Drip

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

Drip is a Switch flow tester application that injects jobs into your flow. That's it: plain and simple. Well, perhaps not *that* simple. The app does allow you to specify how many jobs and how frequently. And it can randomize the number of jobs and injection times to create a realistic flow testing regime.

Oh, and because you might need that, you can attach private data and datasets to injected jobs so you can *really* test that flow.

1.1. Versions
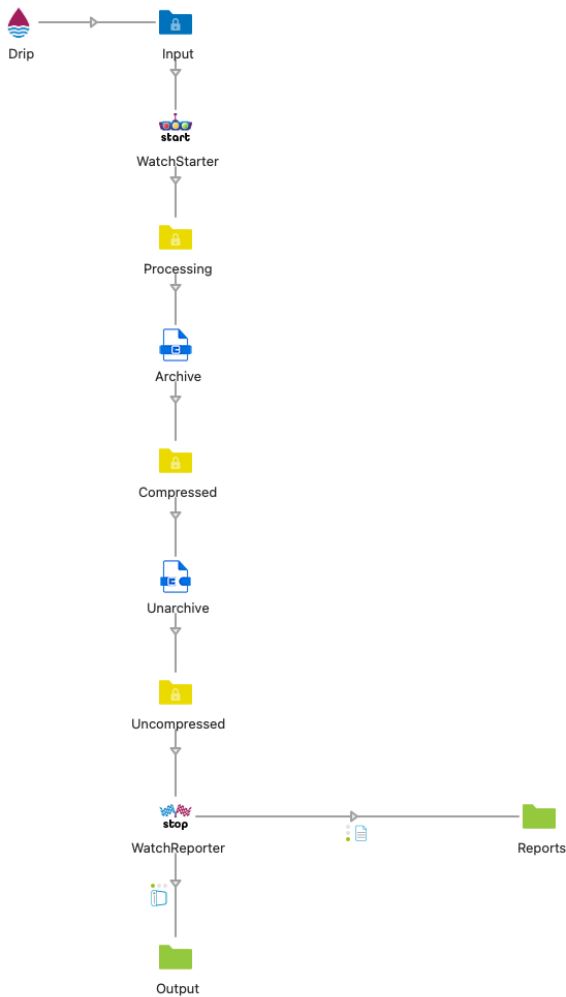
The following is a short version overview:

- **Version 1**: initial version of the app.

1.2. Compatibility

Enfocus Switch 2024 Spring Edition and higher for Windows and Mac.

2. How to use

The Switch flow screengrab below illustrates the use of Drip and the StopWatch apps (StopWatch is also developed by **aaz•app**).

In this demo flow, Drip injects jobs into the flow. The StopWatch apps are then used to log the performance of the Archive and Unarchive apps.

2.1. When jobs are injected

Using the "Inject when" property, Drip provides two different options:

- **On flow start only**
  In this mode, Drip is only triggered once, immediately after the flow is started. After that, it remains quiet. This mode offers no extra parameters to configure it.
- **While flow is running**
  In this mode, Drip is also triggered immediately after the flow is started but periodically after that as well. Two additional properties provide fine-grained control.
  - **Interval in seconds**
    Specifies the interval in seconds between two invocations to Drip.
  - **Exactly?**
    If you want the interval to be as close to exactly the number of seconds Switch can deliver, choose "Exact schedule". If it is better for your flow testing that some randomness is involved, choose "Randomly around."

2.2. What jobs are injected

The "Inject what?" property lets you decide what job or jobs should be injected into the Switch flow. Several options are suitable for different scenarios.

- **Dummy job**
  If the exact job that goes through the flow isn't essential, select this option. Drip creates a simple text file (with some interesting content) named after the current date and time. The extension is always ".txt". Every time Drip is triggered, it injects exactly one dummy job.
- **Single job**
  This option lets you select a single job (either a file or a folder) and inject it into the flow unchanged. Every time Drip is triggered, it injects precisely one copy of your selected job.
- **Multiple jobs from folder**
  Using this option, you can choose a folder (using the "Job repository path" property) and Drip will pick jobs from this folder to inject. Each time Drip is triggered, it injects the amount of jobs you pick in the "Number of jobs" property. Unless you select "Randomly around" in the "Exactly?" property; in that case Drip will pick a random number around your number.

2.3. How jobs can be decorated

Sometimes just having a file or a folder move through a flow isn't enough; you must have certain private data or datasets associated with the job. Set the "Decorate new jobs?" property to "Yes" to be able to do so.

The "Private data" and "Data sets" properties allow setting private data and Switch datasets for your injected jobs respectively.

2.4. Pausing things

However lovely things are, sometimes you simply want to "be on a break." To accomplish this, use the "Pause" property and set it to "Yes." Your jobs are still sent to the data success connection, but no reports are generated.

3. Trivia

3.1. Variables and script expressions

Usually, we allow variables and script expressions in all app properties. After all, we know how important it is to have maximum flexibility. The Switch scripting API has an important restriction though: if an app property is used from a time-based app trigger, variables and script expressions cannot be used.

This is why the properties for Drip do not allow variables or script expressions.

3.2. On randomness

The interval between Drip invocations and the number of jobs injected into a flow by Drip can be random. What exactly does that mean?

First, random isn't random. Not truly random anyway, but for the purposes of this app, good enough (if you don't know what that means or refers to, consider yourself lucky, it's not going to affect you).

More importantly, how random does Drip get? For example, if I ask Drip to be triggered every 10 seconds and enable "randomness," what kind of intervals am I looking at?

Drip always looks at the number you choose, and calculates half of it. That half is subtracted and added to your choice to determine the possible intervals you will see. So:

- Your choice: 10 seconds.
- Drip calculates half: 5 seconds (it's really good at calculating half. If needed this half is rounded (up)).
- The possible intervals are going to be between 10 − 5 and 10 + 5, or in math notation: [5, 15]. So at the extremes, Drip may wait for only 5 seconds, or it may wait as long as 15 seconds.

Remark that there is still Switch to deal with as well and that Switch doesn't guarantee that timed invocations are precisely "on time," so there may be some additional delay introduced by Switch itself.

(Do you believe that we are geeks now?)

4. More information

4.1. About us

This app was created by **aazapp**. You can find more information about us here: **https://aaz.app**. We're geeks about topics such as print, PDF, prepress, preflight, automation, and a good deal more. We like to share our expertise with others, sometimes by doing paid professional services projects and other times by bundling our knowledge into (often free) Switch apps.

When we build an app and lovingly craft the code, branding, documentation, and everything else that goes into it, it's because we like it and think it will be helpful for other people as well—people like you.

4.1.1. Is it?

Rating our app on the Enfocus app store is quick and easy, but it makes us very happy. It feels like a reward for the time we have invested in the app. So please visit the app store (https://www.enfocus.com/en/appstore/overview) and take a second to rate it.

4.1.2. Found a problem?

We don't know your Switch flows, so we can't guarantee that our apps will play nicely with them (however much time we invest in testing before releasing them). Please don't hesitate to reach out to us and ask questions, give feedback, and make suggestions about the apps you're using or about other things that would be useful for you in Switch.

Just send us an email at **hello@aaz.app**. We'll be with you… ASAP (obviously).

4.2. Sushi

Oh… one more thing!

If you're using our free apps and they are valuable to you, please consider donating a small amount to us. We (the geeks behind **aazapp**) have a tradition of having sushi together in different cities worldwide, and some pocket money to do so is always appreciated!