10 WAYS TEST AUTOMATION ADDS VALUE TO YOUR BUSINESS

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Whilst it's true to say that all testing can be carried out manually, it takes time to plan, build, execute, evaluate, and document every single test. If you are running lots of tests, and testing regularly, it's easy to see how you could be spending tens, if not hundreds of hours every year on something that could be automated.

In a digitally enabled world, where we have automated just about everything, it's somewhat surprising to find so many organisations still relying on manual testing. Automation can help improve all areas of testing, from script development to test execution, results analysis to defect monitoring.

Test automation offers a variety of benefits, but they can be distilled down to three core areas:

1. The production of a consistent, reliable test methodology

2. An improvement in the quality and accuracy of testing

3. A reduction in the amount of testing effort required

Aside from the obvious – running tests faster - the repeatable nature of automated testing can deliver other benefits too. Here's an example: suppose a tester finds a bug. The developer fixes it but, on average, 7% of bug fixes create new bugs. Now you need to run the same test again, plus run tests on any dependent workflows.

In a manual test environment, repeat testing often isn't replicated to the same standard each time, and testers may adopt the stance that the bug has been fixed and move on, without checking for the impact on other areas. This can lead to a defect making it through to production, which is significantly more expensive to fix than if it was caught in the development or pre-production environment. Remember, prevention is better than cure!

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If you're still not convinced, here are ten ways in which test automation can add value:

1. EXECUTE MORE TESTING IN A SHORTER TIMESCALE

Testers can do more for less and projects can be delivered faster, helping to increase operational efficiencies.

2. REPLICATE AND REPEAT TESTS EXACTLY

Any tester can run a script created by another tester, without having to have the expert knowledge of the originator. Repeating an automated script delivers more consistent results.

3. REDUCE TESTER FATIGUE AND BOREDOM

Testers can spend more time tweaking automated scripts for more complex scenarios, rather than re-entering test script data manually each time with the inherent risk of human error.

4. BENCHMARK PERFORMANCE WITH SYSTEM-WIDE VISIBILITY OF TESTING

Quickly establish how a change event project is progressing, the level of defects detected and compare performance with previous or similar projects.

5. SCHEDULE UNATTENDED TESTING OUT OF HOURS

You may want to regression test a system by running some or all of your tests out of hours. This is where automation can add significant value. Kick off a test during the night and then check the pass/fail rate the next morning.

6. SAVE TIME AND EFFORT BY 'SOFT CODING' YOUR TESTING

You may have lots of test scripts that share and rely on common data, such as a General Ledger Date or a Business Unit Number. Wouldn't it be nice to separate data like this from your scripts so that you can make data changes in one place to many different scripts?

7. EFFORTLESSLY SIMULATE LOAD FOR REALISTIC STRESS AND PERFORMANCE TESTING

Many bugs are only triggered when a system is tested with a high input data rate, or if run continuously for many hours. It is not practical to simulate these conditions with manual testing.

8. MANAGE MAJOR CHANGE EVENTS MORE EFFICIENTLY

For a major project, such as the on-boarding of a new business unit, testers may want to carry out the same test they do now, but on the new company data. Automated scripts can be easily copied and have key soft-coded data to accelerate the process.

9. AUTOMATICALLY TEST END-TO-END BUSINESS PROCESSES WITH ONE CLICK

Sophisticated test automation software allows you to link test scripts that are part of an overall business process, such as 'Procure-to-pay' or 'Order-to-cash'. These can be set up in test 'Queues' and can dramatically accelerate the time it takes to test end-to-end core business processes.

10. AUTOMATICALLY TEST APPLICATION ACCESS AFTER SECURITY CHANGES APPLIED

All enterprise software customers change their application security settings from time to time. Automation allows you to set up specific security-related scripts that can be run every time there are security changes, ensuring that access is only given to the appropriate users.

MAKE TESTING **EASY**

In many areas of an enterprise software application, the subject matter or business expert may be the sole owner of specific knowledge. With test automation, these individuals can design and build scripts for non-technical users that cover all the business processes associated with their area of expertise.

This not only eliminates a reliance on one specific resource, it also provides a documented record of the business process. This helps accelerate induction training of new employees and retains the subject matter expertise in the corporate memory.

For more information on Test Automation, visit our **Product Pages**, or visit the resource centre and download a copy of our **Functional Testing White Paper**.

SI promotes their testing services as Dimension Driven

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ORACLE®
JD Edwards

ORACLE®
Fusion Applications

salesforce

UK: +44 (0)1494 896 600
US: +1 888 769 3248
ANZ: +64 (0)9427 99 56

sales@dws-global.com
www.dws-global.com