

WHITEPAPER

Data Transfer Automation in a High-Volume, Enterprise Environment

The drawbacks of common methods of automated data transfers and the benefits of automation with EFT™ Enterprise and Event Rules

Learning how to manage large amounts of data in a high-volume environment is a common issue for many industries, from healthcare to financial services to retail, as the vast amount of data collected from customers or partners alone can be extensive. Managing data is not just about collecting and storing it though; it needs to be done in a timely, secure, and compliant way, which can be a challenge for many organizations.

A managed file transfer (MFT) solution with advanced data transfer automation capabilities is a highly cost efficient and time effective way to manage data, no matter how great the volume, variety, or complexity. Through event-driven automation, a company can offload its data with little to no human interaction, from system to system or person to system. Rather than manually delivering data, you can deliver that data automatically, as it is needed, and protect it in the process.

Drawbacks of Common Methods of Data Transfer Automation

Companies choose a variety of methods to improve the efficiency of their data transfers. Unfortunately, many of those decisions are based solely on budget or the skill level of those who will implement the transfer processes. Below are a few ways that companies have attempted to “automate” their data transfers. For each of these common methods, there are drawbacks.

Automation Method 1: HTTP Web-Based Transfers

Issue: Increased risk of security breach

A web application accepts a variety of data types, including submitted forms and attachments. However, receiving data through a company website is not an effective solution. Designed for serving the web, not large-scale storage, the company’s web server is not an appropriate place to store sensitive data. As the most exposed point within the organization’s network, keeping sensitive data on the web server could lead to a serious security breach.

In this whitepaper, you will learn:

- ✓ **The drawbacks of common methods of data transfer automation**
- ✓ **How to minimize the risk of a security breach**
- ✓ **How to save time and money through scheduling events**
- ✓ **How to maintain data control and access**

To combat this security issue, all incoming data must be immediately offloaded to a server specifically designed for storage. Deeper within the network, this server is more secure and less exposed to would-be attackers. But with data flowing into the business 24 hours a day, initiating manual transfers of the web uploads is a time consuming, bandwidth draining, unpredictable task. In large enterprises, this method of data delivery can be problematic because of the sheer volume of data.

Automation Method 2: Windows Task Scheduler

Issue: Automation functionality limited to timed events

Using the Windows Task Scheduler is a popular way to simulate automation; however, this only works for timed events, such as “send the report in this folder every Monday at 8 a.m.” There is much more to automation than just doing things on a schedule. For example, what if you want to encrypt a file as soon as it is uploaded to your server? A timer rule is not going to be able to handle that. In large enterprises, this method of data delivery can be problematic because there are key file operations that can’t be accomplished with Windows Task Scheduler, such as encryption, email notifications, server restore from backup, reporting, and auditing. Each of these automation functions contribute to an enterprise keeping a network secure, productive, and compliant.

Automation Method 3: Outsource Data Management

Issue: Data control and access falls to third party

A less attractive solution for the large enterprise is to outsource their managed data transfers to an external organization that performs batch processing of the data. A large data center may be able handle the data load, but the data is no longer under the control of the enterprise. Security certificates need to be kept current, failed or incomplete transfers may need special attention, and access to the data is in the hands of a third-party organization. In large enterprises, this method of data delivery can be problematic because it can significantly increase overhead costs, without sufficiently addressing or meeting security and compliance priorities.

Data Transfer Automation without the Drawbacks

Globalscape Enhanced File Transfer™ (EFT™) Enterprise with Event Rules is an advanced system of file transfer automation features. Through Event Rules, organizations can establish controlled and automated processes for key data transfer tasks, between systems or between people and systems or people to people, that help ensure data security, compliance mandates, and employee productivity. Unlike many of the common methods of data automation, EFT Enterprise offers advanced security capabilities and a high level of employee productivity that can manage big data in a high-volume, enterprise environment.

EFT Enterprise offers the following benefits:

- > Integrate with backend applications
- > Simplify complicated and tedious data transfer tasks
- > Organize departmental Event Rules by folders
- > Export Event Rules in XML to use for troubleshooting, testing/development environments or importing to other EFT sites
- > Define external connections once via connection profiles in Event Rules
- > Restore server from backup for node-specific data and cluster-shared data

How to Tackle Top Data Transfer Automation Challenges with EFT Enterprise

✓ How to minimize the risk of a security breach

While HTTP web-based transfers may be flexible for different data types, the high risk of a network security breach far outweighs the convenience. Using EFT Enterprise with Event Rules means meeting compliance and security mandates through automatically enforced policies.

Additional security and compliance benefits of EFT Enterprise with Event Rules include the expiration of data access, purging of old data and records, and purging of inactive accounts, which can all occur automatically according to security policies without human intervention.

Not to mention EFT Enterprise ensures secure information exchange while data is in transit and at rest, while also making sure that high level of security continues through data hosting and retention in protected internal storage.

✓ How to save time and money through scheduling events

While Windows Task Scheduler offers the time-saving benefit of automating timed events, it doesn't offer enhanced data security benefits like encryption.

Organizations enhance security, while saving time and money through EFT Enterprise and Event Rules through the following features:

Triggers are used to trigger Event Rules and can be configured through EFT to clean up a specified folder at regularly scheduled intervals. There are over 40 different triggers, including date/time, folder changes, file upload/download, and more.

Conditions act like filters or compound IF statements, which will lead to an Event happening, if any numbers of conditions are met. e.g., An Event trigger that is called whenever a file is uploaded can be fine-tuned to trigger only if that file's extension is WAV and nothing else.

Actions are the result of an Event Rule being triggered and meeting specified conditions. e.g., EFT can launch an Event Rules Action that will accomplish the following...

- > Copy/move a file to host
- > Download file from host
- > Open PGP operations
- > Cleanup folder
- > Generate report
- > AS2 send file to host
- > Backup server configuration
- > Write to Windows Event Log
- > Scan file using an AV or DLP server
- > Execute command
- > Execute advanced workflow
- > Send notification email
- > Perform folder/file operations
- > Compress/decompress file
- > Invoke Web Service from URL
- > OR Simply stop subsequent rules

✓ How to maintain data control and access

While using outsourced data management services may accomplish automation in some capacity, your organization ultimately gives up control, allowing a third party to access some of your most sensitive information, which can place the security of the sensitive data under the care of another organization's security and compliance policies. Outsourced services are also an additional cost and service to manage, and it doesn't eliminate the potential problems that happen through human error.

Through EFT Enterprise with Event Rules, your organization maintains control over the security and access of your data and network. Additionally, through EFT Enterprise, you'll see your organization improve data reliability, security, and transparency.

- > Reduce human error with enhanced reliability
- > Increase transparency and control over transfer with automated reporting
- > Save time and meet service level agreements (SLAs) by automating tasks

How Easy is it to Use EFT Enterprise with Event Rules?

You can easily create complex programmatic workflows without requiring knowledge of a programming language, using a simple drag-and-drop or click-and-configure interface. Companies select EFT Enterprise for its ability to secure data in transit and at rest and automatically run transfers as they are required. Automation can be programmed quickly and easily from within the EFT interface, without the need for complex scripting and development.

Almost any file management scenario that you can imagine can be automated through an EFT Event Rule in EFT Enterprise. Using EFT's event-driven automation, a company can eliminate data exposure, reduce web server load, and save time. And time is money.

Globalscape Manages File Transfers, So You Can Manage Your Network

EFT Enterprise's file transfer automation system, Event Rules, is developed and maintained in-house. Globalscape is a U.S. company with a dedicated, U.S.-based support staff that provides clients with 24/7 support. Start your free trial today and learn how EFT Enterprise and Event Rules can save time, increase efficiency, eliminate expensive processes, manage security, and maintain compliance.

About Globalscape

Globalscape ensures the reliability of mission-critical operations by securing sensitive data and intellectual property. Globalscape's suite of solutions features EFT, the industry leading enterprise file transfer solution that delivers military-grade security and a customizable platform for achieving best in-class control and visibility of data in motion or at rest, across multiple locations. Founded in 1996, Globalscape is a leading enterprise solution provider of secure information exchange software and services to thousands of customers, including global enterprises, governments, and small businesses.