

RPA & WLA:

Why you need both

RPA and WLA are complementary solutions with distinctly different enterprise use cases

RPA

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is software programmed to do basic tasks across applications that mimic human users.

WLA

Workload Automation (WLA) is software used to design, schedule, monitor and manage scripts and executables across the enterprise.

Frontend process automation

Business users, bot technology, installed on desktop.

AUTOMATION FOCUS

Backend process automation

IT users, agent technology installed on servers.

Frontend or desktop automation tool

- **Implementation complexity:** Quick for simple tasks. Spirals up as more complexity is demanded.
- **Solution scalability:** Low. Able to automate desktops but it can be limited when automating servers and data centers.
- **Technical usage:** Mimics user input into the application UI, file downloads from web sites, and similar tasks.
- **Cost:** Low if your needs are simple and you don't have many users.
- **Scheduling and trigger options:** While low-end solutions are activated by the user, high-end products provide time-based execution.
- **Use case:** Facilitates mass data-entry with ease, auto-formats documents, and replaces similar repetitive end user tasks.
- **Best suited for:** Business users. Minimizing data entry so they can focus on higher value responsibilities.

TECHNOLOGY

Centralized IT automation platform

- **Implementation complexity:** More work up front, but built to handle scalable complexity.
- **Solutions scalability:** High. Can typically automate any process involving data centers, servers, and applications, as well as some mobility offerings.
- **Technical usage:** Automates any executable across any number of servers in the enterprise simultaneously. Includes file transfer, mobility, and SLA monitoring.
- **Cost:** Higher up front, but less expensive at scale.
- **Scheduling and trigger options:** Both time-based and event/dependency-based. Operate across all systems simultaneously, in sequence, or both.
- **Use case:** Allows end users to make processing requests or pull complicated reports with a click of a button, without making a call to IT.
- **Best suited for:** IT Users. Minimizing production errors, centralized version control of scripts, audit trails, compliance and security, provisioning systems, and many others.

RPA provides value to organizations with a high volume of data collection or data entry, so business users can focus on the highest value work.

BUSINESS IMPACT

WLA provides transformational IT infrastructure automation to organizations with complex needs and mixed environments. Advanced WLA products provide robust disaster recovery capabilities, APIs, and connectors.

SMA Technologies can help your enterprise create a comprehensive automation solution that delivers strong ROI.

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