

Platform Application Center 8

Application-centric job submission & management



Key Benefits

- Powerful application integration
- Improved user productivity & collaboration
- Reduced training and support requirements
- Reduced user errors
- Effective administration

Key Features

- Drag and drop interface builder
- Role-based access controls
- Interactive job support
- Visual workflow monitoring¹
- Integrated data management
- Web-services API

Overview

Platform Application Center provides a flexible, application-centric interface for cluster users and administrators that is easy to use and manage. Available as an optional add-on module to Platform LSF, Platform Application Center enables users to interact with intuitive, self-documenting interfaces. This results in improved user satisfaction and productivity. By standardizing access to applications, Platform Application Center makes it easier to enforce site policies and address security concerns.

Application management made easy Unified application interface

Platform Application Center provides a single interface to manage applications, users, resources and data. Application users and administrators enjoy full visibility to resources like systems, applications and software licenses depending on their role, and administrators can access multiple cluster and workload related reports and access additional management tools.

Easily web-enable any application workload submission

Platform Application Center enables administrators to easily web-enable the submission of an application workload so that users can interact with running applications through their browser. Furthermore, users can maintain multiple simultaneous console sessions to multiple jobs simultaneously. Whether applications are interactive, parametric or parallel, they can be readily integrated with the Platform Application Center.

Powerful interface builder

A powerful interface builder makes it easy to assemble standard web components into its easy-to-use application interfaces. The interface builder includes a library of Platform LSF aware primitives (select LSF queues, host models, user groups, etc.), which can be easily extended with custom plug-ins to meet specific application requirements. Links between on-screen elements and variables controlling how jobs are submitted to the cluster are well documented and easy to follow.

Integrated commercial application support

Platform Application Center comes complete with job submission templates for:

- ANSYS CFX
- ANSYS Mechanical
- ANSYS FLUENT
- IMEX
- GEM
- LS-DYNA
- MSC Nastran
- NCBI BLAST
- Schlumberger ECLIPSE
- SIMULIA Abaqus
- STARS

By configuring these templates based on the application settings in your environment, users can start running jobs without writing custom wrapper scripts.

¹ Requires Platform Process Manager

Smart data handling

The Platform Application Center confines every job to its own *sandbox*, providing users with direct, real-time access to source, intermediate and resulting data files for viewing or post-processing. By supporting data handling capabilities like the ability to upload, retrieve, copy, rename, remove or compress files, users are empowered to manage their own data. In addition, since users and groups share common server-side data areas, duplication of data is reduced and collaboration is improved.

Improve your productivity

Reduce training and support requirements

Application workload submission templates in Platform Application Center work the way that users expect; using terminology they recognize, and exposing only relevant options. As a result, training requirements are reduced, and users are more productive. By eliminating the possibility of erroneous job submissions that waste precious compute cycles or software license features, cluster utilization is also improved.

Secure application access, anytime from anywhere

With security features that include easy to setup SSL encryption, data and job partitioning, and multiple authentication mechanisms, high-performance computing applications can be deployed as a *utility*, providing 7x24 access to users from any device with a browser. Because shell access can be restricted only to those users who really need it, and by controlling how users interact with applications, your HPC resources are more secure and easier to manage.

Monitor workflows through your browser

Whether you are utilizing CAE, Research or Digital Production applications, these applications often involve multi-step, time-critical workflows. For sites running Platform Process Manager to build and manage resilient multi-step flows, the Platform Application Center animates workflow progress through the browser and allows users to trigger and monitor multiple flows.

Simplified resource management

Delegation of administrative rights

Platform Application Center enables group-level administrators to monitor and manage jobs and data for any member of their project team or department. By bringing administration closer to the work group, the workload for cluster administrators is reduced, service levels are improved, and project leaders are better able to ensure that resources are being allocated in an optimal fashion to meet their business requirements.

Access Controls

Using supporting access controls based on role, group and individual user IDs, access to application workload submission templates can be selectively granted. These controls also specify access to a variety of other monitoring and management functions within the Platform Application Center user environment.

Supported Environments

Operating System & Hardware Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Linux® 2.6 or greater kernels 64 bit, Red Hat Enterprise Linux - RHEL 5.x up to 5.5, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server - SLES 10.x, 11
Host Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Min 2 GB RAM recommendedMin 2 GB HDD to support databaseAccess to large shared disk or network filter
Web-Server Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Apache web-server, Apache Tomcat only
Browser Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet Explorer 7.x, 8.x, Firefox 3.x
Support Authentication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Password file, NIS, LDAP, Microsoft Active Directory (AD)
Visualization Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">VNC, HP RGS 5.3.0, 5.4.0
Platform LSF compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Platform LSF 7.0.3, 7.0.4, 7.0.5, 7.0.6, 8.x
Database Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MySQL
Languages supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English, French, German, Chinese, Japanese
Interfaces for Extensibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">RESTful Web Services APIScriptable command line interface

Platform Computing is the leader in cluster, grid and cloud management software - serving more than 2,000 of the world's most demanding organizations for over 18 years. Our workload and resource management solutions deliver IT responsiveness and lower costs for enterprise and HPC applications. Platform has strategic relationships with Cray, Dell™, HP, IBM®, Intel®, Microsoft®, Red Hat® and SAS®. Visit www.platform.com.

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