CCEE Improves Batch Scheduling with CA Workload Automation

CLIENT PROFILE
Industry: Utilities
Company: Câmara de Comercialização de Energia Elétrica (CCEE)
Employees: 340

BUSINESS
Established in 1999, CCEE provides and sells energy in Brazil. It is a private non-profit organization run by all the parties involved in the purchase and sale of energy in the market.

CHALLENGE
The company’s IT team needed to improve its productivity rates by automating the execution and management of batch processes, which include administering the power sector’s operations and settling sales.

SOLUTION
CCEE selected CA Workload Automation for its ease of use for scheduling events and its compliance with the company’s processes.

BENEFIT
CCEE has dramatically reduced its operational overhead and processing times, resulting in increased efficiency and productivity while also avoiding the costs associated with additional staff.
CCEE is the agency responsible for overseeing sales of energy in Brazil. It was established in 1999 as the Administrator of Services of the Wholesale Power Supply Market, ASMAE, and later named the Power Supply Wholesale Market, MAE, in 2000. CCEE has been its name since 2004.

CCEE is a private non-profit organization operated by all the parties involved in the purchase and sale of energy in the market. This includes generating companies (public service dealers, independent producers and self-producers), distributors, retailers, importers and exporters of power energy, and special end consumers. The organization has more than 2,900 members.

CCEE is involved in all commercial operations - from measuring the energy generated and actually consumed to settling purchases and sales of energy in the short-term market.

The organization also manages energy auctions, as delegated by the Brazilian National Power Supply Agency – Aneel. The institution is based in São Paulo, and has 340 employees.

The main duties of CCEE include:

- Implement and communicate commercial rules and procedures
- Conduct contract management for the Regulated Contracting Environment (ACR) and Free Contracting Environment (ACL)
- Collate metrics and maintain the data registry of generated and consumed energy
- Settle energy purchases and sale auctions, as delegated by Aneel
- Provide the technology needed for energy purchases and sales operations
- Support the different stakeholders involved in the energy market.

At CCEE, IT is key for enabling the company’s operations in the Brazilian power sector. Edson Lugli, the company’s Executive Manager of Support and Infrastructure, explains that CCEE depends on batch processes to be able to meet and comply with almost all of its duties. This includes its main responsibility – measuring and operating the country’s energy market, which accounts for billions of Brazilian reals every month.

“Our greatest challenge was to automate and manage these responsibilities, which are absolutely key to the energy market, and which used to be carried out manually on a Linux platform,” he adds.
According to Lugli, the previous system not only came with a very high operational overhead, it also failed to meet the required business functionality, which led CCCE to seek a new solution.

The automation and control levels demanded by CCEE were not possible with the previous approach, which also lacked integration capabilities to support the company’s operations. “The availability, performance and functionality of the previous tools did not fully meet the needs of the energy market,” adds the company’s Executive Manager.

In order to streamline its operations, CCEE benchmarked different automation and management solutions for its batch processing, which included conducting proof of concepts of the main tools available in the market.

“Our buying selection process was based on specification and price. CA Technologies approached the negotiations with flexibility, which enabled the adoption of a viable and beneficial model for all parties,” says Lugli.

According to the company’s Executive Manager, CA Workload Automation DE was selected as it was the best match for the goals defined in the project, which included reducing operational effort and increasing productivity. Among the advantages of the solution are event operations, analysis control and management reporting, as well as the performance, availability and functionality offered.

“We selected CA Workload Automation DE for its ease of use and for the ability to schedule by events, which makes the solution particularly suited to our processes,” says Lugli. He also notes that such features made the IT department realize the enormous array of business applications relevant to CCEE.

Implemented in 2009, the solution oversees the execution of nearly 460 jobs on a daily basis; CCEE expects this to reach 1,100 daily jobs as automation of processes progresses.

According to Lugli, the solution enables the IT department to automate job schedules using interdependency rules, thus reducing the time between the start and the end of processes. “All batch processes are now managed by CA Workload Automation DE,” he adds.
Lugli says CA Workload Automation DE has surpassed expectations since it was implemented at CCEE. According to him, the solution has delivered tangible results, such as a dramatic reduction in the team’s operational overhead. This has enabled them to take on new activities without the need to hire new staff.

There has also been a reduction in maintenance times. “Many of the former system’s former tasks have been migrated to the new solution. For example, we now have more than 2,800 jobs that serve all the business needs related to batch processing,” he adds.

The solution’s benefits include:

- Greater agility and better control of job executions
- Better visibility of interdependencies and execution forecast times
- Twenty-fold increase in processing capacity
- Automated execution agendas linked to interdependency rules
- Reduced total batch window time
- Increased productivity of top-level support and infrastructure teams.

Lugli says that, since CCEE does not own a legacy processing system, some of the most significant benefits achieved were in relation to business features.

“CA Workload Automation DE now runs all CCEE processes, providing support to critical operations for the company and the power energy market,” he adds. “We have found various ways to improve how we service the business needs, which has contributed to the organization’s results.”

Thanks to this success, CCEE hopes to extend the use of the solution to further expand automation and other features.
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