



stonebranch



CASE STUDY

Lands' End

Replaced CA Legacy Job
Scheduler with Stonebranch's
Universal Automation Center

LANDS' END



The leading online and catalog retailer of casual and business clothing, home goods, uniforms, and luggage transitioned to a modern workload automation solution.



Brian Lemanski
Mainframe Systems
Programmer,
Lands' End

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The price offered tremendous value, and the in-house knowledge at Stonebranch with regards to transitioning from CA's ESP was an additional benefit."

Background

Lands' End, Inc. (Nasdaq:LE) is a leading multi-channel retailer of clothing, accessories, footwear and home products.

They offer products through catalogs, online at www.landsend.com and affiliated specialty and international websites, and through retail locations, primarily at Lands' End Shops at Sears and standalone Lands' End Stores.

Lands' End is a classic American lifestyle brand with a passion for quality, legendary service and real value. They seek to deliver timeless style for men, women, kids and the home.

Challenges

Lands' End needed to upgrade from its legacy CA Workload Automation ESP scheduler in order to comply with a company-wide strategic decision to migrate all enterprise applications off the z/OS Mainframe environment.

The Lands' End scheduling team volunteered to be the first in the company to modernize. A robust list of system requirements was first collected, reviewed and ranked. A request for proposal (RFP) was then prepared and distributed to five vendors, including Stonebranch.

RESULTS

- Improved maintenance 50%
- Increased ease of use 42%
- Seamless upgrades
- Increased transparency 75%
- Quick and effective transition from legacy scheduler
- Reduced z/OS CPU usage 31%

Solution

Following a thorough review of RFP responses and an intense proof of concept (POC), Stonebranch's Universal Automation Center was identified as the ideal automation engine for Lands' End's post-Mainframe environment.

"Universal Automation Center had precisely the functionality and capabilities we were looking for in a workload automation solution," says Lands' End Mainframe Systems Programmer, Brian Lemanski. "The price offered tremendous value, and the in-house knowledge at Stonebranch with regards to transitioning from ESP was an additional benefit."

Results: Return on Automation*

Implementation went smoothly with minimal impact on Lands' End's operating environment. The transition from ESP, aided by Stonebranch's experienced transition team, was verified successfully and completed on schedule.

With Universal Automation Center, the key benefits reaped by Lands' End were ease of use, improved maintenance, and the ability to mass update without affecting active servers.

"We are no longer dependent on messages to the z/OS master console, or subject to them being deleted accidentally or disappearing because the console was set to roll/delete," said Lemanski. "The custom dashboard facilitates correct and successful monitoring."

Lands' End can now change commands or parameters in a waiting or failed task instance. This was not possible previously. They can also fail over to the passive controller instantly.

When the z/OS LPARs are IPLed, the distributed workload continues to process. Automatic restarts are easier to code, and it's effortless to identify if a task is defined to restart automatically. None of his functionality was available in their previous job scheduler.

Furthermore, Lands' End reduced z/OS CPU usage by approximately 19 hours a month by moving their scheduling manager off their z/OS environment. This has resulted in substantial cost savings in addition to the wealth of newly gained functionality.

Most importantly, Lands' End has become a vibrant advocate in the Stonebranch community.

"I would definitely recommend Stonebranch to other organizations looking to improve on automation," said Lemanski. "We are very pleased to be powered by Stonebranch."

* Return on Automation (RoA):

the investment in automation and the right automation tool pays off in a short time and returns many benefits. These include higher efficiency, faster processes, greater process reliability, higher data throughput, seamless integration, and higher production. The overall result is an increase in profits.

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ABOUT STONEBRANCH

Stonebranch provides modern automation solutions that simplify mission-critical IT business processes reliably and securely across complex and diverse IT environments. Stonebranch clients include some of the world's largest financial, healthcare and technology institutions.

Founded in 1999 and headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Stonebranch has offices throughout the world, including the US, Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Greece, Spain, and the European headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.



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