
Release Notes for Platform Application Center

Platform Application Center

Version 8.0

Release date: January 2011

Last modified: February 25, 2011



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Comments to: doc@platform.com

Support: support@platform.com

What's new in Platform Application Center Version 8.0

Simplified administration

Access control and flexible user roles

Platform Application Center has a new flexible access control mechanism.

You can control access to all pages of the web interface, and you can also control whether users can take actions on objects in pages (view, control, configure).

You can control access to:

- Application Templates
- Custom pages
- User-created submission forms
- Hosts
- Jobs, Job Data, Job Consoles
- License Management
- Reports
- System Settings
- Job Flows
- Job Flow Definitions

There are several built-in user roles (cluster administrator, application user, LSF user group administrator, LSF queue administrator, LSF host administrator, Flow administrator, and Flow control administrator), and you can add permissions to the built-in user roles. You can also create custom user roles.

Users are all operating system users under current OS authentication. LSF user groups are automatically loaded. OS user groups can be added through a configuration file `osusergroup.conf`

Custom pages

Use the Platform Application Center page customization framework to easily extend the default functionality of Platform Application Center. The framework provides APIs to create new web interfaces based on your specific requirements. Each new page and its related workflows are defined through an XML element `<pac:service>` in the service repository file: `services.xml`.

A new page supported through this framework is like a normal HTML page with PAC tags. It can use HTML tags, PAC tags, JavaScript, CSS, and shell scripts.

New pages can have their own URL, and you can also define access control for any custom pages. All form inputs are converted to shell environment variables and Ajax calls are supported before form submission.

Several example pages are provided to create your own.

New database support

Platform Application Center now supports the following databases:

- MySQL (default)
- Oracle

Important:

The Apache Derby database is no longer supported in Platform Application Center.

LSF host monitoring and control

View and control LSF hosts in Platform Application Center.

Through the new Dashboard, you can see at a glance the overall health of the cluster, the availability of hosts, as well as status information about the master host and individual hosts.

Enable/disable https from the command-line

You can now enable or disable https for Platform Application Center with the `pmcadmi n` command.

Support for Platform Process Manager

View and manage job flow definitions and job flows through Platform Application Center.

You can view flow definitions and job flows graphically.

You can also view jobs that are associated with the job definitions and job flows.

New look and feel and usability enhancements

New look and feel

Platform Application Center has a new look and feel.

Some changes that you will notice:

- New design for:
 - Host List, Host Summary and Host Jobs pages
 - Manage Forms, Manage Templates pages
 - Job Data, File selection, Job Data Management pages
- Enhancement of job pages: Job List, Job Details, and Job Submission pages
- Look-and-feel refresh of other pages: Job Notification, Job Console, Reports, License Usage, Job Settings pages

Enhanced file selection

You can now select files from anywhere accessible to your web browser.

During file selection, you can add a folder or delete files or directories.

Shortcuts are also now provided to common directories such as the directory of the last selected file, the user's UNIX home, the user's job directory, and any shared disks.

System requirements

This section describes system requirements for installing and running Platform Application Center.

Supported operating systems

- Linux 2.6 glibc 2.3 x86 64 bits, Red Hat 5+
- Linux 2.6 glibc 2.3 x86 64 bits, SUSE 10.x, SUSE 11

Supported authentication

- Password File
- NIS
- LDAP
- AD (Active Directory)

Supported web browsers

- Internet Explorer 7 and 8 on Windows
- Firefox 3.5 and up on Windows

Adobe Flash version 8 or later is required to access report charts.

Supported databases

- MySQL 5.x
- Oracle 9i Enterprise Edition for production clusters
- Oracle 10g Enterprise Edition for production clusters

Important:

The Apache Derby database is no longer supported in Platform Application Center.

Supported Java Runtime Environment (JRE)

- JRE 1.5 or higher

Supported LSF versions

- Platform LSF 7 Update 3 or higher
- Platform LSF 8

Disk requirements

- **Disk Size:**
Each host should have at least 350 MB of local disk space to install. To support ongoing logging of important data, we recommend 2 GB or more.
- **Job Data:**
Make sure you have enough space for job data. By default, all job data is stored under the directory /home/.

Web server host

For best performance, do not use the master host as the web server host.

- If EGO is enabled, the web server must be one of the LSF master candidates.
- If EGO is disabled, any LSF server host can be the web server host as long as the host can access (read and write) the following:
\$LSF_ENVDIR
\$LSF_SERVERDIR
\$LSF_WORKDIR
\$LSF_LOGDIR

International language support

Platform Application Center displays the language preference set in your web browser. If you set a new language preference or change the order of your preferred languages in your browser options, you must log out and log back in to Platform Application Center to make the change take effect.

Besides the default English (en), the following browser language settings are supported:

- French (fr- FR)
- Japanese (j a and j a- JP)
- Chinese (zh- CN)

See your browser help for more information about setting language preferences.

Tested applications

The following versions of supported applications have been tested with PAC 8.0:

Note:

These are tested application versions. Job submission forms can be customized to support other versions.

- FLUENT
 - 12.1.2
 - 12.0.16
 - 6.3.26
- ANSYS
 - V121

- V120
- V110
- V100
- LS-DYNA
 - 971
 - 970
- ABAQUS
 - 6.9-1
- NASTRAN
 - MSC 2008
- ECLIPSE
 - 2009.1
 - 2010
- CFX
 - CFX-5 (Ansys Suite)
- BLAST
 - 2.2.20

Known issues and limitations

Minimum RHEL5.3 and 5.5 missing compat-libstdc++-33-3.2.3-61

The compat-libstdc++-33-3.2.3-61 may be missing from the minimum RHEL 5.3 and 5.5 installation. Platform Application Center requires this package. Run the following commands to make sure that the package is installed correctly:

1. **pmcadmin stop**
2. **yum install compat-libstdc++-33-3.2.3-61**
3. **pmcadmin start**

File list display limitation

If a folder in a file list contains more than 4000 files or folders, Platform Application Center can only display a maximum of 4000 files in a file selection list.

Special characters in file names

Special characters single quote ('), double quote (") and dollar sign (\$) are not supported in file names. File management and file selection in Platform Application Center will not work properly for files with these characters in the file name.

Platform Application Center host cannot have underscores in the host name

This is a known issue in Internet Explorer and Firefox.

On Internet Explorer, setting cookies fails when the host name of the server contains underscores (_). This issue prevents users from logging in to Platform Application Center. On Firefox, this issue causes downloading and uploading files to fail.

To work around the problem, change the host name to remove underscores or use the IP address to access the Platform Application Center server.

Per-job remote Console is supported for shared disk installation only

For per-job remote consoles, Platform Application Center creates a VNC session file in `SGUI_WORKDIR`, which must be located a shared location (for example, `/opt/pac`). Platform Application Center cannot create a VNC session on compute nodes if `SGUI_WORKDIR` is a local directory.

You must install Platform Application Center in a shared location enable failover to use the per-job remote consoles.

LSF API socket in use error with more than 15 users

When more than 15 users are logged in accessing application submission forms, monitoring jobs, etc., the LSF API gives socket in use errors.

To work around the problem, the administrator must set the parameter `LSF_NON_PRIVILEGED_PORTS=Y` in `lsf.conf`.

Linux run level 5 required for RGS jobs

LSF RGS jobs require run level 5 in order to use `startx` to start the RGS sender process. If the run level is not 5, the X-Windows server cannot start. Make sure the Linux run level on your system is set to 5 (the default may be 3 or some other value on your system).

1. Edit `/etc/inittab` and modify the following:

```
# Default runlevel. The runlevels used by RHS are:
# 0-halt (Do NOT set initdefault to this)
# 1-Single user mode
# 2-Multiuser, without NFS (The same as 3, if you do not have networking)
# 3-Full multiuser mode
# 4-unused
# 5-X11
# 6-reboot (Do NOT set initdefault to this)
#
id:5:initdefault:
```

2. Reboot the machine to make the change take effect, or log on as root and start the X Server manually:

```
/sbin/init 5
```

Job notification does not record status change from Exited to Pending

When job status changes from Exited to Pending the status change is not updated.

For example, if you requeue an Exited job, status changes to Pending in LSF but the change is not displayed. When the job starts running, the status notification message changes to "Exited to Running". The Exited to Pending change is not shown.

Cannot connect to server when opening a remote console

When a user tries to open a remote console through Remote Consoles > Open my console, a VNC console window is displayed, but cannot connect to the server. No VNC session is created on the master host.

To work around the problem, check `$GUI_WORKDIR/.vnc` directory. Remove any `/${user}` subdirectory for the user having a problem connecting. This will remove the VNC session file created in `$GUI_WORKDIR/.vnc/${user}`, and the user should be able to connect successfully.

Job Flows Global View display limitation

In the Job Flows > Global View, there is a limit to the number of dependencies that can be displayed. If the number of dependencies is more than 48, the name will be missing on some items in the view. The issue appears only on Firefox 3.6 with Shockwave 10 Flash plugin when the number of dependencies in the view is greater than 48.

Process Manager job templates are not supported

Platform Process Manager job templates are not supported in Platform Application Center. Use Platform Application Center application templates for job for submissions to job flows.

Access denied error when triggering job flow from a custom page

When triggering a job flow from a newly created custom submission form, an access denied error is displayed.

To avoid this problem, you must restart Platform Application Center before using a new custom page added through a service in `services.xml`. New services are automatically synchronized with Platform Application Center access controls every host. To access a new custom page immediately, you must log out and log back in to Platform Application Center to have the new service to be added into the access controls.

Browser error when switching to HTTPS

After enabling HTTPS using `pmcadmin https enable`, Firefox and Internet Explorer complain that Platform Application Center uses an invalid untrusted security certificate.

Platform Computing provides a self-signed security certificate for Platform Application Center. Because it is self-signed, the certificate is not trusted by the browser. When you get this error, you can tell your browser to treat the self-signed certificate as exception in browser security.

On Internet Explorer, you see the error "Certificate Invalid":

1. Click "View certificates".
2. Click "Continue to this website (not recommended)."

On Firefox, you see the error "This Connection is Untrusted":

1. Under "What Should I Do?", click "I Understand the Risks".
2. Click Add Exception to tell Firefox to start trusting the Platform certificate.
3. On the Add Security Exception dialog, click Confirm Security Exception.

Help and documentation

To get started using Platform Application Center, click Help in the Platform Application Center console.

To install Platform Application Center for the first time, see *Installing Platform Application Center*.

To upgrade from Platform Application Center version 1.3, see *Installing Platform Application Center*.

To configure and administer Platform Application Center, see *Administering Platform Application Center*.

Learn more

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- World Wide Web and FTP
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support@platform.com

World Wide Web

www.platform.com

Mail

Platform Support
Platform Computing Inc.
3760 14th Avenue Markham
Ontario Canada L3R 3T7

When contacting Platform, please include the full name of your company.

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