

13 FEB 2004

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRANSFERRING JOB BETWEEN COMPUTERS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method and a system for transferring a job between computers. In particular, it relates to a job transferring method and its
5 system that make it possible to transfer a plurality of scripts.

Since conventionally, there has been known the following job transferring method: One computer transfers a batch job to another computer, and another computer
10 executes the batch job and returns the result of the execution back to the computer of the job transfer source. The batch job is useful at the time when a computer not only wishes to execute one business application but also wishes to execute another business application simultaneously in
15 the meantime. When a job (i.e., business application software) is transferred to the computer, the job is once registered in a queue within the computer. At this point in time, it becomes possible to receive transfer of the next job (i.e., another business application). The system
20 fetches and executes, in sequence, the jobs registered in the queue. The operation of such a batch job is absolutely necessary for implementing the setting and the automatization of a business application such as a total accumulating processing of data to be executed on a daily or monthly
25 basis.

As the job transferring method as described above, there has been known various types of methods. When classified roughly, there exists the following three types:

In the job transferring method of the first type, one
5 computer simply provides a job-executing instruction to another computer and performs nothing else. Transfer of a script, which will be described later, is not performed. The computer that had issued the job-executing instruction receives the execution state and result of the instructed
10 job as status information sent from the computer that has executed the job. In the job transferring method of the second type, one script is transferred immediately before the one computer provides the job-executing instruction to another computer. In this case, the execution result of
15 the instructed job is returned as a single result file. The script is an aggregation of a plurality of commands provided to the computer executing the job. Some script is set so that it is capable of performing a simple control such as a conditional branch. The use of the script makes
20 it possible to perform, with a one-time input of the job, a sequence of executions including the plurality of commands. In the job transferring method of the third type, a script file, aside from the job-executing instruction, has been transferred in advance as a file transfer or file
25 distribution form, and the job-executing instruction is performed later.

The job transferring methods of the first and second types mentioned above will be understood for example

by qsub commands explained in "Submitting a NQS Batch Job",
by Institute for Scientific Computation,
<http://www.isc.edu/isc/nqs/qsub-main.html>.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 There are many cases where, in the job transfer,
it is desirable to make the computer of the job transfer
target call up another script from one script and execute
another script. In this occasion, it turns out that a
single job includes a plurality of scripts. None of the
10 above-described conventional methods of the first to the
third types, however, has succeeded in performing the
executing instruction of the plurality of scripts
simultaneously with the performance of transferring the
plurality of scripts. This situation makes it unavoidable
15 to employ a method in which the plurality of scripts have
been transferred in advance and, at the time of the execu-
tion, only the job-executing instruction is performed.
This method is simply a combination of the above-described
conventional technique of the third type and that of the
20 first type. In the method of this combination type,
however, it is required to continue managing the script
file all the while until the job-executing command has been
sent. On account of this, the version management thereof
and so on become complicated. This condition will give
25 rise to the following problems: If the script file is
forgotten to be transferred, a wrong job may be executed.
Otherwise, immediately before the execution of a job, a

related script has been created or modified already and, as a result, it becomes impossible to execute the job.

In view of the above-described problems in the conventional techniques, it is an object of the present invention to provide a job transferring method and its system that, in the job transferring method between computers, allow the job-executing instruction to be performed simultaneously with the performance of transferring the plurality of scripts.

10 In order to accomplish the above-described object, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause the second computer to register and execute a job, wherein
15 a plurality of scripts are included in the above-mentioned request, the script being an aggregation of a plurality of commands.

Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring method of sending a
20 request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause a job to be registered and executed, including a step of creating, by the first computer, a request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts, and a step of sending, by the first computer, the created request data
25 stream from the first computer to the second computer.

Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to

cause a job to be registered and executed, including a step of receiving, by the second computer, a request data stream sent from the first computer, the request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts, a step of
5 extracting, by the second computer, the content of the plurality of scripts in the received request data stream and storing the content of the plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and a step of executing, by the second computer, a script to be executed first of the
10 plurality of scripts.

Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause a job to be registered and executed, including a step
15 of creating, by the first computer, a request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts, a step of sending the created request data stream from the first computer to the second computer, a step of extracting, by the second computer, the content of the plurality of
20 scripts in the request data stream and storing the content of the plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and a step of executing, by the second computer, a script to be executed first of the plurality of scripts.

Also, the present invention is characterized by
25 the following: A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause a job to be registered and executed, including a step of creating, by the first computer, a request data stream,

the request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts and an executing instruction for a script to be executed first of the plurality of scripts, a step of sending the created request data stream from the first computer
5 to the second computer, a step of extracting, by the second computer, the content of the plurality of scripts in the request data stream and storing the content of the plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and a step of fetching and executing, by the second computer,
10 the executing instruction for the script to be executed first, the executing instruction being included in the request data stream.

It is preferable that the above-described request data stream should be a text data-formatted stream and,
15 utilizing predetermined tags, describe various types of parameter information.

Moreover, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to
20 cause a job to be registered and executed, including a step of sending, by the second computer, a plurality of result files from the second computer to the first computer, the plurality of result files being created as a result of the second computer's executing the job, and a step of receiving,
25 ing, by the first computer, the plurality of result files.

Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to

cause a job to be registered and executed, including a step of creating a response data stream including content of a plurality of result files, the plurality of result files being created as a result of the second computer's executing the job, a step of sending the created response data stream from the second computer to the first computer, and a step of extracting, by the first computer, the content of the plurality of result files in the response data stream and storing the content of the plurality of result files for each result file. It is preferable that the above-described response data stream should be a text data-formatted stream.

Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring system, including a first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and the second computer for receiving the request sent from the first computer so as to register and execute the job in accordance with the request, wherein a plurality of scripts are included in the above-mentioned request, the script being an aggregation of a plurality of commands.

Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A first computer of a job transfer source in a job transferring system that includes the first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and the second computer for receiving the request sent from the first computer so as to register and execute the job in accord-

13 FEB 2004

ance with the request, the first computer including means for creating a request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts, and means for sending the created request data stream to the second computer.

5 Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A second computer of a job transfer target in a job transferring system that includes a first computer for sending the second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and the second computer for
10 receiving the request sent from the first computer so as to register and execute the job in accordance with the request, the second computer including means for receiving a request data stream sent from the first computer, the request data stream including content of a plurality of
15 scripts, means for extracting the content of the plurality of scripts in the received request data stream and storing the content of the plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and means for executing a script to be executed first of the plurality of scripts.

20 Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring system, including a first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and the second computer for receiving the request sent from the first
25 computer so as to register and execute the job in accordance with the request, wherein the first computer includes means for creating a request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts, and means for sending the

created request data stream from the first computer to the second computer, and the second computer includes means for extracting the content of the plurality of scripts in the request data stream and storing the content of the
5 plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and means for executing a script to be executed first of the plurality of scripts.

Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring system, including a
10 first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and the second computer for receiving the request sent from the first computer so as to register and execute the job in accordance with the request, wherein the first computer includes
15 means for creating a request data stream, the request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts and an executing instruction for a script to be executed first of the plurality of scripts, and means for sending the created request data stream from the first computer to the second
20 computer, and the second computer includes means for extracting the content of the plurality of scripts in the request data stream and storing the content of the plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and means for fetching and executing the executing instruction
25 for the script to be executed first, the executing instruction being included in the request data stream.

It is preferable that the above-described request data stream should be a text data-formatted stream and,

13 FEB 2004

utilizing predetermined tags, describe various types of parameter information.

Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring system, including a
5 first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and the second computer for receiving the request sent from the first computer so as to register and execute the job in accordance with the request, wherein the second computer includes
10 means for sending a plurality of result files from the second computer to the first computer, the plurality of result files being created as a result of executing the job, and the first computer includes means for receiving the plurality of result files.

15 Also, the present invention is characterized by the following: A job transferring system, including a first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and the second computer for receiving the request sent from the first
20 computer so as to register and execute the job in accordance with the request, wherein the second computer includes means for creating a response data stream including content of a plurality of result files, the plurality of result files being created as a result of executing the job, and
25 means for sending the created response data stream from the second computer to the first computer, and the first computer includes means for extracting the content of the plurality of result files in the response data stream and

13 FEB 2004

storing the content of the plurality of result files for each result file. It is preferable that the above-described response data stream should be a text data-formatted stream.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram for illustrating an example of the entire configuration of a system to which the job transferring method relating to the present invention is applied;

10 FIG. 2 is a diagram for explaining a basic operation of a communication protocol between a client and a server;

FIG. 3 is a diagram for illustrating a concrete communication sequence at the time of issuing requests;

15 FIG. 4 is a diagram for illustrating a concrete communication sequence at the time of issuing a request for job-information acquisition;

FIGS. 5A and 5B are diagrams for illustrating formats of communication data;

20 FIG. 6 is a diagram for illustrating an example of the description of scripts in a request body;

FIG. 7 is a diagram for illustrating the content of a job parameter definition file;

25 FIGS. 8A, 8B and 8C are diagrams for illustrating examples of a job registering command;

FIG. 9 is a diagram for illustrating the internal configuration of a client and a server relating to a job

registration and a response to the execution result;

FIG. 10 is a flow chart for illustrating the procedure of a script extraction processing;

FIG. 11 is a flow chart for illustrating a
5 processing routine (a portion) of an execution managing unit;

FIG. 12 is a flow chart for illustrating the procedure of a job-information GET processing;

FIG. 13 is a diagram for illustrating an example
10 of a job registration screen and

FIG. 14 is a diagram for illustrating an example of a job state display.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, referring to the drawings, the
15 detailed explanation will be given concerning an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of the entire configuration of a system to which the job transferring method relating to the present invention is applied. In
20 FIG. 1, reference numerals 101-103 denote computers that become servers each. Reference numerals 111-114 denote computers that become clients each. The servers 101-103 and the clients 111-114, which are connected to a network 120, are capable of providing/receiving various kinds of
25 information among the respective apparatuses. The respective clients 111-114 are able to carry out the following processing: Registering a job into the respective servers

13 FEB 2004

101-103, and causing the respective servers to execute the job in a batch-processing manner, and then causing the respective servers to return the result back to the respective clients. Concretely speaking, registering the job
5 means that a program-executing instruction written in a predetermined job control language is transferred to a server. At the time of this job transfer, a plurality of scripts to be executed on the server can be included into the transfer data. This condition makes it possible to
10 simultaneously instruct transfer of the plurality of scripts and the execution thereof through the job registration at a one-time, thereby being capable of causing the server to perform complicated processings. Being able to transfer the job in being divided into the plurality of
15 scripts makes it easier to create or manage the scripts. It is also possible to execute the job by creating or modifying the scripts immediately before the execution.

Platforms (for example, UNIX, a mainframe, or Windows NT (i.e., brand name of Microsoft Corporation))
20 that are independent of each other can be used as the respective servers and the respective clients. As the clients, various types of schemes, for example, a job launcher client and a WWW browser client, can be used. Also, it is also possible to perform the job registration
25 by using a predetermined API (application program interface) from a variety types of user programs. The operations needed for the job registration from the client to the server are, for example, an operation of inputting a

predetermined command or an operation of the instruction using a predetermined GUI (graphical user interface). The job (request) registered in the server is once registered in a queue. The client can display the state of the queue
5 by inquiring of the server about the state, or can cancel the job registered in the queue. It is allowable to provide a server gateway between the client and the server. The server gateway carries out the following processing: Receiving a variety types of requests (demand) from the
10 respective clients, judging to which server the respective requests should be transferred, transferring the request to the server, receiving and summarizing, as response data, the request execution result from the server, and returning the response data back to the client of the request issue
15 source.

FIG. 2 is a diagram for explaining a basic operation of a communication protocol between a client and a server. Here, there is illustrated an example where a server gateway is provided between the client and the
20 server.

The request issuing side is a client 201. In the client 201, in accordance with the input of the command or the instruction using the GUI, a program operates which issues various types of requests to a server. The program
25 performs the processing in a procedure of connecting the client with a user-specified port and of issuing the various types of requests and of releasing the connection. As the various types of requests that the client issues,

13 FEB 2004

there can be mentioned SUBMIT (registration of a job),
ALTER (alteration of job state), CANCEL (request for
deletion of a job), ENUMRATE (enumeration of jobs existing
in the queue), GET (acquisition of job information), and so
5 on. A text-based request data stream referred to as a
request block 202 transfers these requests to a server
gateway 203.

The server gateway 203 receives the request block
202 transferred from the respective clients and analyzes
10 the request, then judging to which server the request
should be transferred. Furthermore, the server gateway 203
transfers the request to the corresponding server 204 and,
receiving the execution result transferred from the server
204, creates the response data, and then creates a text-
15 based response data stream 205 referred to as a response
block 205 thereby returning the response data back to the
client 201 of the request issue source. Additionally, the
connections between these servers/clients are connected/
disconnected in a unit of the request. Also, the server
20 gateway may be situated on the same server as the server
body.

Incidentally, it is also allowable to establish,
using the request block 202 and the response block 205,
direct communications between the client 201 and the server
25 204 without providing the server gateway 203. Providing
the server gateway 203, however, allows a protocol to be
converted by the server gateway 203, the protocol (the
further details of which will be explained in FIGS. 3-6)

resulting from using the request block 202 and the response block 205 on the network. This condition makes it possible to carry out communications between the server 204 and the server gateway 203 with the use of a protocol that has been provided to the server 204 since conventionally. Accordingly, there is no need of supporting a new protocol on the side of the server 204. Consequently, it becomes unnecessary to amend the side of the server 204, which is advantageous and convenient.

FIG. 3 illustrates a concrete communication sequence at the time when the client issues the following requests: The job registration (SUBMIT), the state alteration (ALTER), the deletion request (CANCEL) and the queue enumeration (ENUMRATE). In accordance with an accept instruction, i.e., an accept() 311, a server 301 waits for a connect request from the client 302. A client 302 issues a connect instruction, i.e., a connect() 321, thereby establishing the connection with the server 301. After the connection is established, in accordance with a write instruction, i.e., a write() 322, the client 302 sends a request for any one of the above-described job registration (SUBMIT), the state alteration (ALTER), the deletion request (CANCEL) and the queue enumeration (ENUMRATE). In accordance with a read instruction, i.e., a read() 312, the server 301 receives the request and performs the processing in response to the request, then returning the result back to the client 302 in accordance with a write() 313. The client 302 receives the result in accordance with a read()

323. These reads and writes are repeated a plurality of times in correspondence with an amount of the data. After these processings, the server 301 executes a close, i.e., a close() 314 and the client 302 executes a close, i.e., a
5 close() 324, thus terminating the communication sequence.

FIG. 4 illustrates a concrete communication sequence at the time of issuing a request for the job-information acquisition (GET). In the acquisition of the job information (GET), there are some cases where a large
10 amount of data is transmitted/received. Accordingly, the communication is executed in such a manner that the amount of the data transmitted/received at a time is limited. Concretely, the employment of a series tag controls continuation of the data and termination of the transmission/
15 reception thereof. Also, in the job-information acquisition (GET), it is allowable to provide the server with a filter function based on acquisition conditions (the time range, the job name, and so on).

The explanation will be given below concerning
20 the communication sequence of the job-information acquisition (GET) with the employment of the series tag. In accordance with an accept instruction, i.e., an accept() 411, a server 401 waits for a connect request from the client 402. A client 402 issues a connect instruction,
25 i.e., a connect() 421, thereby establishing the connection with the server 401. After the connection is established, in accordance with a write() 422, the client 402 sends a request for a job-information acquiring request. In

accordance with a read() 412, the server 401 receives the job-information acquiring request and prepares job information that is to respond to the request. Since the job information that is to respond is a large amount of data, with the series = 1 set in a write() 413, a portion of the job information is sent to the client 402. Although the client 402 receives the portion of the job information in accordance with a read() 423, the portion of the job information has been sent with the series = 1 set.

Consequently, the client 402 issues a request for continuing to acquire the continued data with the series = 1 set in a write() 424. The server 401 receives the job-information acquiring request in accordance with a read() 414 and, in answer to the request, sends the continued job information to the client 402 with series = 1 set in a write() 415. As having been described until now, writes and reads (415, 416, 425, 426, ...) are repeated necessary times with series = 1 set. When the job information sent from the server 401 becomes final data, the server 401 sends the final job information with the series = 0 set in a write() 417. The client 402 receives the job information in accordance with a read() 427. The reception is performed with the series = 0 set in the read() 427, and accordingly the client 402 is able to find that the job information is the final data. After these processings, the server 401 executes a close, i.e., a close() 418 and the client 402 executes a close, i.e., a close() 428, thus terminating the communication sequence.

13 FEB 2004

FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate formats of communication data that are actually read and written at the time of sending the server the respective requests in the communication sequence illustrated in FIG. 3 or FIG. 4. FIG. 5A illustrates the request data stream (202 in FIG. 2) written from the client and read at the server. The request data stream includes a header portion 510 and a body portion 520. The header portion 510 includes a general header 511 and a request header 512. The body portion 520 includes a request body 521. FIG. 5B illustrates the response data stream (205 in FIG. 2) written from the server and read at the client. The response data stream includes a header portion 530 and a body portion 540. The header portion 530 includes a general header 531 and a response header 532. The body portion 540 includes a response body 541. These data are described in a text-based format of "tag name = value;". The character codes of the tag name and the specified value are all ASCII code.

The general headers 511, 531 include general information such as a version of the protocol of the communication sequence. The request header 512 includes a character string indicating the request toward the server (the job registration (SUBMIT), the state alteration (ALTER), the deletion request (CANCEL), the queue enumeration (ENUMRATE), or the job-information acquisition (GET)), and information characteristic of the request such as a length of the body portion. The response header 532 includes information characteristic of the response such as

a length of the body portion. The request body 521 includes content of the request (for example, in the case of SUBMIT, the name of the queue registering the job, the name given to the job, the name of a file executed as the job, and so on). The response body 541 includes content of the response.

In particular, it is possible to describe a plurality of scripts in the request body 521. FIG. 6 illustrates an example of the description of the scripts in the request body 521. SENDSCRIPT = yes; is a declaration that the scripts are transferred from this position. SCRIPTSTART = script/scriptb; declares that a script to be executed first is a scriptb. SCRIPTNAME = script/scripta; is a file name of a script transferred actually, and here the scripta is the file name. SCRIPTLINES = 4; indicates the line number of content of the scripts subsequent thereto. Here, the lines of SCRIPTBODY = ...; by the number of 4 lines starting from the line next to SCRIPTLINES = 4; are the actual content of the scripta. SUBSET = END indicates the end of the scripta. In much the same way, the scriptb is described next. Repeating this allows the plurality of scripts to be described in the request body 521. A final (NULL) indicates the end of the request data stream transferred.

FIG. 7 illustrates a job parameter definition file that, in the case where the client is a Windows NT-based machine, the client uses when issuing the above-described various types of requests. When a job is

'13 FEB 2004

registered from the client to the server, the job parameter definition file of the content like this is created and is passed to a command analyzing unit (911 in FIG. 9) inside the client, which is described later. Then, the command
5 analyzing unit analyzes this job parameter definition file, thereby creating the above-described request data stream so as to transfer the request data stream to the server.

The job parameter definition file illustrated in FIG. 7 is a text-based file of so-called INI file format.
10 Its content may be set/edited by an application program for receiving the job registration by the user, or can also be set/edited by a variety types of text editors. A portion indicated by [Trans] within the job parameter definition file is a portion for specifying a plurality of files to be
15 transferred. This portion allows the plurality of scripts to be included into the transfer data. Concretely, the respective scripts are created as one script file each, and the script files are specified as the transfer files in [Trans]. Incidentally, a unit in which the scripts are
20 counted one by one is based on a grammar describing the scripts. Consequently, it is also possible to describe the plurality of scripts in one script file. In that case, it is sufficient to specify the plurality of script files as the transfer files in [Trans].

25 FIGS. 8A, 8B and 8C illustrate examples of a job registering command in the case of the UNIX. As illustrated in FIG. 8A, a job is registered by a qsub command. At that time, the specification is carried out to

the operand as "-t transfer source file name = transfer target file name" ("transfer target file name" need not be specified), thereby making it possible to transfer the specified file. This allows a script file to be transferred. FIG. 8B illustrates a concrete example where the script file is transferred by the qsub command. Here, it is instructed to store test01.jcl, i.e., a script file on the UNIX, into the transfer target in the name of script (scripta). FIG. 8C illustrates an example where two script files are transferred. Test01.jcl, i.e., the script file on the UNIX, is stored into the transfer target in the name of script (scripta), and test01.jcl2, i.e., a script file on the UNIX, is stored into the transfer target in the name of script (scriptb). A declaration of - start "script (scriptb)" specifies the script (scriptb) as a script file to be executed first.

FIG. 9 is a diagram for illustrating the internal configuration of a client and a server relating to a job registration and a response to the execution result. A client 910 includes the following: The command analyzing unit 911, a registering unit 912, and a state display unit 913. A server 920 includes the following: A request analyzing unit 921, a job queue managing unit 922, a job queue 923, an execution managing unit 924, an executing unit 925, a script file storing unit 926, and an execution-result storing unit 927.

Based on the instruction from the user, the command analyzing unit 911 creates the request data stream.

If, for example, the client 910 is the Windows NT-based machine, the job parameter definition file as explained in FIG. 7 is created and passed to the command analyzing unit 911. Then, in accordance with the content of the job
5 parameter definition file, the command analyzing unit 911 creates the request data stream as explained in FIGS. 5A and 6. If the client 910 is the UNIX-based machine, the qsub command as explained in FIGS. 8A to 8C is inputted into the command analyzing unit 911. Then, in accordance
10 with the specification by the qsub command, the command analyzing unit 911 creates the request data stream as explained in FIGS. 5A and 6. In either case, it is possible to perform the job registration including the plurality of scripts.

15 The request data stream created by the command analyzing unit 911 is inputted through the registering unit 912 into the request analyzing unit 921 situated in the server 920. The very protocol of the data transmission/reception at this time has been explained already in FIGS.
20 2 to 6. The request analyzing unit 921 in the server 920 receives and analyzes the request data stream. If a script is included in the request data stream, the request analyzing unit extracts the script, storing it into the script file storing unit 926. On this occasion, if a
25 plurality of scripts are included in the request data stream, the request analyzing unit stores the respective scripts into the script file storing unit 926 in such a manner that the respective scripts are filed as one script

file each. For instance, in the case where the request data stream as illustrated in FIG. 6 has been inputted, the scripts therein are stored into the script file storing unit 926 as the two script files of the scripta and the scriptb. Incidentally, it may be considered that the server 920 in FIG. 9 has the function of the server gateway as well that is illustrated in FIG. 2.

FIG. 10 illustrates the procedure of the script extraction processing, which is a portion of the analysis processing of the request data stream in the request analyzing unit 921 and is executed when SENDSCRIPT = yes; is detected. When SENDSCRIPT = yes; is detected, at a step 1001, it is judged whether or not the next line is a line of SCRIPTNAME =. If the next line is the line of SCRIPTNAME =, at a step 1002, a script file with a specified name is created under a request-by-request node in the script file storing unit 926. Next, at a step 1003, SCRIPTLINES that is subsequent to the line of SCRIPTNAME = is read out, and lines of SCRIPTBODY by the number of the read lines are read out and are written into the above-described script file. The script file is closed at a step 1004 and, going back to the step 1001 as indicated by an arrow, it is judged whether or not there exists the next SCRIPTNAME =. Hereinafter, the processing similar to the above-mentioned processing is repeated, thereby extracting all the scripts included in the request data stream and writing them into the respective script files of their own. This operation stores, into the script file storing unit

926, all the scripts included in the request data stream that has been sent.

Now, going back to FIG. 9, the request analyzing unit 921 in the server 920, along with the script extraction as described above, registers a job into the job queue 923 through the job queue managing unit 922. If the request data stream sent from the client includes no script and is a request for executing one command (program file) alone, an executing instruction for the command is registered into the job queue 923. Also, if the request data stream sent from the client includes one script, an executing instruction for the one script is registered into the job queue 923. If the request data stream sent from the client includes a plurality of scripts, an executing instruction for a script (hereinafter, referred to as a main script) to be executed first of those scripts is registered into the job queue 923.

Additionally, in the request data stream that the client 910 creates and sends to the server 920, a file name to be executed first in the server is specified. Accordingly, if the request data stream includes no script and is the request for executing one command (program file) alone, a file name of the one command should have been specified as the file name to be executed first in the request data stream. Similarly, if the request data stream includes the plurality of scripts, a file name of the script to be executed first should have been specified as the file name to be executed first in the request data stream. In other

words, the request data stream sent from the client includes the executing instruction for the command or the script to be executed first. This condition makes it possible to regard the executing instruction as being
5 fetched from the request data stream and registered in the job queue.

FIG. 11 illustrates a processing routine (a portion) of the execution managing unit 924 in the server 920. At first, at a step 1101, the execution managing unit
10 924 fetches, from the job queue 923, a job to be executed next. The judgement as to which job is the job to be executed next is based on specification of the OS (operating system). Next, at a step 1102, the job thus fetched is passed to the executing unit 925 so as to be executed. If
15 the fetched job is an executing instruction for executing one command alone, it is sufficient to execute the one command. If the fetched job is an executing instruction for executing one script, the one script is executed. When a plurality of scripts are being sent, the main script is
20 executed. Although there are some cases where, during the execution of the main script, a lower-order script is called and executed. In such a case, the necessary script is fetched from the script file storing unit 926 so as to be executed since, by the processing in FIG. 10, all the
25 scripts have been stored already in the script file storing unit 926.

Next, at a step 1103, it is awaited for the execution of the script (at the time of executing a

command, the command) to be terminated. After the termination, at a step 1104, the termination state is recorded (by the executing unit 925, actually) into the execution-result storing unit 927 as a log, thereby completing the processing. Examples of the information recorded as the log are job names, script names, result file names, and so on. The result file name is the name of a result file created for each of the commands (at the time of executing the script, each of the commands executed in the script) executed at the step 1102. Each of the commands is executed, thereby creating the result file in the name that is unique to the command and storing the result file into the execution-result storing unit 927. Consequently, in the case where a plurality of commands are executed by the execution of the script (Usually, one script includes a plurality of commands), the result files for the respective commands are created.

As having been described above, the registration and the execution of the batch job are performed. The client 910 further includes the state display unit 913, which makes it possible to perform the job-information acquisition (GET) concerning a registered job. Namely, in FIG. 9, in accordance with, for example, an instruction from the user, the state display unit 913 issues, to the request analyzing unit 921 in the server 920, a request for the job-information acquisition (GET) for inquiring in what state the registered job lies at present. The request for the job-information acquisition (GET) includes information

13 FEB 2004

such as a job name for identifying the object job the job information of which will be acquired. The request analyzing unit 921 passes, to the execution managing unit 924, the information such as the job name for identifying the job the job-information acquisition of which has been requested, thus instructing the job-information acquisition.

FIG. 12 illustrates the procedure of the job-information GET processing. The execution managing unit 924 in the server 920 performs the job-information GET processing in accordance with the instruction passed from the request analyzing unit 921. At a step 1201, by referring to the job queue 923, it is judged whether or not a specified job exists within the job queue 923. If the specified job exists within the job queue 923, it means that, at present, the job is awaiting the execution or is in the course of the execution. Accordingly, the state where the job lies is returned back to the state display unit 913 in the client 910 of the request issue source. If the specified job does not exist within the job queue 923, it means that the execution has been terminated already. Accordingly, by referring to the log stored in the execution-result storing unit 927, information to be returned back of the content of the log is summarized as the response data, then being returned back to the state display unit 913.

In particular, in this embodiment, the plurality of result files are stored into the execution-result

storing unit 927 by executing the plurality of scripts. Consequently, in the job-information acquisition (GET), it is made possible to summarize and return the plurality of result files back to the client. Namely, when the request
5 for the job-information acquisition (GET) is issued from the state display unit 913 in the client 910 in FIG. 9, a plurality of names of the result files that are wished to be returned back are specified within the request. At a step 1203, the execution managing unit 924 collects the
10 plurality of result files with those specified names and creates the response data stream (FIG. 6) including the content of those result files, then returning the response data stream back to the state display unit 913 in the client 910 in the communication sequence as explained in
15 FIGS. 2 and 4.

Incidentally, in order to create the response data stream including the content of the plurality of result files and send the response data stream to the state display unit 913 in the client 910, the execution managing
20 unit 924 in the server 920 has the function of creating the response data stream including the content of the plurality of result files. Moreover, in order to reproduce the plurality of result files at the state display unit 913, the state display unit 913 in the client 910 has the
25 function of reproducing the plurality of result files from within the received response data stream. Concretely, in much the same way as the one in which the request data stream is created that includes the content of the

plurality of script files as explained in FIG. 5, by doing the following, the execution managing unit 924 creates a response data stream including the content of the result files of arbitrary numbers: With a tag for making a
5 declaration that a result file will be sent, the declaration is made, and with a tag for specifying the result file name, the result file name is specified, and with a tag for specifying the number of lines, the number of lines of the result file is specified. After that, the contents of the
10 result files are enumerated, and with SUBSET = END, the end of the result files is specified, and the above-mentioned portion ranging from the specification of the result file name to SUBSET = END is repeated. Also, in much the same way as the one in which, in FIG. 10, the plurality of
15 scripts are extracted and reproduced as the files each, the state display unit 913 that has received such a response data stream reproduces the plurality of result files from within the response data stream.

FIG. 13 illustrates an example of a job registration screen in the client 910. The user has created in
20 advance the script files test01.jcl and test01.jcl2, using the text editor or the like. When registering a job, the user instructs the screen in FIG. 13 to be displayed and checks "specify" 1302 in script transfer definition 1301,
25 thereby being able to specify the script transfer. In a script file specification region 1303, it is possible to describe a plurality of script files to be transferred to the server. It is also possible to specify a script file

to be executed first of the plurality of script files. In FIG. 13, as the script file to be executed first, the test01.jcl2 is described in being surrounded by a rectangular frame within the specification region 1303. Various types of information is set on the screen in FIG. 13 and an acknowledge button 1304 is switched on. This operation causes, for example, the qsub command explained in FIG. 8C, to be inputted into the command analyzing unit 911 in FIG. 9, thereby making it possible to perform the job registration including the plurality of scripts as is described above.

FIG. 14 illustrates an example of the job state display displayed by the state display unit 913 in the client 910 in FIG. 9. The state display unit 913 issues the request for the job-information acquisition (GET) with a predetermined time interval and acquires the present state of a job and the result file as is described earlier, then displaying them in a list as illustrated in FIG. 14. The reference numerals denote the following, respectively.

1401 sequential number of the job, 1402 a display for indicating that the present state of the job is "during execution", 1403 job name of the job, 1404 name of a script file included in the job. When a plurality of script files are included in the job, names of all the plurality of script files (in FIG. 14, scripta and scriptb) are displayed. The reference numerals further denote the following: 1405 a display of "termination" for indicating that a job Job2 has already been in the termination state,

1406 file name of a result file received from the server as a result of the termination of the job Job2. When a plurality of result files (in FIG. 14, A, B, and C) are received, names of all the result files are displayed.

5 Incidentally, in the above-mentioned embodiment, the explanation has been given concerning the example where the job is registered from the client to the server. Taking advantage of the above-described protocol, however, allows the plurality of scripts to be transferred in much
10 the same way even when the job is registered and executed from a server to another server. In the UNIX, it is usual that the job transfer is performed between the server/server so as to disperse the load. Consequently, it turns out that, naturally, the job registration from the UNIX-
15 based client to another server is once performed by way of a server existing on the side of the client through a network. In that case, the communication taking advantage of the above-described protocol is executed between the server/server.

20 According to the embodiment explained so far, the data stream in the plain text is used as the job transfer protocol. This condition makes the implementation easy, not depending on the types of the network. Also, the various types of parameters are specified in the plain text
25 by the expression using the tags. This condition makes it easy to extend the protocol. Even when the protocol has been extended and the types of the tags are increased in a higher-order version, a lower-order version system ignores

13 FEB 2004

- 33 -

a tag that it does not recognize, thereby making it possible to establish the mutual interconnection between the systems the versions of which are different to each other. Also, it is possible to implement the user interface and the implementing method with different kinds of variations in correspondence with the circumstances of the system.

13 FEB 2004

CLAIMS:

1. A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause said second computer to register and execute a job, wherein a plurality of scripts are included in said request, said script being an aggregation of a plurality of commands.

2. A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause a job to be registered and executed, comprising the steps of:

creating, by said first computer, a request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts, and
sending, by the first computer, said created request data stream from said first computer to said second computer.

3. A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause a job to be registered and executed, comprising the steps of:

receiving, by said second computer, a request data stream sent from said first computer, said request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts,

extracting, by said second computer, said content of said plurality of scripts in said received request data stream and storing said content of said plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and

executing, by said second computer, a script to be executed first of said plurality of scripts.

4. A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause a

job to be registered and executed, comprising the steps of:

creating, by said first computer, a request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts,

sending said created request data stream from said first computer to said second computer,

extracting, by said second computer, said content of said plurality of scripts in said request data stream and storing said content of said plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and

executing, by said second computer, a script to be executed first of said plurality of scripts.

5. A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause a job to be registered and executed, comprising the steps of:

creating, by said first computer, a request data stream, said request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts and an executing instruction for a script to be executed first of said plurality of scripts,

sending said created request data stream from said first computer to said second computer,

extracting, by said second computer, said content of said plurality of scripts in said request data stream and storing said content of said plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and

fetching and executing, by said second computer, said executing instruction for said script to be executed first, said executing instruction being included in said request data stream.

6. The job transferring method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a data stream of said request is a text data-formatted stream and, utilizing a predetermined tag, describes various types of parameter information.

7. The job transferring method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said request data stream is a text data-formatted stream and, utilizing a predetermined tag, describes various types of parameter information.

8. A job transferring method of sending a request from a first computer to a second computer so as to cause a job to be registered and executed, comprising the steps of:

summarizing content of a plurality of result files into one response data stream including said content of said plurality of result files, said plurality of result files being created as a result of executing said job by said second computer, and

sending said response data stream from said second computer to said first computer.

9. The job transferring method as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising a step of extracting, by said first computer, said content of said plurality of result files included in said response data stream and storing said content of said plurality of result files for each result file.

10. The job transferring method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said response data stream is a text data-formatted stream.

11. A job transferring system, comprising:

a first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed, and

said second computer for receiving said request sent from said first computer so as to register and execute said job in accordance with said request, wherein a plurality of scripts are included in said request, said script being an aggregation of a plurality of commands.

12. A job transfer source computer as a first computer in a job transferring system that includes said first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and said second computer for receiving said request sent from said first computer so as to register and execute said job in accordance with said request, said first computer of said job transfer source comprising:

means for creating a request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts, and

means for sending said created request data stream to said second computer.

13. A job transfer target computer as a second computer in a job transferring system that includes a first computer for sending said second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed and said second computer for receiving said request sent from said first computer so as to register and execute said job in accordance with said request, said second computer of said job transfer target comprising:

means for receiving a request data stream sent from said first computer, said request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts,

means for extracting said content of said plurality of scripts included in said received request data stream and storing said content of said plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and

means for executing a script to be executed first of said plurality of scripts.

14. A job transferring system, comprising:

a first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed, and

said second computer for receiving said request sent from said first computer so as to register and execute said job in accordance with said request, wherein

said first computer comprises means for creating a request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts, and means for sending said created request data stream from said first computer to said second computer, and

said second computer comprises means for extracting said content of said plurality of scripts included in said request data stream and storing said content of said plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and means for executing a script to be executed first of said plurality of scripts.

15. A job transferring system, comprising:

13 FEB 2004

a first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed, and

said second computer for receiving said request sent from said first computer so as to register and execute said job in accordance with said request, wherein

said first computer comprises means for creating a request data stream, said request data stream including content of a plurality of scripts and an executing instruction for a script to be executed first of said plurality of scripts, and means for sending said created request data stream from said first computer to said second computer, and

said second computer comprises means for extracting said content of said plurality of scripts included in said request data stream and storing said content of said plurality of scripts as a script file for each script, and means for fetching and executing said executing instruction for said script to be executed first, said executing instruction being included in said request data stream.

16. The job transferring system as claimed in Claim 11, wherein a data stream of said request is a text data-formatted stream and, utilizing a predetermined tag, describes various types of parameter information.

17. The job transferring system as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said request data stream is a text data-formatted stream and, utilizing a predetermined tag, describes various types of parameter information.

18. A job transferring system, comprising:

a first computer for sending a second computer a request for causing a job to be registered and executed, and

said second computer for receiving said request sent from said first computer so as to register and execute said job in accordance with said request, wherein said second computer comprises means for creating a response data stream including content of a plurality of result files, said plurality of result files being created as a result of executing said job, and means for sending said created response data stream from said second computer to said first computer.

19. The job transferring system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said first computer comprises means for extracting said content of said plurality of result files included in said response data stream and storing said content of said plurality of result files for each result file.

20. The job transferring system as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said response data stream is a text data-formatted stream.

21. The job transferring method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said first computer inputs a job parameter definition file and creates said request data stream in accordance with content of said job parameter definition file, said job parameter definition file including the number of script files transferred, names of said script

files transferred, and a name of a script file to be executed first.

22. The job transfer source as said first computer as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said first computer inputs a job parameter definition file and creates said request data stream in accordance with content of said job parameter definition file, said job parameter definition file including the number of script files transferred, names of said script files transferred, and a name of a script file to be executed first.