CONDOR as Job Queue Management for Teamcenter 8.x

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The issue

- To support a few automatic document converting and handling mechanism inside Teamcenter a Job Queue Management solution is required, which can perform operations in background processes.
- Such background processes have to be included into Teamcenter EPM workflows.
- Type of background processes:
  - Update of NX CAD UGPART drawing files
  - Converting NX CAD UGPART drawing files into TIFF formats
  - Upload TIFF drawing files into SAP archive
  - Render product representation images for sales tools with UGPHOTO
  - Run numerical solvers for FEA, CFD in the background
  - …

The Job Queue Principle

- To collect multiple process requests into a list of jobs, which should be performed.
- Select a job from the queue and assign it to an execution process / machine.
- Get the output / response from the execution and store it back into the system, which generates the call initially (e.g. Teamcenter)
- Inform the initial system that this specific job is completed (e.g. Teamcenter workflow approve – perform sign off)

The Job Queue Software Solutions

- **CRI – Create Image Server**
  This is part of the Teamcenter PLM – Easy package, which was developed and offered by the German subsidiary of UGS / SIEMENS. It was shipped in Germany with the Teamcenter 2005SR1 releases. It is not a part of the Teamcenter core development roadmap. The availability for future release of Teamcenter is undefined.
- **TSTK Translation Solution Toolkit (former ETS)**
  This is the standard tool, shipped with the Teamcenter installation package. It is the core mechanism developed and supported by the Teamcenter development.
- **CONDOR**
  Condor is a development project, managed by the University of Wisconsin (USA). The intent is to provide a reliable system for High Throughput Computing (HTC) on large collections of computing resources.
  http://www.cs.wisc.edu/condor/

Why not using the PLME Create Image Server?

- The development strategy of this is not transparent to the customer base.
- We have utilized this in our Teamcenter 2005 SR1 installation an have made experiences with it.
- The system is limited to 2Tier server based nodes / executors
- The implementation of a new job type (e.g. render video sequences) requires an entire copy of an existing CRI instance.
- The different CRI instances are not linked together. Therefore each pipe has its own CPU consumtion.

Why not using the TSTK standard solution?

- The TSTK requires for each translator type a separate JAVA class programming for the PRE- and POST- actions (e.g. export of files and import of files).
- The JAVA classes have to be integrated into the core Teamcenter installation. This requires multiple system shutdown and start operations during the implementation phase.
- The TSTK dispatcher is not able to negotiate between multiple available nodes to assign specific nodes to the jobs, based on its criteria.

Why using CONDOR?

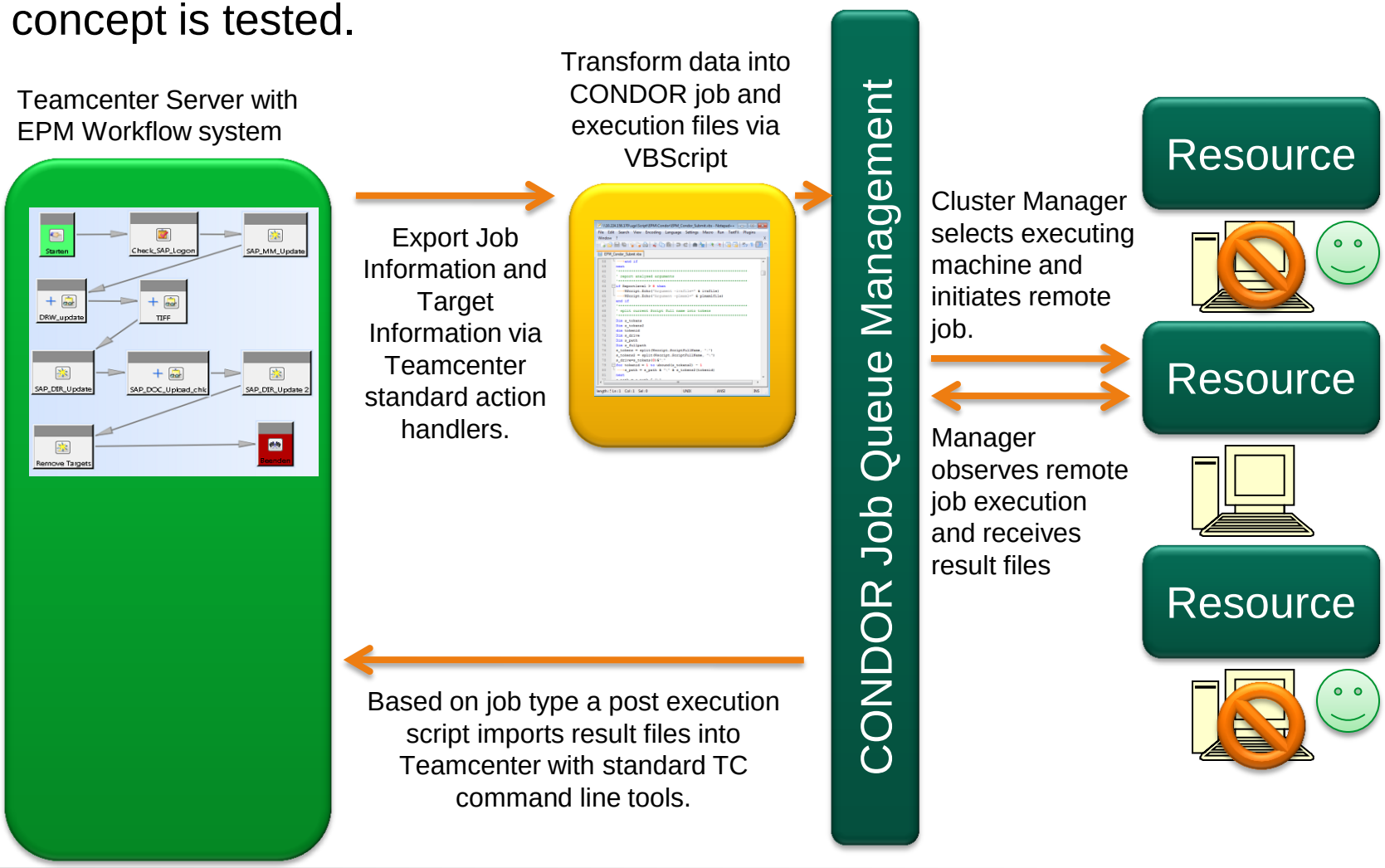
- CONDOR provides the capability to classify the available nodes by customized criteria (e.g. NX node, 4Tier or 2Tier node, Server or Client node, Location of the node, etc.).
- Each CONDOR job can be submitted with individual job requirements (e.g. a special job type has to be performed in every case on a server node while other job types can be performed on 4Tier clients).
- The jobs can be managed within the job queue with various command line tools. (e.g. a specific job type can be set to a higher priority)
- Multiple jobs can by linked together via the CONDOR DAG (Directed Acyclic Graph) mechanism (e.g. A workflow perform sign off job has to be performed on a server node while the previous render job can be preformed on a 4Tier client node)
- The system provides a high flexibility on the job type definition and node definitions (e.g. A job for a drawing update has to be performed on an execution node, which is located near the original file volume).

Disadvantages of CONDOR within Teamcenter

- There is no direct interface between Teamcenter and CONDOR, which can be installed and configured out of the box.
- The interaction between Teamcenter and CONDOR has to be programmed.

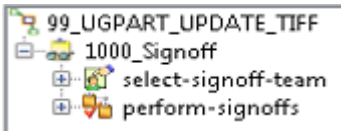
The interface concept

- To connect CONDOR with Teamcenter the following interface concept is tested.

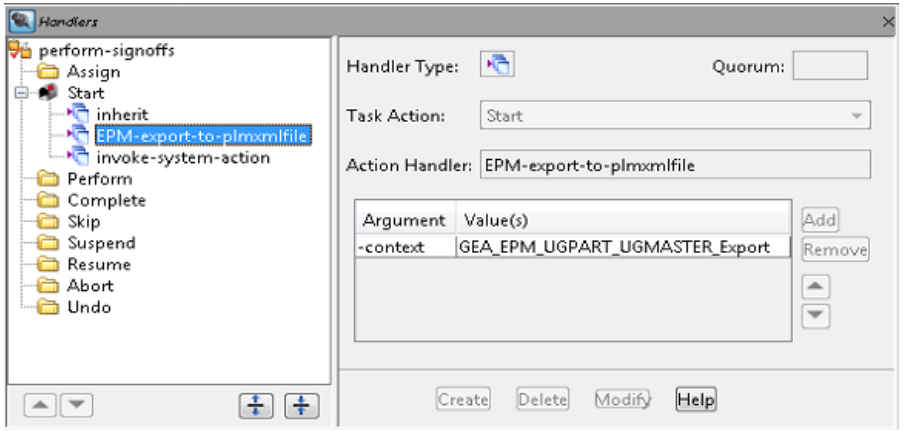


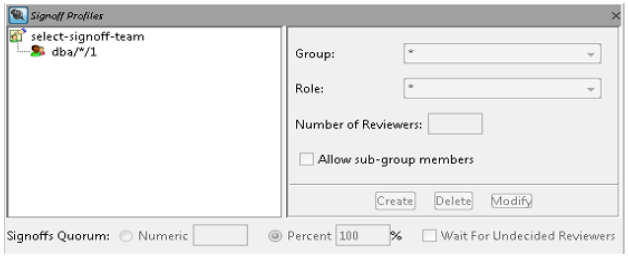
1. Export from Teamcenter

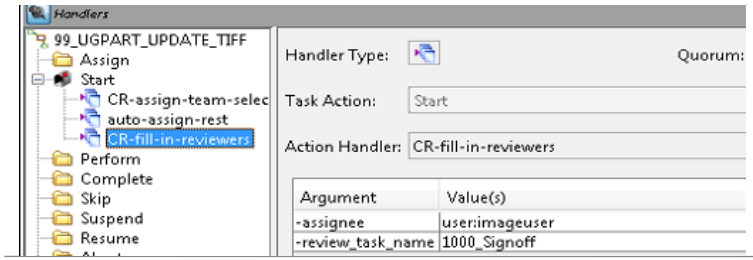
- To export data from Teamcenter within a workflow two standard action handlers (EPM-export-to-plmxmlfile & invoke-system-action) are used

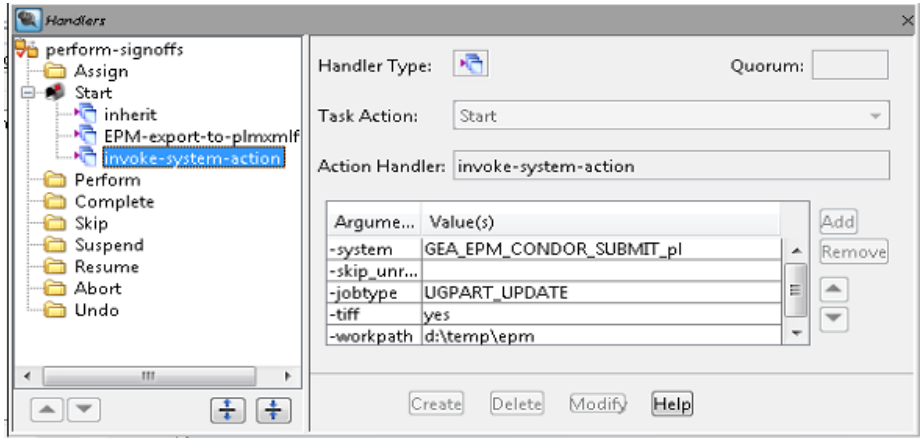


Both action handlers are attached to the perform-signoffs task, which is assigned to the “imageuser” as executing resource



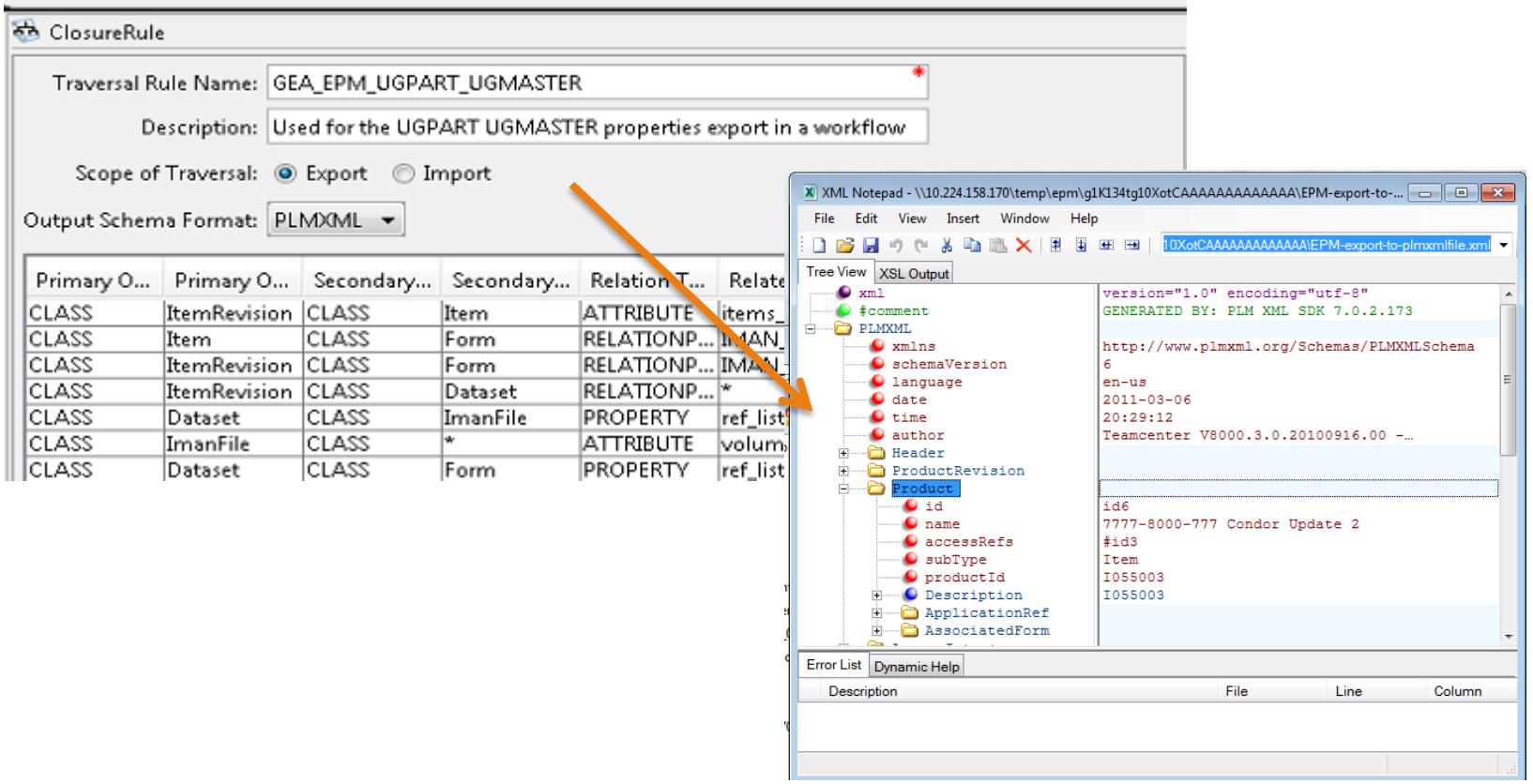






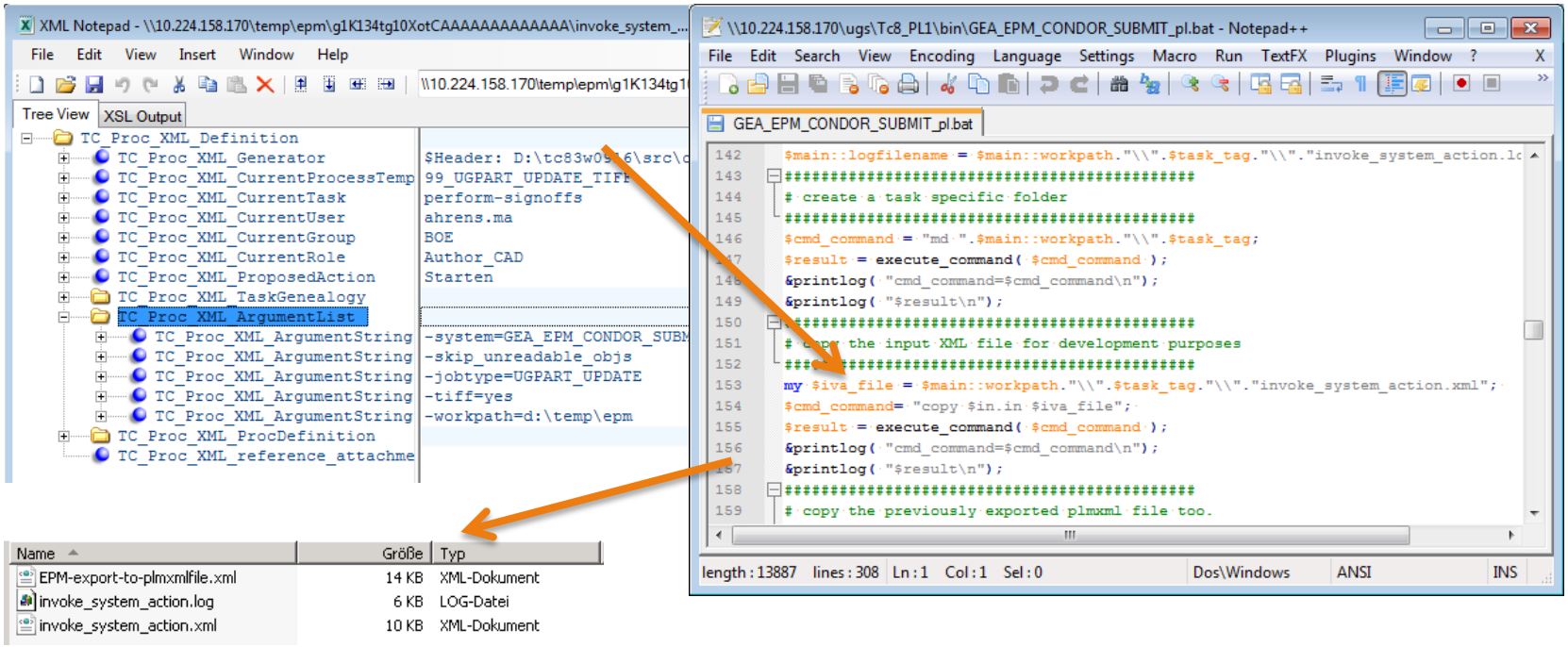
1. Export from Teamcenter – The target objects

- The EPM-export-to-plmxmlfile handler exports a lot of information for the attached targets as XML file. Which data are exported are defined in a special PLMXML transformation rule



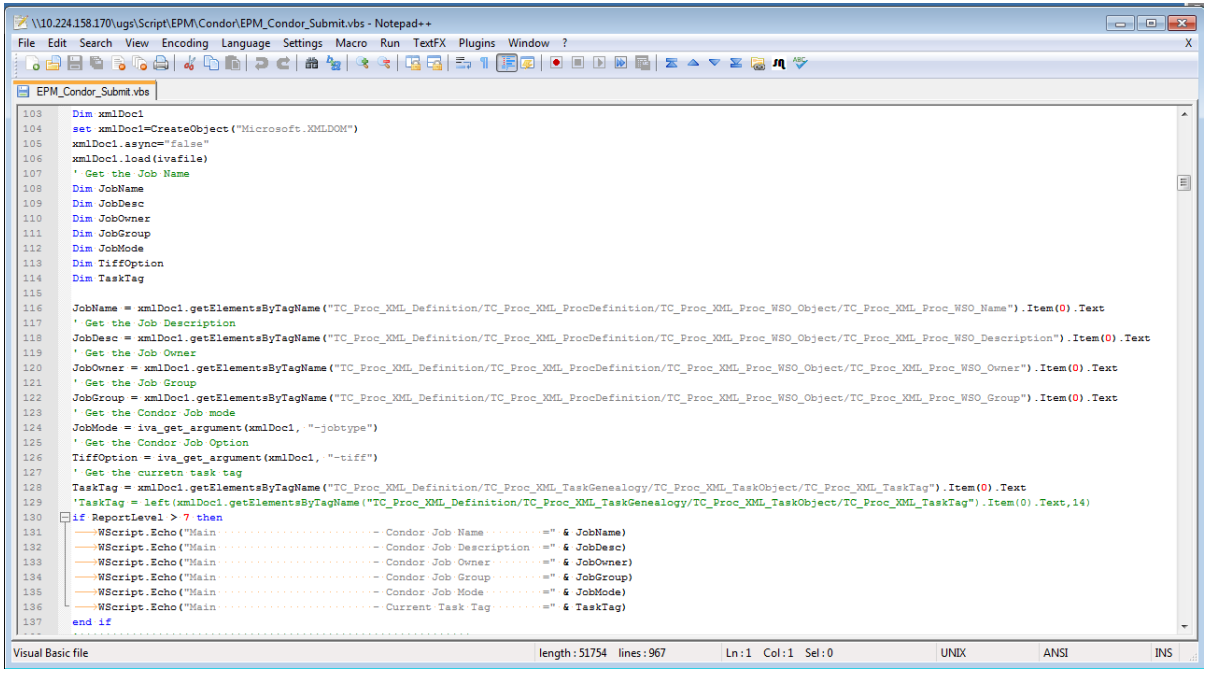
1. Export from Teamcenter – The job objects

- The invoke-system-action handler exports the major information for the job to another XML file. The structure of the XML file content is Teamcenter internal standard, which can be addressed by a PERL script, which is executed automatically as follow up. The customized PERL script creates a unique job folder and copies the two XML file into it an calls the VBScript.



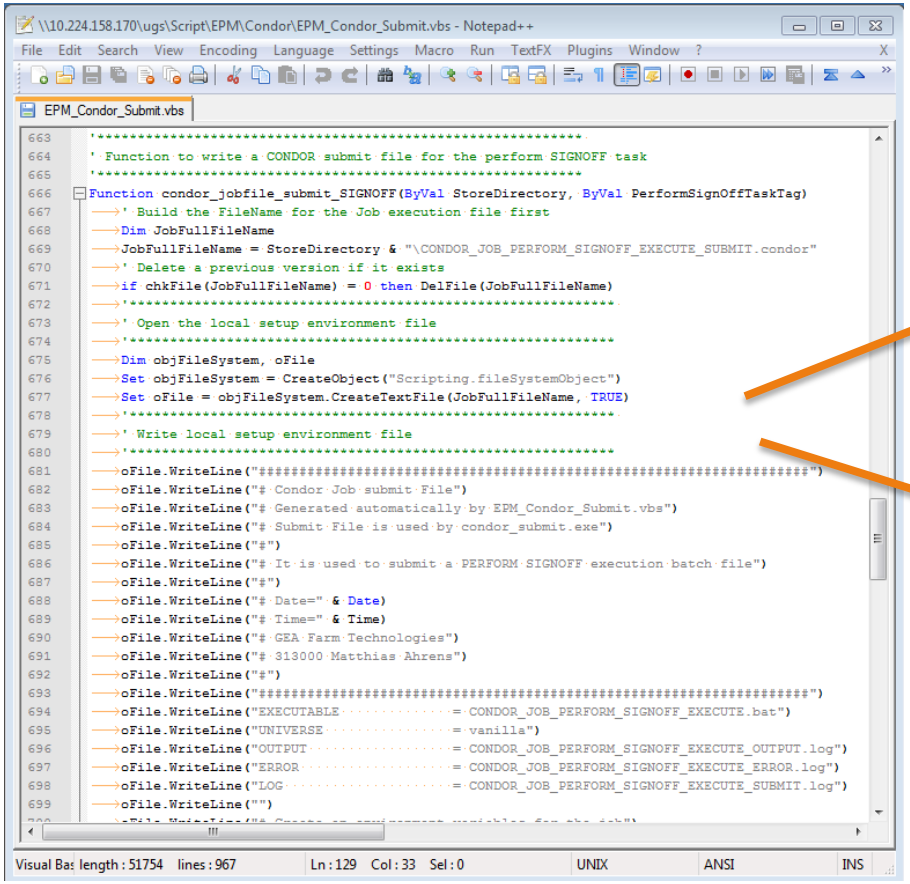
2. Transform data for CONDOR job

- The core implementation development is made on the VBScript, which captures information from the two XML files and convert them into CONDOR job descriptions.
- It starts with the invoke-system-action XML file and gets additional, related data from the EPM-export-to-plmxmlfile XML file (e.g. UGPART-ATTR data like page size, etc.)

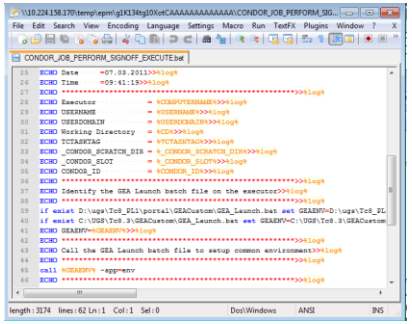


2. Transform data for CONDOR job

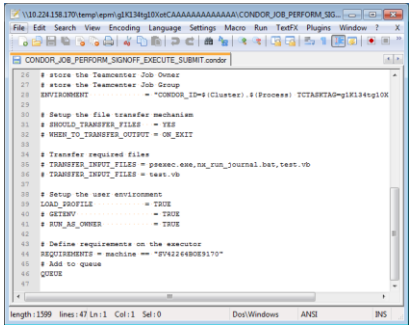
- Based on the job type it creates multiple CONDOR specific files. An BATCH file, which should be executed on the node and a CONDOR submit description file.



The .bat execution file



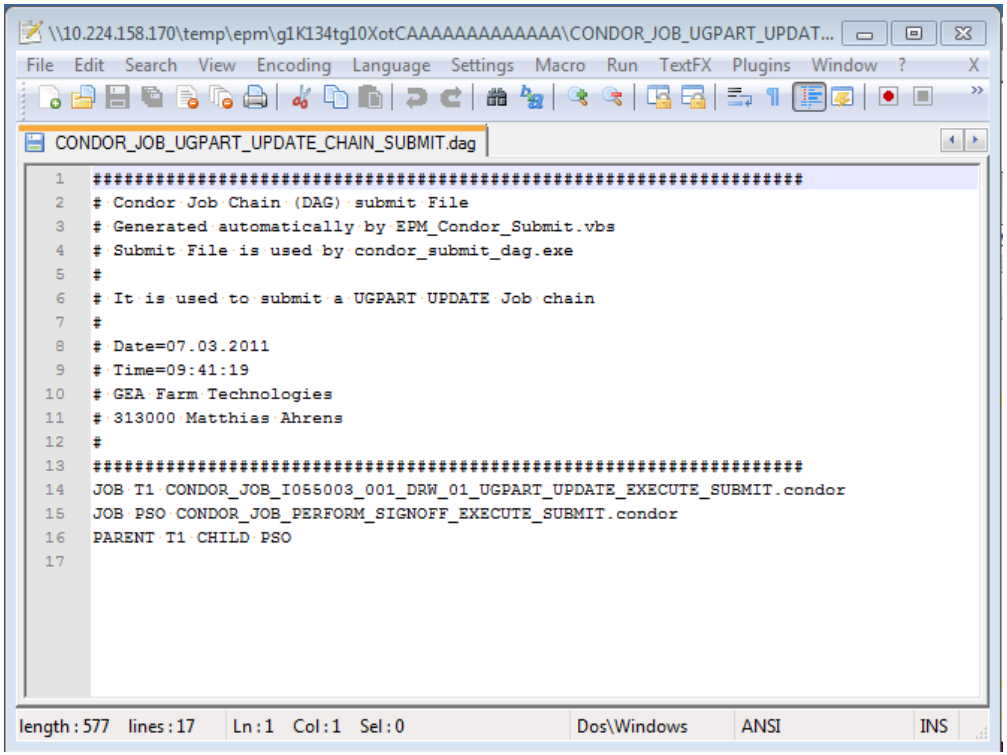
The .condor Job description file



2. Transform data for CONDOR job

- If multiple processes are required (e.g. Update on a 4Tier client and follow up perform signoffs confirmation on a 2Tier server) it creates an over DAG job dependency file for CONDOR too.

The .dag file, which defines the job dependencies for CONDOR



2. CONDOR job submit

- Finally it submits the jobs to the CONDOR queue management system

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

D:\temp\epm>condor_status

Name                OpSys      Arch   State     Activity LoadAv Mem   ActvtyTime

SV42264BOE9170      WINNT52    INTEL  Claimed   Busy     0.000  3583  0+00:00:00
PC42264BOE5553.eme  WINNT61    X86_64 Unclaimed Idle     0.000  8125  0+01:46:49
                     Total Owner Claimed Unclaimed Matched Preempting Backfill

       INTEL/WINNT52     1     0       1         0       0          0        0
     X86_64/WINNT61      1     0       0         1       0          0        0

               Total     2     0       1         1       0          0        0

D:\temp\epm>_
```

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

D:\temp\epm>condor_q


-- Submitter: SV42264BOE9170 : <127.0.0.1:9062> : SV42264BOE9170
 ID      OWNER            SUBMITTED     RUN_TIME ST PRI SIZE CMD
 277.0   IDEASADM        3/7  12:21   0+00:01:38 R  0   2.0  condor_dagman.exe
 278.0   IDEASADM        3/7  12:21   0+00:00:00 I  0   0.0  CONDOR_JOB_I055004
 279.0   IDEASADM        3/7  12:22   0+00:00:29 R  0   2.0  condor_dagman.exe
 280.0   IDEASADM        3/7  12:22   0+00:00:09 R  0   0.0  CONDOR_JOB_I055003

4 jobs; 1 idle, 3 running, 0 held

D:\temp\epm>_
```

2. CONDOR job submit

- The advantage of CONDOR is that each job can be prepared with a requirement string, which defines the attributes of the needed resources.

```
# Define requirements on the executor
REQUIREMENTS = (GEA_Location == "BOE") && (GEA_TC_Access == "2Tier") && ((Arch == "INTEL") || (Arch == "X86_64")) && ((OpSys == "WINNT61") || (OpSys == "WINNT52"))
# Add to queue
QUEUE
```

or

```
# Define requirements on the executor
REQUIREMENTS = (GEA_Location == "GAL") && (GEA_TC_Access == "4Tier") && ((Arch == "INTEL") || (Arch == "X86_64")) && ((OpSys == "WINNT61") || (OpSys == "WINNT52"))
# Add to queue
QUEUE
```

3. CONDOR Teamcenter interaction back link

- When a job is done by CONDOR a few post – processing actions are required (e.g. import files, approve task)
- For these actions a server based CONDOR job is defined, which uses standard Teamcenter 2Tier command line tools like:
  - Tc_workflow_postprocess.exe => to approve the perform-signoffs task
  - Import_file => to upload the results (e.g. TIFF exports) into Teamcenter
  - TCX-delete-dataset workflow handler => to delete previous versions