

Using OPRS for your daily AS/400 and iSeries operations



OPRS is a System Management program solution for AS/400 and iSeries. This document tells you in brief what OPRS can do and the benefits you may achieve.

Every morning

The first thing the operator has to do is to verify that the AS/400 is up and running. The checklist may vary from one installation to another, but a typical checklist looks like this:

- Verify that the AS/400 is operative
 - Verify that RAID is active for all disk units
 - Verify that all subsystems/jobs have been started
 - Verify that communication lines are active
 - Verify that the backup and other night jobs has completed normally
 - Verify that the disk percentage used is normal
 - Verify that network devices answer on "ping" requests
 - Check for any new entries in the system problemlog
 - Check for any critical disabled userprofiles
 - Check if there are any messages in QSYSOPR that needs a reply
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You may let OPRS run through the daily checklist automatically. In addition OPRS may do this BEFORE the operator usually comes to work. Any abnormal situation may be reported by sending you a SMS* message. This allows you to start troubleshooting earlier.

Throughout the day, OPRS monitors the system continuously, and will send the operator a SMS* message if an errorsituation should occur. This way you have full control even if the operator is not at his desk.

Assumed benefit = 1/2 hour daily

Typical situations that OPRS may report:

- High disk percentage used
- Failing disk drives
- Very high CPU usage
- Communication errors
- Non-replying TCP/IP nodes (e.g. other iSeries, routers, servers)
- Job / subsystem status
- Messages waiting for a reply in QSYSOPR
- High number of jobs waiting in job queues
- Looping jobs
- Many invalid sign-on attempts
- User profiles being disabled

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It is also worth to know that you may reply to QSYSOPR messages from your Cellular phone.

It is difficult to come up with an exact number for the benefit, but OPRS helps you to be aware of error conditions earlier and therefore allows you to start troubleshooting earlier, reducing the downtime.

Work with user problems

A system administrator receives a number of phone calls from users that have encountered a problem. To solve the problems, you have to use a number of CL commands. For many of the commands you have to enter the name of the user that reported the error. Would it be nice to have an easier way?

A special function in OPRS allows you to work with user reported problems. It contains:

- Search for a user profile using its description, e.g. search for the users first name
- The user profile status is displayed when browsing a list of users (*DISABLED/*ENABLED)
- For each user profile the following menu options are available:
 - Making the user profile usable again (Changing the status to *ENABLED)
 - Work with the user's active jobs
 - Work with the user's jobs (active, in job queue, on output queues)
 - Work with the user's spooled files
 - Work with the job history for the user

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It is important to know that you may create additional menu options.

Assumed reduced work load = 2-60 minutes daily

Automation

OPRS contains a lot of functions for automation:

- An advanced job scheduler (e.g. Job dependencies may be specified)
- Easier to create startup / closedown routines using file jobs instead of CL programs
- Automatic reply to messages in QSYSOPR
- Easier file reorganization
- Easier backup functions
- UPS monitoring
- Advanced spooled file cleanup functions

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Assumed reduced work load = 1/2 hour daily

Other functions / toolbox

OPRS contains a lot of other useful functions

- Database with job history for all jobs started on the system
- Allow you to specify user-options (similar to PDM) when working with:
 - Spooled files
 - Active jobs
 - Job queues
- Accounting reports (CPU usage, database usage)

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* Requires the product GSM Text

Assumed reduced work load = 1/2 hour daily

GSM text for AS/400

Use this function to send GSM message from or to the AS/400. This allows you to:

- Forward QSYSOPR messages to a GSM telephone
 - Reply to QSYSOPR messages from a GSM telephone
 - Run CL commands from a GSM telephone
 - Sending text messages to users / service people
 - Using text messages as input to applications
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Why choose OPRS

Why choose OPRS

- Standard product, used by hundreds of installations
- Less need for programming knowledge
- Less need for programming changes
- Less dependent on specific personell
- Reduced workload. Allow you to use 200-250 hours a year to other work!

Interested?

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