OPCON

SMA TECHNOLOGIES

The Pomona Group

An SAP-based global automation project completed in record time with OpCon

Streamlining Multiple Networks with OpCon

The Pomona Group had been managing their SAP instances for their PassionFroid and Episaveurs networks without a scheduler which proved to be both time consuming and inefficient. When they added a third SAP instance, TerreAzur, to their network it even further complicated the already inefficient system. This addition created a need to implement an automation solution to streamline their SAP instances, along with other processes operating under Windows and Linux.

Pomona knew they needed to implement an automation platform on the business side so they could better plan for reboots and maintenance, as well as sequence and synchronize end-to-end application flows. From an operational side, they needed a solution that would optimize and streamline job management between their networks.

groupe pomona

Pomona Group is a French distribution company that delivers food and non-food commodities to professionals and local businesses.

- 150 locations within France
- 8,900 employees
- 800 servers: Windows, Linux
- Citrix (50%)
- 1,000 jobs per location
- SAP: ECC, BI, CRM Selligent, HR

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION	BENEFITS
Pomona was running excessive SAP instances on multiple networks	OpCon can run SAP instances on different servers from a single point-of-control	OpCon gives Pomona an enterprise-wide graphical overview of their processes
Handling and distributing fresh products require a high level of flexibility and management	With OpCon it is easy to delay or cancel a process based on business requirements	Pomona's handling of fresh products has improved due to a more flexible and quicker IT processing
Financial information was needed from multiple sources and servers which proved to be time consuming	Upon request, the workload starts faster using OpCon to gather all the necessary financial data	The finance department can now access account information three hours earlier allowing productivity to increase

"We have improved the quality and reliability of our IT system and it is undoubtedly thanks to OpCon."

Frédéric Villecroze
Infrastructure & Telecom Manager

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Choosing OpCon

When Pomona started researching for a solution their requirements were: it needed to be SAP-compatible and have the capability to operate across multiple platforms. Additionally, the solution needed to be intuituve with a simple graphical interface so it would be easy to use across their networks and in different departments. Initially, OpCon met all their criteria but after meeting with an SMA Technologies customer that had a similar environment it solidified their decision to choose OpCon. IT Mananger, Frédéric Villecroze said "OpCon appeared to be the right solution for an SAP environment. Simple and intuitive, and it was really easy to navigate."

Quick and Efficient Implementation

Implementing OpCon into their environment only took three months and by the end of the third month, their first applications were in production. The Pomona Group teams quickly became self-sufficient to create and implement job chains so business impact was immediate. For example, the finance department can access account information three hours earlier than before, giving them more accurate data and saving mulitple hours per month. OpCon now supports the deployment of SAP throughout Pomona.

When working with fresh products the need for flexibility and responsiveness was very important and OpCon provides real-time monitoring of their applications. In addition to monitoring, OpCon has made it possible to optimize job management within SAP; for example, they can now manage the time delay between two jobs (cyclical jobs). Previously they had to use time-interval management without any possibility of time shifting. With OpCon, implementation comes together, and they can absorb any delays without having to modify the operating plan.

Enterprise-Wide Automation

According to Pomona, OpCon has improved the quality and reliability of their IT systems which is helping them to gain new customers. POMONA now hopes to extend the use of OpCon to their Human Resources department to help automate their payroll management within SAP.