

skybot
SCHEDULER™

- ◆ Cross-system event-driven scheduling
- ◆ Central console for managing your enterprise
- ◆ Automation for UNIX, Linux, and Windows servers
- ◆ Built-in notification for Service Level Agreements

SCHEDULER

A Clean Slate for Enterprise Scheduling

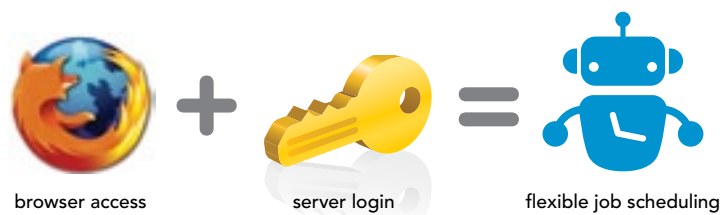
Experienced, Knowledgeable, Successful

With over 25 years of scheduling experience, Help/Systems, LLC knows what it takes to deliver industrial-strength, high-quality, and easy-to-deploy software. We've helped over 15,000 IBM i customers around the world automate their job schedules. We used this experience and knowledge to create a new, cross-platform job scheduler: Skybot Scheduler.

What is Skybot Scheduler?

Skybot Scheduler is the complete enterprise job scheduling solution for your Windows®, UNIX®, and Linux® servers. An enterprise operated by Skybot Scheduler runs more smoothly, reliably, and with fewer crises than those managed by human operators or dependent on time-based job schedules.

Skybot Scheduler is a Web-based user interface that takes advantage of Web 2.0 technologies. It overcomes many client/server issues by supporting multiple Web browsers, including Internet Explorer and Firefox. You can administer the product from anywhere, provided you have browser access and a login for the server hosting the Web application. The technology was developed in Java for both the Skybot Scheduler server and agent software. It ships with its own database that makes your life as a system administrator easier.



More Than Just a Job Scheduler

Skybot Scheduler doesn't just schedule batch jobs. Skybot Scheduler lets you build an event-driven schedule across all your systems for enterprise scheduling, coordinated batch processing, and cross-system monitoring. Skybot Scheduler works across all your servers to:

- ◆ Monitor essential services and daemons
- ◆ Schedule batch jobs
- ◆ Monitor file arrival and directory creation or modification
- ◆ Coordinate event-driven scheduling across different platforms
- ◆ Capture output from agent systems for troubleshooting
- ◆ Control the user and working directory on the server
- ◆ Provide reporting for today's stringent regulations
- ◆ Notify you for Service Level Agreements
- ◆ Automate your custom scripts

Works Nights and Weekends

Skybot Scheduler works overtime and weekends, so you don't have to. That means less interference with your leisure time and family life. You tell Skybot Scheduler what to do. When one job finishes, it runs the next job in its schedule, and so on. If your server really needs help, Skybot Scheduler can send an e-mail to a system administrator or create an SNMP trap for your network monitoring or problem ticketing software. No more camping out in the network operation center waiting for dedicated jobs to finish. Say goodbye to unnecessary overtime and hello to more free nights, weekends, and holidays.

Say goodbye to unnecessary overtime and hello to more free nights, weekends, and holidays.

Increases Developer Productivity

Skybot Scheduler eliminates the hundreds of manual programming hours necessary to run your batch jobs and build in dependency processing. You just fill in the blanks to tell Skybot Scheduler how you want the batch job to run and it goes to work. Also, you won't need to bother developers in the middle of the night because jobs ran out of order. Don't waste your developers' time—get Skybot Scheduler.

Skybot Scheduler Deploys in Minutes—Not Weeks

Skybot Scheduler is easy to install and access. The Skybot Scheduler software installs on your Windows or UNIX server with a self-contained HTTP server and database. You then install agent software on each server that you want Skybot Scheduler to manage. Once everything is connected, simply use your Web browser to view and manage your entire job schedule. You don't need to install any software on your desktop computers.

Automate Your Custom Scripts

Skybot Scheduler makes it easy to run your custom CRON jobs or Windows .BAT files as part of your enterprise business processes. With Skybot Scheduler, your scripts run as part of an event-driven schedule across all your platforms, so you don't have to rely on timed jobs in your schedule. You can even tie in event notification so that all processes are monitored, which allows you to keep up on your Service Level Agreements (SLAs).

Skybot variables allow you to enter dynamic values, such as the current date and time, in a Skybot Scheduler script. Skybot Scheduler automatically replaces the variable with the actual value when it runs the script.

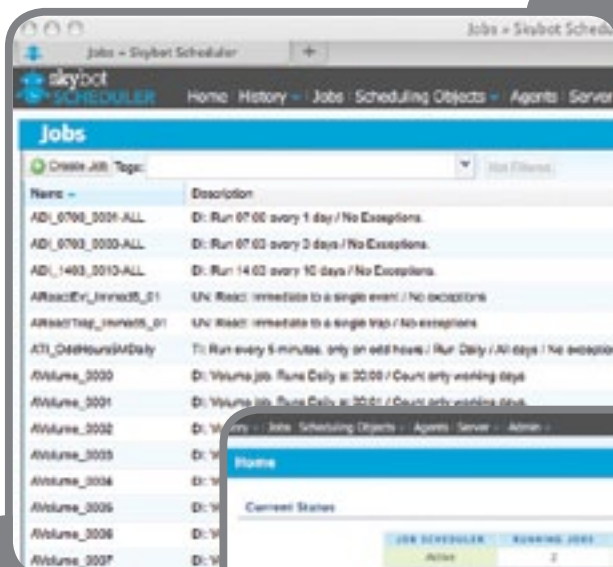
Skybot Scheduler makes it easy to run your custom CRON jobs or Windows .BAT files as part of your enterprise business processes.

Your Job Scheduler Basics

Define and Manage Jobs Across Your Enterprise—From One Console

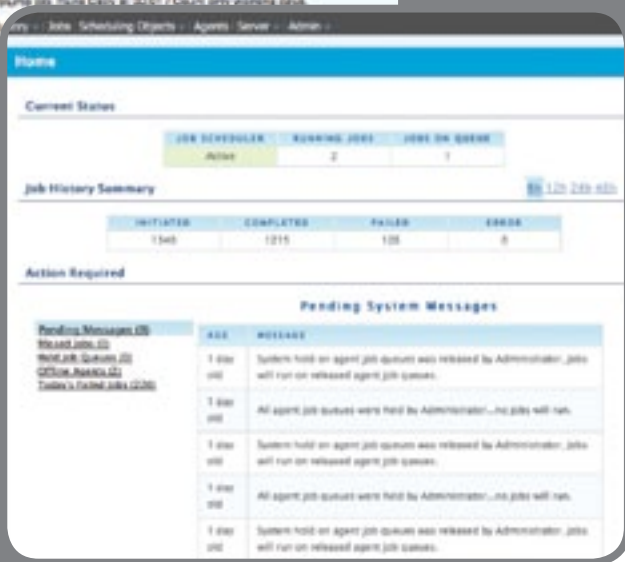
The Skybot Scheduler browser is your central console for job scheduling across your enterprise. Simply open a Web browser—Internet Explorer or Firefox—and manage jobs and monitor events on your Windows, UNIX, and Linux servers. View your jobs using the Job Manager and Job Completion History. When you log into Skybot Scheduler, you instantly know if the product is running, if any jobs failed, and if there are any actions you need to take. From there, a listing of jobs, job completion history, access to connected agents, and much more is just a click away.

Skybot Scheduler lets you manage your job schedule and access all the tools you need to work with jobs. You can launch or display all the Skybot Scheduler tools—the Job Monitor History, Agent Event Manager, Command Sets—directly from your browser. You don't have to physically move to another system to set up jobs on your Windows, UNIX, or Linux servers. You also can use Skybot Scheduler's filtering options to view only the jobs and scheduling objects you want to see.



▶ The Jobs page shows all your jobs in an easy-to-read list view. You can see the status of every job on your enterprise. Double-click a job to view its details or change its settings.

▶ The Skybot Scheduler Home page provides information about the product status, a brief job history, and action items for the operator.



Tags

Tags help you organize your job schedule. You can apply a tag to various objects, including jobs, agents, calendars, date lists, and variables. You then can use the tags as a filtering or selection device in various Skybot Scheduler windows.

Skybot Scheduler can handle any job schedule, no matter how simple or complex.

Your Every Day Job Scheduler

With Skybot Scheduler, you can schedule most jobs in less than a minute. Day of Week scheduling lets you specify a day of the week to run a job. You can run the job every day, specific days every week, or specific days just one week per month. You also can specify a time or time range for the job to run on the scheduled dates. That's all there is to it.

Interval Scheduling

Use Interval Scheduling if you need to collect statistics, monitor a task, poll data, or check if communication lines are down at regular intervals. You can run a job every specified number of minutes, hours, or days. After it submits the job the first time, Skybot Scheduler automatically calculates when to run the job again.

Complex Scheduling

When you have a schedule that's too complex to follow a repeatable time pattern, Skybot Scheduler offers another option. Its Date Lists allow you to specify working and non-working days and use them to schedule your complex jobs. You might use multiple date lists for one job—one that specifies the days to run, and one that specifies the days the job shouldn't run.

Using Date Lists as "do not run" dates lets you veto any job, no matter what other scheduling options it uses. For example, you can schedule a job to run every Monday and Wednesday, then use a Date List to tell the job to not run on certain days. The job runs on every Monday and Wednesday—except those that are set in the Date List.

Fiscal Calendars

If you have production control analysts that work in the Finance department, they can create fiscal calendar objects that define when the fiscal year starts, the last day of each period, weekly working days, and working days throughout the year. And, by using Skybot Scheduler's role-based security, you can be sure that only the right analyst can see and use these objects for their schedules. With so many calendar options, Skybot Scheduler can adapt to any work schedule or fiscal year.

Scheduling Objects

Skybot Scheduler supports scheduling objects that can be shared by multiple jobs on any of your servers. A script to delete temporary files on your Windows servers can use a Command set to ensure the job is done the same way on each system, without the overhead of setting up multiple systems individually. Or, if all batch processes on your UNIX server need the same working directory, user, and environment variables, you can create one agent environment to define the exact setup. Using shared scheduling objects saves time because you can update the object once to update all the jobs that use it.

Coordinate Event-Driven Scheduling Across All Your Servers

Event-Driven Scheduling

Many of the scheduling needs on Windows, UNIX, and Linux servers are based on file arrival information. Typically, a file arrives from an external source, such as a retail point-of-sale (POS) machine, and a job needs to be launched to handle the file. Agent Event Monitors make this simple by allowing you to monitor for certain events such as changes to a file or directory, a file that's not growing, when a process starts or ends, an SNMP trap, or a user-defined event. Then, you just define the monitored event as a prerequisite for a Skybot Scheduler reactive job. You also can have a job react to the completion of another Skybot Scheduler job.

Event-driven scheduling takes away the guessing game for enterprise scheduling. Jobs can be triggered by an application, a Windows service, or a daemon starting or pending.

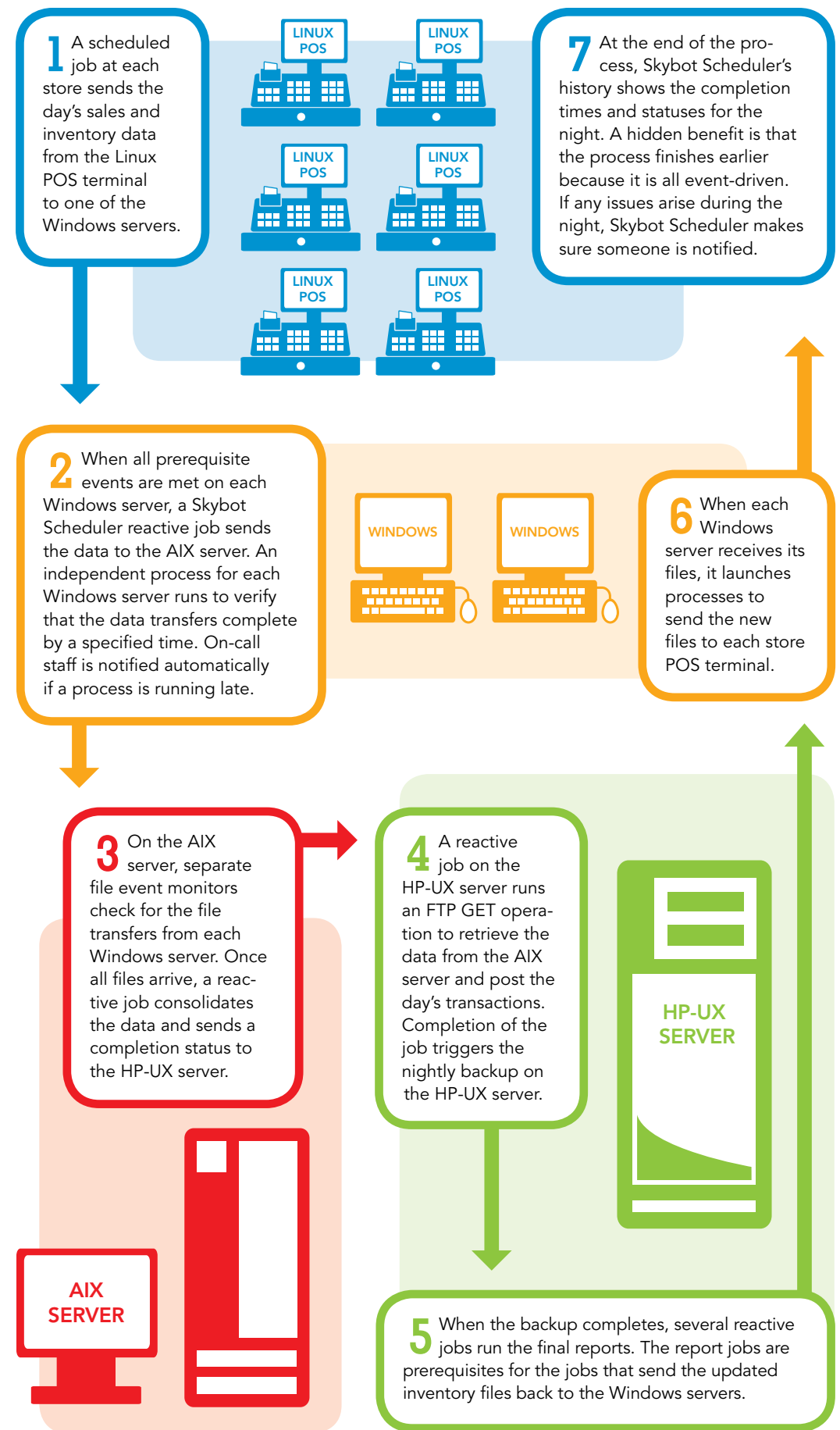
Event-driven scheduling takes away the guessing game for enterprise scheduling. And, Skybot Scheduler ensures that your jobs run when they're supposed to—even when the triggering event is on another server.

Jobs can be triggered by an application, a Windows service, or a daemon starting or pending. For example, you might check every minute to make sure a critical daemon is running on your AIX server. If the daemon ends, you can launch a script to restart it and notify your team. Application developers also can trigger events from their programs through API interfaces to Skybot Scheduler. Skybot Scheduler maintains a complete history of monitored events, saving time if you need to diagnose a processing problem quickly.

A Typical Scenario

Most enterprise schedules rely on timed events or manual procedures to process information. Consider a chain of retail stores whose end-of-day process starts at 10:00 p.m. when the store managers transmit sales and inventory data from their Linux POS terminals to a series of Windows servers. At 10:30, each server forwards the data to an AIX server, which runs a job to consolidate the data. At 11:30, an FTP process sends the consolidated data to an HP-UX server, which posts the day's transactions. Following the 2:00 a.m. backup, a reporting job scheduled at 3:30 sends the updated inventory files back to the Windows servers for distribution to the individual stores in time for the next business day.

Sounds easy; but what happens if all the events don't complete as planned—a store manager forgets to send a file; one of the Windows servers locks up; the consolidation job runs before all the Windows servers have sent their transaction files; or the operator misses the tape mount message during the backup? A schedule based on time exposes you to missed deadlines and information that's out of date. The flowchart on the next page shows how Skybot Scheduler manages the same process.



Skybot Scheduler Satisfies Auditors & Management

There are several driving forces when purchasing any new enterprise scheduling product, including government and industry regulations, SLAs, and staffing. It is essential that you have a tool that satisfies your auditors and management, yet is easy to install and deploy.

Powerful Role-Based Security

Skybot Scheduler's role-based security ensures that your users have access to only the parts of the product they need to perform their jobs. It also makes managing user privileges easier for system administrators, because they can change privileges for a large group of users on one screen.

Skybot Scheduler provides a virtually limitless combination of security options. You can segregate jobs by department, division, geographic location, or customer. Managed service providers, cloud computing applications, and large organizations all can benefit from Skybot Scheduler's role-based security.

Auditing

Skybot Scheduler's Audit History provides an enormous boost for reaching compliance for today's regulation requirements—Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX), PCI, and HIPAA. It tracks who created a new job, who changed a job setup or commands, and who forced a job to run outside its scheduled time. The Audit History provides the audit trail of jobs required by auditors.

Reduce Scheduling Errors

Whether you measure them by time wasted, money spent, unhappy users, or SLAs missed, mistakes are costly. There is no doubt that automating your operations with Skybot Scheduler drastically reduces job scheduling errors, which ultimately saves you time and money. But, the benefits of using Skybot Scheduler don't stop there. Everyone benefits when you use Skybot Scheduler, because it provides timely, consistent results.

Built-In Notification

You can specify what Skybot Scheduler should do in case a job runs too long, completes too quickly, or starts late. You can end the job or send an e-mail or text message to an operator, or send an SNMP trap to open a problem ticket. You also can receive notification or launch another job when service daemons end or an attached server drops. When you've agreed to provide a certain level of service, Skybot Scheduler helps you keep your word. Using Skybot Scheduler, you'll easily meet, or exceed, your SLAs.



info@skybotsoftware.com ♦ 1.877.506.4786 ♦ www.skybotsoftware.com