

Skybot Scheduler: Managing Microsoft SQL® Server Jobs

Server sprawl seems to be occurring in every data center these days and companies are looking for ways to achieve central control. It's time to bring Microsoft SQL® Server into the fold of enterprise automation.

The Skybot Scheduler™ SQL Server Interface allows SQL Server jobs to work within the framework of Skybot Scheduler functionality, such as event-driven scheduling, cross-system reactivity, output distribution, and more.

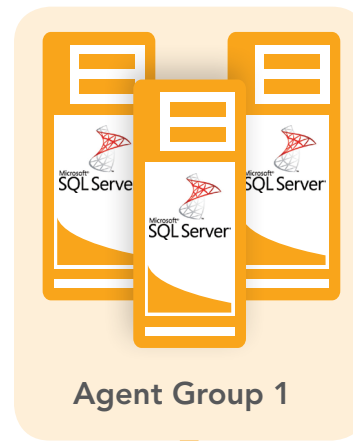
Although SQL Server provides a facility to schedule and execute its jobs, there are a number of features in Skybot Scheduler that can add significant value to a SQL Server jobs management scheme.

Skybot Scheduler lets you include your SQL Server jobs in your production job stream. This compresses the amount of time business processes take to complete and reduces dependence on any manual processes, which are error-prone. Integration also eliminates errors from having multiple schedules that don't communicate with one another.

There are many benefits to using the SQL Server Interface in Skybot Scheduler:

- Enable cross-platform, event-driven scheduling. For example, a SQL Server job executed on a Windows platform can trigger a job on a Linux®, UNIX®, or another Windows® server and vice-versa.
- React to events external to SQL Server, such as file arrivals or changes, processes starting or ending, and SNMP traps.
- Check for conditions, which must be met, before a job executes. For example, Skybot Scheduler can test for the availability of a SQL Server.
- Direct scheduling of your SSIS packages.
- Free up your Database Administrators for more complex tasks by moving the scheduling of SQL Server jobs to the Operations or a Production Control area. This eases maintenance and administration by centralizing control of SQL Server jobs.

Simplify your nightly backup process with Skybot Scheduler ▼



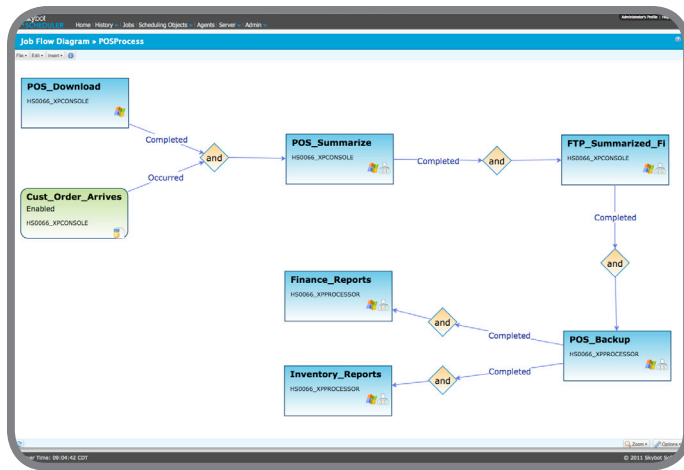
A single job scheduled in Skybot Scheduler runs at 5 p.m. to backup the SQL database on all agents in Agent Group 1.



On-call staff is notified automatically if a process is running late.

Successful completion of the backup on each agent triggers a file transfer process, which sends the backup to an offsite location.

- Assign scheduling exceptions, such as run time range and non-working days, to a job's regular schedule.
- Meet Service Level Agreements with monitors for job underruns, overruns, and late starts.
- Access job logs for troubleshooting. Skybot Scheduler also provides an audit history of every change made to its database, as well as job history, including job start and end time, and return codes.



▲ The Job Flow Diagram shows relationships between jobs and event monitors that are dependent on each other.

- Receive immediate email or text message notification if a SQL Server job fails so you can fix the error quickly. Notifications also can alert you to a SQL Server job that runs longer than normal or is late starting. If you have Service Level Agreements with your clients, you will meet them every time using Skybot Scheduler's powerful monitoring and automatic notification capabilities.
- Use Skybot Scheduler's Agent Groups to set up and schedule a single SQL Server job that runs on multiple servers. Agent Groups help you manage your SQL Servers and SQL Server jobs by simplifying and streamlining the scheduling process.

Skybot Scheduler's powerful analysis tools bring SQL Server jobs into the big picture:

- **Forecast Models** – It's easy to create a forecast for the coming week so you can plan maintenance and outages accordingly. The forecast shows what jobs are scheduled across all of your servers, what day and time they are scheduled, what the dependencies are, and what the average run time has been based on job history. The longer you use Skybot Scheduler, the more accurate your forecast becomes.

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- **Job Flow Diagrams** – This tool lets you diagram each job stream, and customize the diagram with comments and labels. Job Flow Diagrams visually display the dependencies and relationships of your job streams, making it easy for operators to follow.
- **Schedule Activity Monitor (SAM)** – SAM shows you which jobs are scheduled for the next 24 hours and makes it easy to spot the exceptions. SAM shows you which jobs have failed, missed their start time, or are running late, and displays the reason why.

Skybot Scheduler helps you rein in the complexity of your SQL Server network by simplifying the scheduling process and documenting the schedule. Automating your SQL Server jobs eliminates errors caused by manual processes, improves efficiency, and frees up your Database Administrators to concentrate on new, innovative solutions for your core business.

Fast—Easy—Automate!

Enterprise scheduling, monitoring, and notification has never been easier. To learn more about Skybot Scheduler contact your Automation Expert at 1-877-506-4786 or visit our website at www.skybotsoftware.com.

About Skybot Software

Skybot Software™ provides software solutions for enterprise systems and is backed by Help/Systems, LLC, the world's leader in IBM Power Systems automation software. With more than 28 years of job scheduling experience, Help/Systems knows what it takes to deliver industrial strength, high quality, and easy-to-use workload automation software. For more information, visit our website at www.skybotsoftware.com, or contact your Automation Expert at 1-877-506-4786.