

Measurement Specialty, Inc.



Measurement Specialty, Inc. turns to MBF Scheduler to manage Windows batch job scheduling and expands capacity and efficiencies

Measurement Specialties headquartered Hampton Virginia and doing business in 65 countries, is a, leading, global sensor producer. They are a manufacturer and supplier of widely recognized sensors, consisting of fluid property sensors – think of oils (engine, hydraulic, transmission), photo optic sensors ideally suited for medical applications - think of life-sustaining, implantable medical devices, temperature sensors – think of automatically controlling your cars cabin environment and humidity sensors that turn on your windshield wipers automatically, position sensors that help control a Segway, pressure sensors that measure inches of water, chemical properties and salinity, and rotational position sensors for Gilbarco fuel pumps that measure the flow of fuel and vibration sensors for forestry, mining and agriculture.

Bob Andreini – Global Director of IS and IT has a staff of 32 that help him manage day to day operations, Bob is responsible for ERP applications, infrastructure and internal systems worldwide. Bob's, Director of Business Systems – Terry Simpkins is responsible for ERP implementation and support with a primary focus on the ManMan manufacturing application.

Measurement Specialties has a process for investing in technology. Bob and Terry look at it from the perspective that whatever technology is brought on board, it needs to improve efficiencies, reduce costs, fix a quality issue, fit the organization, be easily maintained and available for a fair price for value delivered.

When Measurement Specialties learned of MBF Scheduler they were immediately impressed. It had the WOW factor they were looking for. MBF Scheduler is able to emulate the HP e3000 scheduler and this was familiar to them. They immediately understood the concepts. It talked the same language they did.

Bob and Terry were using internal resources to manually manage batch jobs and living within the constraints of the Windows Scheduler. It was causing a lot of pain. The issue was compounded as Measurement Specialties developed

other processes and other internally grown systems that had the same kind of job scheduling requirements.

Automation Benefits Measurement Specialties

Measurement Specialties Production Planning System (PPS) is independent from ManMan and is an Oracle web based solution, running at three of Measurement Specialties European locations and several more locations planned in the coming months / years. It runs thousands of jobs everyday. Measurement Specialties was accustomed to having one or two resources logged on all day or numerous times every day to ensure that batch processes were running and didn't hang up. One task launched a web page from the windows scheduler that would run for 12 hours and would eventually stop processing due to a timer they included. If errors were generated during the job run it would stop dead in its tracks, if the I.T. team wasn't watching it they would get complaints from the manufacturing production users as the users would not be receiving expected updates to help monitor and schedule the manufacturing processes.

When Measurement Specialties implemented MBF Scheduler they included individual batch jobs at each of the three sites that run every single minute. They no longer have to - or need to - continuously log into the server, monitor or check jobs and status, read through jobs and or standard lists. The MBF Scheduler email notification feature and functionality that does not exist in the Windows scheduler, was a huge benefit for Measurement Specialties. With MBF Scheduler log file analyzer and email notification capabilities the IT team gets an email alert and it provides enough detail in the job listing that they can see exactly what the problem is, and are able to resolve it immediately or forward it to someone who can solve the problem. MBF Scheduler now notifies operators that they have a problem that needs to be addressed. This is in contrast to remembering every morning to check something, look it over and resolve it.



Bob pointed out that with every minute restarts, if a job does produce an error it flags the record and continues on with the rest of the stream and doesn't stop all processes. "MBF Scheduler's email notification is invaluable as it takes daily operation requirements out of the hands of our developers" said Bob Andreini.

MBF Scheduler is also – intuitive, making it easy to train the whole operations team. Training a desktop support person, with windows and office experience, is a relatively straight forward task. Within a day and a half they were up to speed and able to do all the status checking and make sure all jobs and process were running while others enjoyed their vacation.

The learning curve was somewhat flattened for Measurement Specialties resources that knew the HP e3000. Staff that was new to scheduling concepts found that what they could not do in Windows, they could do in MBF Scheduler. New to system administration resources was command line interface and scripting capabilities that provided more flexibility and were easy to use.

Productivity and Efficiencies

Bob Andreini said MB Foster's MBF Scheduler did not increase sales or reduced their budget. What it has done, and where they have gained the most, is in capacity and efficiencies. Measurement Specialties has been able to free up resources and higher level I.T. professionals to work on other projects that have greater value add for the business as opposed to monitoring batch jobs.

MBF Scheduler has expanded efficiencies beyond the I.T. group, said Terry Simpkins. He no longer receives calls at four in the morning to resolve production line issues. They continue to run as production floor workers have what they need to do there jobs.

Implementation

MB Foster's training services were leveraged to obtain a quick return on investment. In two days time Raymond Bilodeau delivered on-site – hands on - professional training services to Bob Andreini and his team. The goal was to ensure that Measurement Specialties was self-sufficient.

Measurement Specialties experienced some challenges when implementing MBF Scheduler. Those challenges included a steep learning curve and a very short window of opportunity to implement MBF Scheduler. MB Foster needed to learn of Measurement Specialties vision and long term requirements and as earlier adopters some functionality was not included in the original specifications when MBF Scheduler was developed. Terry Simpkins said "MB Fosters professional services, headed up by Raymond

Bilodeau was reactive and responded to our sense of urgency and turned issues and concerns around quickly, those all important features were added in one week's time adding planned functionality ahead of schedule and easing our implementation concerns".

Terry Simpkins said "What has set MB Foster and MBF Scheduler apart from its competitors and competing products is the MB Foster team's responsiveness. The way they have reacted to questions, problems and requests was outstanding. And MB Foster made our team feel like they had a dedicated support team, and that we had guys that were really paying attention and wanted us to succeed and wanted the product to work for us".

Bob and Terry both agreed and stated that MB Foster's product services and support has been stellar. "For us MBF Scheduler is a great solution and absolutely solved our problem, because it is flexible and expandable and can be moved into other applications we weren't thinking of initially. Our next implementation plans for MBF Scheduler include France and China" Said Bob Andreini.

About MB Foster

MB Foster has the people who understand how to deliver technology solutions that match our customer's business needs. For more than thirty years we have been the trusted advisor to customers ranging from local government to Global 100 enterprises. Our personalized service has proven time and again that we listen to customers and find the right service strategy to provide solutions that solve their business and information technology challenges today and into the future.

Whether it is a software product, migration project, data services, or project management, we make it easy for customers to mitigate business risks and technical challenges. We work with our customers to streamline their IT business operations to reduce costs, and improve efficiencies. Learn more at www.mbfoster.com.

For more information on MBF Scheduler go to:

- <http://www.mbfoster.com/pdf/Products/MBF-Scheduler.pdf>
- <http://www.mbfoster.com/products/MBFScheduler.cfm>

Contact MB Foster at info@mbfoster.com or call 1-800-ANSWERS (1-800-267-9377)

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Terry Simpkins - Director Business Systems

