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Modernizing Mainframe Output: The Connect/JES Case

How live queue access, automated delivery, and AI-ready diagnostics change what JES output can do

Executive Summary

JES output today usually lives in one of two places: a live queue an operator checks from a 3270 screen, or a separate report-distribution system that captures it later for long-term storage. Few tools give you real-time visibility and automated, secure delivery in the same place, governed by the same identity model as everything else on z/OS.

Connect/JES closes that gap. It's a browser-based queue viewer for live, day-to-day operations, paired with event-driven automation, PDF conversion, encrypted delivery, and AI-ready diagnostics — all under native SAF/RACF authorization, not a separate credential store.

1. Live Operations, Not Just a Batch Trigger

Most JES automation tools only see output after a job finishes. Connect/JES also works as a day-to-day operator console: view input and held queues and read spool output in real time, directly in the browser — no 3270 emulator, no client install. Jobs can be submitted from a library of pre-defined JCL with one click, with `${VAR}` substitution for the details that change run to run. Every view and every action is scoped to the signed-in user's own SAF authority, exactly as if they were signed on at a terminal.

2. Event-Driven Automation

Beyond live viewing, the JES Writer watches JES output for qualifying jobs — selected by JOBNAME, JOBID, CLASS, FORM, or DESTINATION — and automatically triggers a Connect/MP action against it: ZIP, MAIL, PDF, or AI. It can run once or stay awake, continuously processing new output as it's created, and disposition control decides whether the original spool output is kept or cleared once handled.

3. PDF Conversion and Secure Delivery

JES reports and text files can be converted into formatted PDF documents on the way out — with full control over layout, fonts, headers, and security settings — then delivered by email, FTP, or straight to a network file system. Paired with Connect/ZIP, that delivery can be AES-encrypted and compressed, for secure distribution or automated on- or off-platform archiving. Connect/Hybrid extends the same reach across systems: spool files and reports can move between JES subsystems for disaster recovery, backup processing, or workload redistribution.

4. Structured Data for Agentic Diagnostics

Rather than screen-scraping 3270 sessions, Connect/JES exposes JES and spool data directly as structured JSON through an MCP-compatible API — a format built for scripts, orchestration tools, and AI agents to consume directly, without translation layers or brittle text parsing.

Connect/AI reads that data to investigate, not just report. When a job fails, it can correlate the JES spool with the USS files or datasets that job touched, or a live 3270 session, in a single investigation. Under strict read-only/advisory guardrails, it surfaces what went wrong and the pre-defined JCL template needed to resolve it — the human still clicks submit.

5. One Identity Model, Throughout

Every layer — the queue viewer, the JES Writer, the MCP API, Connect/AI's diagnostics — runs under the same native SAF/RACF authorization already governing the rest of z/OS. There's no separate credential store and no shared service account: access and actions are gated by the signed-in user's own SAF authority, and every privileged action is recorded.

6. Where Connect/JES Fits

Connect/JES is built for live operations and diagnostics — watching JES output, automating what happens next, and helping operators (and Connect/AI) understand why something failed, as it's happening. It is not designed to be a long-term archive.

If your shop also needs years of indexed report history for compliance, Connect/JES's PDF and AES-encrypted delivery to network storage can feed that pipeline directly. And for teams simply looking to move report delivery off proprietary mainframe-only storage and reduce MIPS along the way, it stands on its own.

See Connect/JES against your own JES2 or JES3 environment — schedule a walkthrough with your Data 21 representative.

About Connect/MP Suite. The Connect/MP Suite from Data 21 brings live operations, automated delivery, and AI-ready diagnostics to every corner of z/OS — spool and JES output, datasets and USS files, and 3270 sessions alike. Connect/JES turns JES output into real-time visibility and action; Connect/AI adds agentic diagnostics across JES, Files, and 3270; Connect/Hybrid and Connect/ZIP extend secure, encrypted delivery on- or off-platform. Data 21 has developed mainframe software since 1980.

Learn more at data21.com, or contact your Data 21 representative for a walkthrough.

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