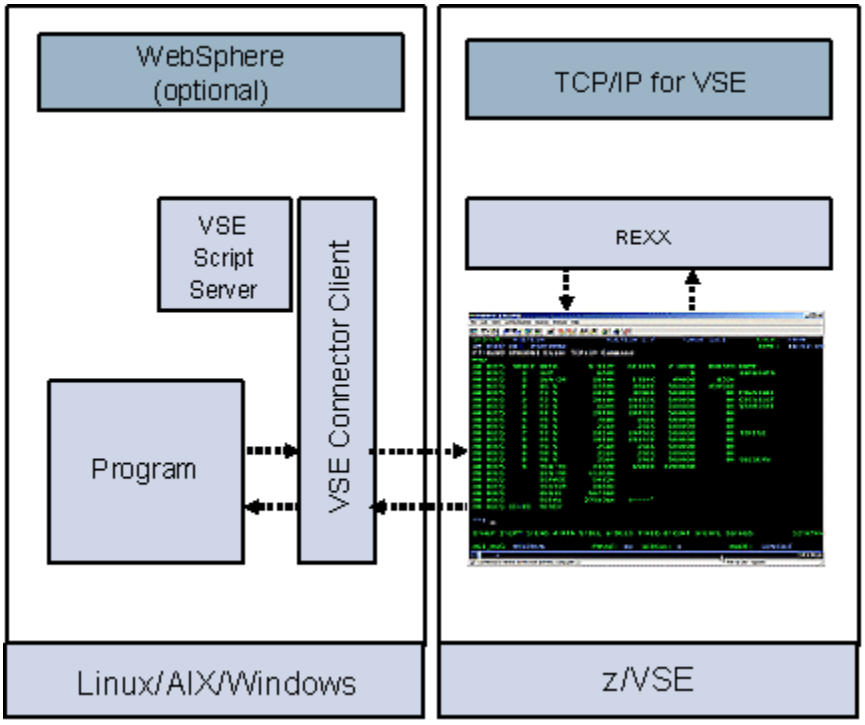
Console automation using REXX and connectors

Modern production environments are based on automation of processes. Console automation helps to react on event or time driven actions.

Overview



Modern production environments are based on time and event driven process automation and jobs. With the newest functions in z/VSE for the z/VSE console interface, the event driven process automation can be controlled:

- by z/VSE using REXX procedures.
- from remote systems using the Java based connectors.

The various interfaces for REXX allow access to the z/VSE console and can be used for console automation processing. Decisions can then take advantage of the other REXX interfaces (i.e. POWER) for further processing.

Using the Java based Connectors, a remote platform can use modern technologies and do console automation and time or event driven actions. These actions can be a local remote action or an action on z/VSE. This allows you to monitor the console and react on certain messages or events. Reaction on the message text, its severity, originating program or partition and much more is possible.

Besides monitoring, an active interaction with the console is possible. You can issue console commands and retrieve and process the output from the console. This even allows management and operation of z/VSE from a remote system.

The Job automation solution describes the various action possibilities:

- Job streams can be built dynamically based on user input.
- Output of jobs can be retrieved and processed.
- Further decisions can be taken (i.e. local actions on the remote system, or z/VSE actions like further jobs submission).
- Integration of job scheduling and automation with web applications

Benefits

The interaction with console messages allows automation and monitoring of messages, the definition of actions for different colored and prefixed messages and definition of operation processes:

- Console Automation for fast intervention
- Automated reaction on console messages.
- Remote operation and interaction with the console.

Software prerequisites

The following software requirements must be met to implement this solution:

- VSE/ESA 2.5 or later
- TCP/IP for VSE/ESA
- z/VSE Connector Server running on z/VSE (for remote console automation)
- Linux, Windows, AIX, Unix on remote system
- Java runtime (JRE) or Java developer kit (JDK) 1.3 or later (for remote console automation)
- z/VSE Connector Client installed on remote system (for remote console automation)

Note: WebSphere is NOT required to run the z/VSE Java-based connector. However, the connector can be deployed into WebSphere as an Resource Adapter, if you wish to access VSAM from a web application.

How to get started

To get started with console automation on z/VSE, REXX procedures can be developed to handle the console messages.

With Console automation from a remote platform you can start by establishing the infrastructure required:

- On z/VSE: Start the z/VSE Connector Server (STARTVCS - you can find it in your reader queue or in ICCF Lib59 as SKVCSSTJ)
- Install a Java Developer Kit
- Download the z/VSE Connector Client
- Install z/VSE Connector Client (using the install scripts provided)
- Use the samples described and commented in the online documentation o z/VSE Navigator to interact with the console.

Additional information

Additional information for this solution scenario can be found:

- z/VSE e-business connectors User's Guide
- REXX samples
- REXX documentation

Trademarks

Comments and Questions

Comments or questions on this documentation are welcome. Please send your comments to:
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