



maxMonitor system monitoring

IBM i systems require constant monitoring to ensure the system and applications are running as needed. This can be a very complex process depending on the number of applications and the number of systems in a network. System and application issues can stop normal business processes and should be resolved as soon as possible.

In order to decrease system and application down time, reduce operator workload and improve service to the users on the IBM i machine, not only does your company need to run jobs such as backups and other regularly predictable functions automatically, companies also need some method of coping with errors, or potential problems, in a timely manner, as they occur.

The IBM i communicates known issues by sending messages to various message queues. A large portion of the potential issues are not known to OS/400 as no error messages are produced, issues in this category include jobs not running when they should, jobs running for too long, job queues filling up, disk occupancy growing rapidly, along with many other application specific scenarios.

Managing error messages and monitoring the activity of the system is an involved task, especially when system usage is at a peak. maxMonitor removes the need to constantly monitor the system and its activities. It has been designed to monitor any area of the system and take the appropriate action based on user specific criteria. With in-built logic allowing you to define an infinite number of actions to perform against any issue reported. maxMonitor ensures the automation of this task will ease the workload of the IT department and ensures that no critical messages or issues are missed.

Business Benefits

In order to achieve fully automated operation of your IBM i system, not only do you need to run jobs such as backups and other regularly predictable functions automatically, you need some method of coping with issues as they occur.

Any organization running an IBM i machine will be aware of the volume of messages the system generates. maxMonitor automates the handling of such messages. If these tasks are automated then you will have the opportunity to manage your iSeries machine by exception and optimize your system management.

With maxMonitor you can also specify which jobs, subsystems, job queues or even third-party applications to monitor, which items should be active or inactive at any given time and what actions to take. Actions taken can be, to reply to the message, ignore the alert, escalate the alert through the Maximize network and even email the alert to a user or group.

maxMonitor includes a network display screen to enable multiple systems to be monitored from a single system further reducing the workload on the IT department.



Your team can spend a great deal of time monitoring message queues for messages and checking system thresholds, jobs and subsystems, but a lot of these messages and tasks are informational only and may not be considered important. Automation with maxMonitor can take care of these messages and tasks whilst ensuring system critical messages, jobs, subsystems and more are not missed, therefore freeing up your personnel to undertake more productive tasks.

With maxMonitor you have the option to define rules, which messages do not need attention, those that do, which jobs should be active, which should not, you can also define when these rules should be checked, some will be valid 24/7, some only at weekends etc. Once this has been defined you can add extra alert targets (or message replies) to enable emails to be sent to specific users or groups of users, or if it needs to go onto the network wide monitoring screen.

Along with full TCP/IP Socket network support inbuilt within maxMonitor, there is also a 'Heartbeat' feature which automatically notifies you if one of your machines were to fail. This will give you piece of mind that no errors are going to be missed and you will be informed if anything goes wrong.

Technical Benefits

Message Queues can be extremely busy and ignoring the unimportant messages and replying to or escalating the others can be extremely time consuming. maxMonitor will apply the rules you give it automatically to these messages reducing the time taken to respond or escalate from minutes and hours, down to just seconds.

Active processes (Jobs, Subsystems and Job Queues) can also be complicated to monitor. Which items should be active at any point in time? How long should they run? Should they have a certain number of threads or occurrences? Should job queues be released or held? Should jobs be waiting to run? maxMonitor will apply the rules you give it automatically and decide to escalate any issues either via email or through the Maximize network.

Each set of rules is built into an Application Group for ease of maintenance, management and network availability. These rules can be sent and activated on client systems based on the installed applications on each system.

maxMonitor includes Maximize PTF & Upgrade networkwide control. This allows for a monitoring system to send Maximize updates and auto-install to any number of client systems, either by name or system group. This greatly reduces the time technical staff spend upgrading the monitoring software and still maintains security and control with the IT teams.

Specifications

- Runs on IBM OS/400 V5R4 and above
- Alert visibility across your network as standard
- Automated Job monitoring includes job status, run time, threads, count, temp storage and more
- Automated Subsystem monitoring to check subsystems are either active or inactive at the correct time
- Automated Job Queue monitoring includes job queue status, maximum age, maximum counts and more
- Automated System Level threshold monitoring include percentage of ASP used values, CPU values, temp/perm addresses used and many more
- Automated third-party monitoring plug ins available
- Automated message monitoring. Monitor messages by message ID, severity, queue and many more
- Monitor multiple networked IBM i systems on a single display
- Complete audit trail of all alerts generated
- Alert Targets/Actions supported include escalation through Maximize network, email, log, reply and ignore
- Automated time zone detection for networks spanning time zones
- Network distribution of rule groups
- Maximize upgrade & PTF distribution networkwide control



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