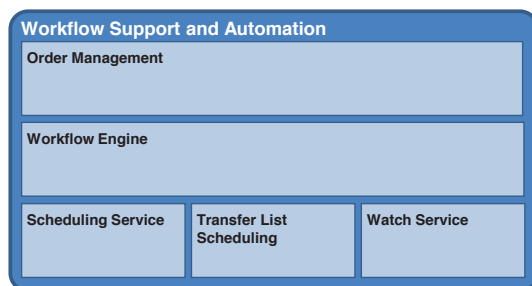




Purpose

Workflow Support and Automation in Interplay® provides a means to configure and manage system and user workflows. The Workflow Engine manages the system workflows, while the Order Management manages the user workflows and user interactions. The Scheduling Service allows scheduling the start of workflows. The Watch Service monitors file systems and, upon appearance of files of a given file type, launches workflows. The Resource manager cares for the balancing of work and jobs via queues. The Rules Engine controls rule-based transfers of essences.

Functionality



Workflow control means organizing work by assigning tasks to resources and controlling the progress according to a well-defined description. The Workflow Engine ensures that tasks are processed in the sequence defined by the workflow description, verifies that all start criteria required to perform a task are met, assigns matching system resources to tasks, and checks whether the result of a task meets the expectations as defined in the workflow description.

Workflow descriptions are provided via workflow templates, which are scripted in the Interplay Media Asset Manager Scripting language SWoDL (Simple Workflow Definition Language). SWoDL is a convenient C++ like programming language which allows the programming and execution of complex workflows within a few lines of code.

Individual workflows also have a status: active (ready for the next step), suspended (waiting for re-activation by an external event), or completed. The Workflow Engine processes active workflows step by step according to the workflow description. Such steps can be to:

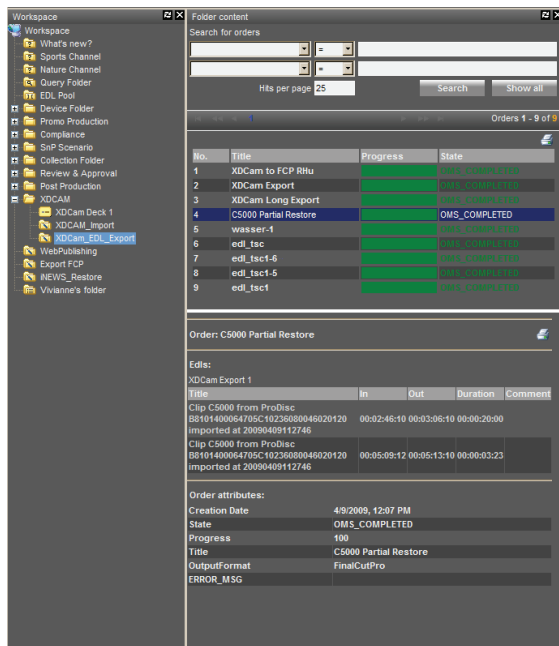
- Assign a value to a variable
- Check a condition
- Invoke a Web Service to perform a certain task
- Invoke external or third party software e.g. to perform a format conversion

After completion of each step, the Workflow Engine persistently stores all workflow-related data (status and variables) in its database, including the unique identification of the next step to be processed.

Workflow Support and Automation

Interplay Media Asset Manager

Order Management



Order Management supports user-centric workflows. It allows users to order services from the system or from other users. Examples are the digitization of tapes, file transfers, delivery of archived content, file imports, and more. For each conceivable order, Order Management allows to configure an order related metadata set and an arbitrary number of status values. All metadata related to an order are persistently stored in a database.

Order Management uses the Workflow Engine to process the order according to the workflow description. The Workflow Engine invokes system services where required to execute a task. For metadata entry Order Management provides a dedicated form showing all relevant metadata. Depending on the task, users enter the metadata in this form. After completion of a task a status value is set accordingly. The user can also upload or download files that are relevant for this workflow, using this order form.

The user accesses Order Management via the Interplay Media Asset Manager (MAM) Desktop. For each order the user can see these orders in MAM Desktop. Also, each user can follow up on the status and progress of orders in MAM Desktop. MAM Desktop displays each type of order as a dedicated folder. Within

this folder, sub-folders (processing folders) are provided, each of which represents an order status. Clicking on the status folder shows the user all orders of the type currently in a given status.

A specialized tool called Order Administrator supports the setup and configuration of order workflows and order templates.

Scheduling Service

The Scheduling Service enables control and execution of any time-dependent tasks. It allows users to schedule the date and time when a task shall start and end, and specify whether this is a one-time or recurring task. For example, use of the Scheduling Service in Interplay controls the management of scheduled content ingests.

Watch Service

The Watch Service is a generic service that starts workflows upon appearance of certain events. A particularly useful application of this service in Interplay is the provision of watch folders. A watch folder is a directory in a file system, monitored by the Watch Service. When a new file appears in this directory, the Watch Service recognizes this event, analyzes the file and starts the appropriate workflow, which could be importing this file as a new essence file.

Rules Engine

The Rules Engine is a service that checks the condition and the metadata of essences according to certain rules configured in the Interplay system. For all essences that comply with the rules, configured workflows can be started which transfer the essence from the online to the near-online disk, or move essences between certain Essence Servers. This functionality can be configured freely to achieve caching behavior on online disks, or move essences on a Video Server to long-term storage.

Capacity and Performance

Workflow Engine supports:

- Up to 40 workflow steps per second
- More than 100.000 active workflows
- Virtually unlimited number of workflow templates

Workflow Support and Automation

Interplay Media Asset Manager

Order Management supports:

- Up to 40 order steps per second
- More than 100.000 active orders
- Virtually unlimited number of orders types and forms

Scheduling Service supports:

- Virtually unlimited number of scheduled events
- Unlimited time for scheduling events in the future

Watch Service supports:

- Virtually unlimited number of directories can be watched by the respective number of Watch Services

Building Integrated Solutions

Order Management and Workflow Engine are central anchor points for integration. Both orders and workflows can be started from external systems via SOAP call. The workflow engine can call external systems via SOAP call. External applications can be started directly as executables with or without additional parameters.

The watch folder service is the preferred mechanism to establish a simple but effective connection to 3rd party systems. This is done by configuring a directory on a storage system for the watch folder service to observe. Then, when a file drops in, the watch folder starts a user-configurable workflow to perform all operations on essences or metadata required.

Supported Platforms

All components in Workflow Support and Automation are web services using the Microsoft .NET technology and require Microsoft Windows 2003 or 2008 Server. Workflow Engine and Order Management rely on a relational SQL database. Preferred databases are Microsoft SQL Server 2005 or 2008.

The client application for monitoring workflows and orders are web based applications running with Internet Explorer 7 or 8. The configuration applications for workflows and orders run as native applications under Windows XP SP2 or VISTA.

For more information visit www.avid.com/interplay

Corporate Headquarters
800 949 AVID (2843)

Asian Headquarters
+ 65 6476 7666

European Headquarters
+ 44 1753 655999

© 2010 Avid Technology, Inc. All rights reserved. Promotions and discounts are subject to availability and change without notice. Product features, specifications, system requirements and availability are subject to change without notice. All prices are USMSRP for the U.S. and Canada only and are subject to change without notice. Avid, the Avid logo, and Interplay are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Avid Technology, Inc. or its subsidiaries in the United States and/or other countries. The Interplay name is used with the permission of the Interplay Entertainment Corp, which bears no responsibility for Avid products. All other trademarks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

WSADS0410