks much easier in that they could see where they were in a jobstream or application by looking at a workflow and their fully customizable reports within UAC.

IT Modernization

Although The Bon-Ton Stores Inc. still operates an IBM mainframe, their IT services are supporting their initiatives to optimize the company's digital customer experience.

Universal Automation Center complemented this mix of operational environments by providing great support for both legacy and cutting edge applications and services. Replacing an old-school job scheduling tool with a modern workload automation solution had additional benefits, as legacy mainframe skill-sets are becoming harder to find, new operations staff hires that

do not have mainframe expertise were easily trained to operate both legacy and distributed application workloads with Universal Automation Center.

Since making the switch, Dorner notes that "we have seen a steady stream of new features and capabilities added to Universal Automation Center. This is key, and validates our choice of Stonebranch as vendor, solution provider, and partner. Knowing that we have a product in place that is keeping pace with the technology we need to support makes life in operations so much easier".

Results: Return on Automation*

Following a successful implementation of Stonebranch's Universal Automation Center, all tasks on all platforms are now simple to integrate.

"Stonebranch has greatly improved our ability to handle tasks on the servers and achieve enterprise scheduling with all of our interdependencies between servers and the mainframe. It is now much simpler to handle this type of task."

Dorner raved about Stonebranch's support during the conversion from ASG-Zeke to Universal Automation Center.

"The Stonebranch services team proved themselves to be experts when it came time to migrate the data from ASG-Zeke. The implementation was greatly aided by their vast knowledge and experience," says Dorner.

"We are a big fiscal calendar organization and that presented the need for special calendar creation. Stonebranch support from the entire services team was outstanding. I strongly encourage ASG-Zeke users to make the switch to Stonebranch."

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* **Return on Automation (RoA):** the investment in automation and the right automation tool pays off in a short time and returns many benefits. These include higher efficiency, faster processes, greater process reliability, higher data throughput, seamless integration, and higher production. The overall result is an increase in profits.

ABOUT STONEBRANCH

Stonebranch provides modern automation solutions that simplify mission-critical IT business processes reliably and securely across complex and diverse IT environments.

Stonebranch clients include some of the world's largest financial, healthcare and technology institutions. Founded in 1999 and headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Stonebranch has points of support throughout the world, including the US, Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Greece, Spain and Sweden, and the European headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.