



stonebranch



Success Story

GuideOne Insurance

Centralizes Job Scheduling Environments
and Automates Production Processes —
Cost Effectively



Stonebranch's independent scheduling agent solution integrates a leading insurer's mainframe and distributed environments, while saving time, money, and resources.



"Because of Universal Agent, 10% of three full-time employees' time was recovered, averaging a savings of \$32,000 annually."

Sandee Lehman
Data Center Manager
GuideOne

Background

Founded in 1947 and headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa, GuideOne Insurance serves more than 51,000 commercial policyholders around the United States, including churches, schools, nonprofits, and more.

Challenges

GuideOne Insurance used ESP scheduler on its mainframe. Additionally, GuideOne used a few ESP agents to manage its distributed platforms and tie their processes back to the mainframe. When their initial purchase of ESP agents had all been deployed, they needed to acquire more agents from the original vendor.

Unfortunately, those agents had become very expensive. So expensive, in fact, that GuideOne could not justify additional purchases. However, the goal was still to automate all production processes in a cost-effective way.

Results

- Centralized monitoring to improve integrity of processing
- Cost savings of \$32,000 in the first year of implementation
- Better communication between IT departments

The Solution

GuideOne Insurance found the solution they had been looking for with Universal Agent, Stonebranch's independent scheduling agent solution. Not only was Universal Agent better priced than GuideOne's original solution, it was also easier to use and more robust.

Sandee Lehman, data center manager for GuideOne, says, "Our data center is 50/50 between a mainframe and distributed platform. We needed a solution that would integrate between both environments and route jobs to a central location."

That need for integration and centralization, along with standardizing into a production environment that provided a central location for monitoring, would enable GuideOne to perform a root-cause analysis on any issue, implement corrective actions, and improve reliability.

The Results

Since implementing Universal Agent, GuideOne Insurance has seen significant increases in productivity. Developers who once worked on scheduling and monitoring in the distributed environment were able to move on to development work. Ms. Lehman says, "In fact, 10% of three full-time employees' time was recovered, averaging a savings of \$32,000 annually."

GuideOne expects that number to increase over time. Karen Salmi, data center support analyst for GuideOne, says, "Universal Agent ensures the integrity of our batch processes. A process can be stopped when it needs to be stopped."

With an integrated scheduling environment that the team can monitor, communication between departments has improved considerably. If a system issue arises, improved lines of communication between teams prevents delays from becoming mission-critical business issues. Adds Ms. Salmi, "Universal Agent has also simplified the auditing process while keeping us compliant."

Both Ms. Salmi and Ms. Lehman were impressed by the hands-on approach Stonebranch took during the implementation process. "Universal Agent just works. The pricing was a shoe-in for our CIO, and the technology was vetted by our technical architect team," remarks Ms. Lehman.

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ABOUT STONEBRANCH

Stonebranch builds IT orchestration and automation solutions that transform business IT environments from simple IT task automation into sophisticated, real-time business service automation. No matter the degree of automation, the Stonebranch platform is simple, modern, and secure.

Using the Stonebranch Universal Automation Platform, enterprises can seamlessly orchestrate workloads and data across technology ecosystems and silos. Stonebranch serves some of the world's largest financial, manufacturing, healthcare, travel, transportation, energy, and technology institutions.



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