

# Energy Solutions

## Brings Real-Time Reactivity to its Operations with Skybot Scheduler

**E**nergy Solutions is business on a mission. Based out of Oakland, CA, this innovative consulting firm uses online education and incentive programs to evangelize energy efficiency for the state of California.

“We work with utilities to develop incentive programs for the deployment of energy efficient equipment such as lighting, HVAC systems, or appliances,” explains Peter Borocz, Senior Software Engineer in the Infrastructure and Operations team. “We host these incentive programs on our websites to help distributors and contractors determine which equipment is eligible for rebates and to process their incentive applications.”

In addition to managing multiple websites with incentive programs, Energy Solutions also provides public portals with energy-use reporting for the CA utilities commission. They accomplish all this with less than ten servers, two transaction processing systems, and Skybot Scheduler, enterprise job scheduling and workload automation software.

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“Skybot Scheduler is a critical piece because transactions with our utilities are done essentially on a real-time basis,” says Peter, “We have a tremendous amount of file transfers. We update data from one machine to the other, and we pre-calculate reports every night. We use Skybot to control all of it.”

Before Skybot Scheduler, Energy Solutions ran three or four independent schedulers, with often messy, complicated results.

### AT A GLANCE

#### Industry

Energy Utilities Consulting

#### Business Challenges

- Separate schedulers across multiple servers required labor-intensive maintenance and manual checks for job completions.
- Custom scripting took up large chunks of developer time.
- Time-based jobs were inefficient, redundant, and produced useless job logs.

#### Solution

Skybot Scheduler™

#### Business Results

- Achieved centralized view of entire enterprise, replacing manual checks with a consolidated job history and automatic notification for delays or errors.
- Replaced custom scripting with flexible, cross-system scheduling in Skybot Scheduler.
- Optimized job schedules with real-time triggers based on file arrivals and other system events.

## Energy Solutions Brings Real-Time Reactivity to its Operations

Explains Peter, “a lot of our cron jobs had a dozen sub-tasks with ugly PERL or nasty shell scripts.”

They replaced the “ugly scripts” with event monitors and reactivity. “The time it takes to set up jobs has gone down radically because developers don’t have to write extra code. Now we manage these jobs in a real and successful way.”

Peter’s team appreciates Skybot Scheduler’s centralized job history, which provides job status information across their entire environment. “I don’t know how to quantify the lack of headache, but there is certainly a time savings in not having to check each execution agent to figure out what did and did not run. The ability to centralize that in one place has been really, really valuable.”

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Peter’s team also used to rely on a time-based schedule that never quite worked, even with jobs that ran every five minutes. When new files needed processing, waiting five minutes was too

long; when there weren’t new files, the job ran unnecessarily. “With Skybot Scheduler, jobs only run when a file has been created, and it runs immediately,” says Peter.

The original, time-based schedule also produced a lot of useless job logs. “Now our logs are much cleaner. It is easier to get meaningful, real information out of them.”

Why did Energy Solutions choose Skybot Scheduler? It came down to a value proposition: “Our current tool was a pea shooter, and some enterprise schedulers are machine guns. We needed a rifle,” says Peter. “We did a competitive search of three or four vendors, and Skybot came in right at the sweet spot. You fit the price point and the price sensitivity of small to medium firms.”

Skybot Software’s technical support also influenced their decision. “It was very refreshing for us to reach somebody during business hours reasonably quickly,” says Peter. “The support has been professional, fast, and accurate. I see a steady stream of enhancements coming out.”

The Energy Solutions mission is about making a positive impact on the environment, the community, and the world. Skybot Scheduler helps them get there. Summarizes Peter, “It’s been time and money well spent.”



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