

MQMON - Supports Wall Street financial markets

Automated trading systems

Behind the daily trading excitement on the major New York stock exchanges lies a high-tech infrastructure of interconnected networks and data management systems.

At the heart of this technological web is the Securities Industry Automation Corporation (SIAC). SIAC is a central resource that provides key systems support to the New York and American Stock Exchanges, National Securities Clearing Corporation and the securities industry nationwide. SIAC is a subsidiary of the New York and American Stock Exchanges.

"Proactive" Peace of Mind with MQMON for MVS

When SIAC decided to implement IBM's MQSeries message handling software to support systems it operates for the National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCC), SIAC strategists realized they would need some help managing the new system. "With the MQSeries product, you need a tool to control and monitor the environment," says Charles Karwelies, SIAC's Director of IBM Network Systems. "MQMON bought us a comfort level that enabled us to go into production and perform our work with confidence."

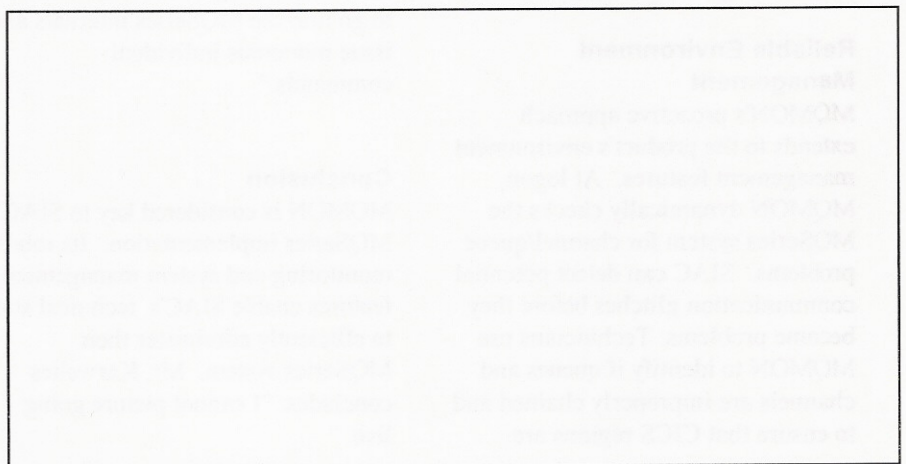
Mr. Karwelies is responsible for communications systems that ensure broker connectivity and efficient message queuing. What he values most about MQMON is its "proactive" approach to problem determination and resolution. "You can take a proactive stance using MQMON. The product helps us oversee the flow of data and ensures that we don't have problems that go undetected." That's the whole point of interactive communications

Complete Queue and Channel Management

A smooth and efficient data flow is essential to SIAC and its clients. As a result, the firm relies heavily on MQMON's ability to monitor channels and queues.

"When we get into the big queue numbers we're anticipating, there's no way you can expect human beings to monitor queues, to look at counts, or to accurately assess queue depletion rates. You need an automatic tool to help you. And this product does that. It highlights situations much faster than you or I ever could." Many functions, he adds, are dynamically calculated. Queue counts and triggers change so fast that MQMON enables SIAC to control, monitor, and react to situations quickly and efficiently.

SIAC technicians receive instantaneous message flow assessments. They take full advantage of MQMON status panels that provide message sequencing, queue depth and PUT/GET trigger



data. Mr. Karwelies says these "user-friendly" panels allow his staff to custom tailor message status information. He says SIAC uses MQMON to identify all queues with a specified number of records and to display queues by user, application or category using wildcards.

MQMON is also employed to closely monitor if queues are depleting at specified rates. If they are not, the product alerts operations and systems specialists, often via NetView console messages. Experience dictates that at any given time of day, SIAC's technicians can expect a certain message throughput. MQMON provides a quick and easy display of the number of messages that pass through the channels. Says Mr. Karwelies: "That verifies that the process is working between my side and the MQSeries system on the client side. And that makes everybody feel comfortable."

Equally comforting to SIAC is MQMON's ability to react to system outages or channel connection problems. Mr. Karwelies' team employs the product to identify if a channel has been RELEASED, or severed. If an MQSeries system goes down and a message is "stuck" in a channel, MQMON instructs the system to back out the record so it can be routed to its original queue and resent.

Reliable Environment Management

MQMON's proactive approach extends to the product's environment management features. At logon, MQMON dynamically checks the MQSeries system for channel/queue problems. SIAC can detect potential communication glitches before they become problems. Technicians use MQMON to identify if queues and channels are improperly chained and to ensure that CICS regions are

communicating with the right queue address space.

The product also identifies the pageset categories that contain channels and queues, the category storage class and the percentage of the category that has been allocated. "If we add more queues and channels, more pagesets will be used," Mr. Karwelies says. "We know at any point if we have to define more pagesets or change the categories. This way we can be confident that we won't run out of storage."

Dead Letter Queue Automation

A transaction message may end up in a dead letter queue for a variety of reasons. For example, a queue may be misdefined, disabled, corrupted or full. Regardless, at SIAC dead letter queue entries must be handled expediently.

"The dead letter queue is an important feature here because DLQ entries are technically live data that have to be processed as soon as possible," Mr. Karwelies says. MQMON generates an alert when something enters SIAC's dead letter queue. It also provides an easy-to-use queue re-routing panel that sends the "dead letter" to the correct queue.

"MQMON has made our lives a lot easier," adds Mr. Karwelies. "If we didn't have MQMON we would have to go into the MQSeries internals and issue numerous individual commands."

Conclusion

MQMON is considered key to SIAC's MQSeries implementation. Its robust monitoring and system management features enable SIAC's technical staff to efficiently administer their MQSeries system. Mr. Karwelies concludes: "I cannot picture going live

without this product. The consequences are too great not to...we're very happy with it."

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