

Nominee: Streamworks by arvato Systems

Nomination title: Streamworks – Next-generation workload automation software

What are your product's / solution's key distinguishing features and/or USPs?

Streamworks is a workload automation software designed by data centre operation specialists to automate IT processes beyond traditional job scheduling for customers of any size. At its core, Streamworks takes advantage of modern technologies with a proven track record of performance and reliability. The software fully supports multi-tenancy with comprehensive reporting and compliance audit capabilities. Streamworks architecture and usability has been designed to offer the highest scalability and automation, as well as the lowest operational cost. As a result our customers achieve unparalleled efficiencies and operational quality while keeping the cost and operational efforts very low. One solution for all platforms and applications: Streamworks coordinates and controls job processing on numerous platforms from Windows and UNIX/Linux through to IBM z/OS. Support for enterprise applications like SAP is available via manufacturer certified interfaces. The solution is highly secure and features an intelligent architecture designed to meet the flexible demands of today's dynamic data centre environments. Design reliable and easily maintainable job streams: Streamworks allows you to automate workflows and IT processes intelligently. All elements needed during the design of IT processes are just one click away. Innovative design principles and built-in process transparency ensures that jobs, job streams and complex dependencies are not only easily developed, but they are also easily maintained with a higher degree of flexibility and a lower total cost of ownership. Administration made easy – at all times: The innovative design principles of Streamworks allow maximum automation of IT processes. Automated adaptive exception handling minimises the manual effort during execution. The modern and easy-to-use user interface enables IT operators to follow the batch execution and take actions as needed and also provides them with current predictions on whether or not running IT processes will meet service level agreements. Reporting and auditing: Reporting and auditing are part of the unique architecture of Streamworks and provide out-of-the-box full transparency over your workload. No Streamworks-specific knowledge is required to get the answer you need. All job executions, including job output management and retrieval, can be reviewed at any time without additional tools or third-party products. Integration of business user requirements: The Streamworks Business Service Request finally gives process engineers the functionality they need to enable business users to request and execute IT processes via a user-friendly and secure service catalogue. Business user-driven IT processes can be automated in a way that goes beyond traditional scheduling and provides significant benefits. Scalable architecture: The architecture of Streamworks allows you to react to workload automation demands with great flexibility. Dynamic allocation of multi-threaded Windows services provides effortless workload balancing within your Windows servers, clusters and even in the cloud. This innovative and unique approach is built into the Streamworks architecture, providing unmatched scalability and a reduced administrative overhead. On premise, virtual and cloud: All Streamworks components communicate via a secure, encrypted and certified layer and can be run from wherever it is most appropriate: on premise, in a virtual environment or even in the cloud.

What tangible impact has your product/solution had on the market and your customers?

arvato Systems has been known for excellent enterprise job scheduling solutions in the European market for decades. In 2010, we launched Streamworks, taking our 30 years of experience into the new workload automation product and combining it with the possibilities of modern, standard software architectures. Today, Streamworks is a real challenger in the international workload automation market. Our customers and even our own data centre professionals were impressed with the time they save using Streamworks in comparison to our competitors' products. Customers typically reduce their total cost of ownership up to 20% by using Streamworks. If you're currently running your batch processes without an enterprise workload automation solution, time and staff savings will add up to more than 80% by using Streamworks.

What are the major differentiators between your product/solution and those of your primary competitors?

First of all, Streamworks was designed by a company running its own data centre and using the product itself to an enormous extent. More than 3500 servers are connected to the arvato Systems Streamworks installation, and more than 3.5 million batch jobs are processed each month. Thus, Streamworks was designed to meet data centres' daily technical and business needs. Cost reduction and ease of use are the main topics for the customer-centric software release management. The data centre specialists at arvato Systems do not only know the functions and interfaces you need in an up-to-date workload automation suite, but they are also highly experienced in running and integrating such a solution in an existing IT infrastructure environment. Streamworks consulting by arvato Systems means knowledge transfer from one data centre team to another. Most competitor solutions have been on the market for decades without significant changes to the underlying software architecture. It would therefore take a big software lifecycle project for them to catch up with Streamworks' modern architecture based on .NET C#, XML, TLS encryption and more. Thus, amongst the enterprise workload automation solutions, Streamworks has the most advanced and modular architecture and can therefore be easily adapted to support new requirements of our customers and the market. Last but not least, many modules like forecasting, simulation, a full-featured reporting engine and a truly open interface for any kind of business self service requests are provided at no extra charge, which is not common market practice. In conclusion, regarding the process quality, ease of use and total costs of ownership for running a workload automation solution, Streamworks is the best choice.

Customer Quote: "The flexibility of the modern job scheduling solution Streamworks from arvato Systems enabled the integration of all interfaces within our complex IT landscape. We now have control over all processes at a single glance." Thomas Bertschin, Baloise Group (Financial Sector), Development Services Corporate IT

Why nominee should win

- Streamworks is a modern data centre software straight out of a data centre, designed by professional IT operation specialists
- Streamworks is strictly focused on modern data centre needs: flexibility, reliability, security and ease of use to meet rapidly changing business expectations

- Streamworks offers a scalable architecture and scheduling capabilities for all platforms, on site, virtually or in the cloud – with a single point of control
- Streamworks provides advanced enterprise automation at lower total cost of ownership (TCO) thanks to reduced operation efforts and a higher degree of automation by means of adaptive, automated exception handling