

APPLICATION RELEASE AUTOMATION

Automatic Application Release Automation

Automatic's Application Release Automation (ARA) platform provides complete deployment automation with integrated release management. Automatic's ARA provides a unique combination of critical technical capabilities, including:

- Packaging for application component artifacts and versions
- Deployment automation workflows that promote and configure packages across the lifecycle
- A solid, generic deployment model that simplifies workflow development
- A broad set of integrations to auxiliary technologies

Selecting an ARA platform for an organization or for specific project needs can be difficult because ARA is an "end-to-end" solution with many aspects that need to be considered. This document presents Automatic's guidelines for evaluating and selecting an ARA solution, coupled with why Automatic should be selected as the best solution on the market.

ARA Features and Benefits

Feature/Function	Benefits provided by Automatic
Workflow Development	Workflow development is a major part of an ARA Solution. It should be easy to use, easy to debug and suitable for team work.
Web-based Editor	Automatic's ARA boasts a fully web-based workflow editor and monitor (no applet or "fat client" needed), with a slick canvass design that facilitates easy workflow development.
Built-in Run Book Library	Automatic's ARA solution includes an extensive library (hundreds) of built-in run books, enabling users to create customized workflows. Run books exist for Automatic engine, virtualization systems, application servers, databases, system commands, file manipulation, and directory services, , and more. Automatic is constantly developing additional run books.
Easy Drill In and Out	Drilling in and out of workflows at any level is elegant and efficient with the Automatic's interface, supporting easier development and live monitoring of workflows
Workflow Versioning	Automatic's workflows are version-controlled and audited so users can roll back and work concurrently in teams.
Workflow as Run Book	Automatic lets users create and extend run books in many ways, including. "Save Workflow as a Run Book". This is a unique Automatic feature and is the best way to reduce potential errors and duplicate efforts.

Packaging	Packaging is the first and most basic capability for an ARA solution. Packages are created from multiple sources, promoted and tracked across organizational environments.
Create a Package from Multiple Sources	Automic's packaging system is integratable with any source, including version control systems, file stores, and repositories. Packages can be created manually or automatically, using one of Automic's integration modules. Packages are always version-controlled and audited. Automic Packages eliminate the need to script files and artifact handling within workflows.
Package Promotion Model	Automic packages can be assigned to a promotion model, which guarantees that the package will go through all the correct stages before being deployed to production. Packages and promotion paths can be saved as templates
Package State	Automic uniquely lets you designate a "state" for each package in your system. Package states reflect the promotion model which users can define for the package. Changing a state triggers an activity by the ARA system. Examples include: Automatically deploy to the target environment; and Send an approval request for the next deployment.
Configuration Snapshots	Configuration mistakes have catastrophic potential. Validating configurations as part of a deployment process is a key to reducing error potential.
Directories	Automic provides snapshots of all related directory and file structure, attributes and content. Using workflow snapshots can be used as a pre-condition before an automatic deployment
Server and Application Configurations	Automic provides the ability to capture snapshots and compare them for server configurations, data sources, connection pools and much more.
Rollback	Rollback is essential in cases of unexpected failure or any time an authorized person decides to back out of a running process.
Automatic Rollback	Automic's ARA platform is the only platform on the market with a built-in automatic rollback capability. All Automic run books have a matching rollback functionality that is built in. Automatic rollback can occur at any time during or after a deployment run.
Rollback Framework	Automic uniquely provides a framework to extend the existing automatic rollback functionality, as well as any custom run-books or scripts that are used as part of the deployment process.
Generic Deployment Model	Look for a deployment model that allows workflows to be executed repeatedly in changing environments, by providing a set of overrideable properties that are reusable.
Packages as Part of the Model	Automic has a unique deployment model, which includes packages as part of the model, resulting in workflows that can be simpler, yet more powerful. Packages can be manually or automatically assigned to a workflow at any time, eliminating the need for workflow to include file handling.
Minimize "If-Then-Else" Logic	Automic's built-in model handles subtle variations in the user's environment, such as drive letters ("c:\\" vs. "d:\\"), OS variations ("\" vs. "/") and component matching (e.g., "If WebSphere v3"...), without the need for any workflow handling. This means workflows are simpler to develop and maintain, as well as being more generic than any other ARA solution on the market.
Built-in Runtime Settings	Automic's ARA Solution has an object-oriented runtime "properties system" which lets users control each process run individually without the need to use external configuration or manifest files.

For more information, visit www.automic.com

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