

## ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

### CYBERMATION *PERKING UP ENTERPRISE SCHEDULING WITH ESPRESSO*

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*Analyst: Ronald Schmelzer*

#### **Abstract**

Enterprise, or distributed, job scheduling is the ability to create cross-platform batch processes and workload that is executed on multiple machines. Cybermation's Espresso accomplishes this task by means of a graphical interface that helps a user define, test, and manage these distributed workloads across heterogeneous systems.

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## Enterprise Scheduling and Espresso

**Cybermation** has been in the business of providing distributed job scheduling and other facets of Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) for nearly two decades. Therefore, it is no surprise that when XML and Java made their presence felt in the EAI industry the company leveraged their knowledge to build a next-generation application. Cybermation's **ESP Espresso** product manages job scheduling and workload across a heterogeneous, multiple-server environment including UNIX, Windows NT, Windows 2000, IBM OS/400, Open VMS, and Tandem NSK operating systems and ERP application such as SAP R/3. And XML is the key to making this scheduling happen.

Enterprise, or distributed, job scheduling is the ability to create cross-platform batch processes and workload that is executed on multiple machines. Espresso accomplishes this task by means of a graphical interface that helps a user define, test, and manage these distributed workloads across heterogeneous systems. Actual workloads are performed by ESP Agents that reside on the target machines. Espresso provides the framework to manage these workloads. These workloads can be distributed physically across multiple server platforms as well as geographically across the world. As long as the system can be reached, its workload can be managed. Developers who define process workflows through the system can create production-ready schedules by graphically creating a flow chart, illustrating job relationships, dependencies and critical paths, and visually highlighting and correcting workflow errors, bottlenecks and inefficiencies. The Espresso product is slated for release this month.

## XML-based Workload Definition and Management

In this environment, XML is being used as the primary means in which workloads are defined and shared across machines that are running the ESP Workload Manager. Workload management actually consists of five major areas: workflow definition, scheduling, workload execution, resource management, and exception management. XML assists in each of these areas. In the first area, there are a number of emerging XML-based workflow standards, but when work on the Espresso product began in late 1999, many of these standards did not exist or were very immature. As a result, Espresso doesn't make use of emerging workflow standards such as Microsoft's XLang or IBM's Web Services Flow Language (WSFL). Rather, the product contains its own mechanism for defining workflows as it relates to distributed job scheduling. When a workflow standard does emerge as a "winner", Cybermation claims that a simple XSLT transformation will allow their product to work with the emergent format.

XML is also being used as the "repository format" for external files, as well as coordinating the communications between various processes in a workload. Since the Espresso product is now a Java-based application, it can run on any machine capable of running Java or JavaBeans

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applications. This expansion in platforms has not only expanded Cybermation's user base, but also provided a perfect environment for the exchange of XML-based workflow messages. In effect, Cybermation has "latched on" to the open source wave and provided a product capable of coordinating job scheduling across any platform supporting Java for applications and XML for data integration – which is pretty much most existing platforms on the market.

## Key Conclusions & Recommendations

- Companies that are running legacy systems and are interested in managing batch workloads can consider Espresso to meet these needs
- Espresso should adopt or interact with the emergent XML-based workflow specifications as defined by BPML, ebXML, WSFL, XLANG, or others
- Companies looking for workflow solutions should seek to make sure the Espresso system works well with internal EAI, B2B, and Web Services efforts

Cybermation's Espresso product is a great example of how XML can be used to choreograph processes between multiple, disparate software and hardware systems. While it may be more advantageous for Cybermation to adopt or extend an existing XML workflow standard, or help in the creation of an industry standard, their use of XML is a good illustration of its power in cross-system communication.

<b>Profile: Cybermation</b>	(August, 2001)
Date Founded: Over 20 years old	
Funding: Privately-held	
CEO: Ray Nissan	
Products:	
• Espresso	
• ESP Workload Manager	
Address:	
125 Commerce Valley Drive West, 8th Floor	
Markham, ON Canada L3T 7W4	
URL: <a href="http://www.cybermation.com">www.cybermation.com</a>	
Main Phone: (905) 707-4400	
Contacts:	
Kate Cavanaugh <a href="mailto:kcavanaugh@clarkeco.com">kcavanaugh@clarkeco.com</a>	
Ray Nissan <a href="mailto:rnissan@cybermation.com">rnissan@cybermation.com</a>	
Tina Rogers <a href="mailto:trogers@cybermation.com">trogers@cybermation.com</a>	

## Related Research

- *Web Services Technologies and Trends* Report (ZTR-WEBSESV)
- *Avinon* ZapNote (ZTZN-0108)

## About ZapThink, LLC

ZapThink is an IT market intelligence firm that provides trusted advice and critical insight into XML, Web Services, and Service Orientation. We provide our target audience of IT vendors, service providers and end-users a clear roadmap for standards-based, loosely coupled distributed computing – a vision of IT meeting the needs of the agile business.

ZapThink's role is to help companies understand these IT products and services in the context of SOAs and the vision of Service Orientation. ZapThink provides market intelligence to IT vendors who offer XML and Web Services-based products to help them understand their competitive landscape and how to communicate their value proposition to their customers within the context of Service Orientation, and lay out their product roadmaps for the coming wave of Service Orientation. ZapThink also provides implementation intelligence to IT users who are seeking guidance and clarity into how to assemble the available products and services into a coherent roadmap to Service Orientation. Finally, ZapThink provides demand intelligence to IT vendors and service providers who must understand the needs of IT users as they follow the roadmap to Service Orientation.

ZapThink's senior analysts are widely regarded as the "go to analysts" for XML, Web Services, and SOAs by vendors, end-users, and the press. They are in great demand as speakers, and have presented at conferences and industry events around the world. They are among the most quoted industry analysts in the IT industry.

ZapThink was founded in October 2000 and is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Its customers include Global 1000 firms, public sector organizations around the world, and many emerging businesses. ZapThink Analysts have years of experience in IT as well as research and analysis. Its analysts have previously been with such firms as IDC and ChannelWave, and have sat on the working group committees for standards bodies such as RosettaNet, UDDI, CPExchange, ebXML, EIDX, and CompTIA.

Call, email, or visit the ZapThink Web site to learn more about how ZapThink can help you to better understand how XML and Web Services impact your business or organization.

### **ZAPTHINK CONTACT:**

ZapThink, LLC  
11 Willow Street  
Suite 200  
Waltham, MA 02453  
Phone: +1 (781) 207 0203  
Fax: +1 (786) 524 3186  
[info@zapthink.com](mailto:info@zapthink.com)