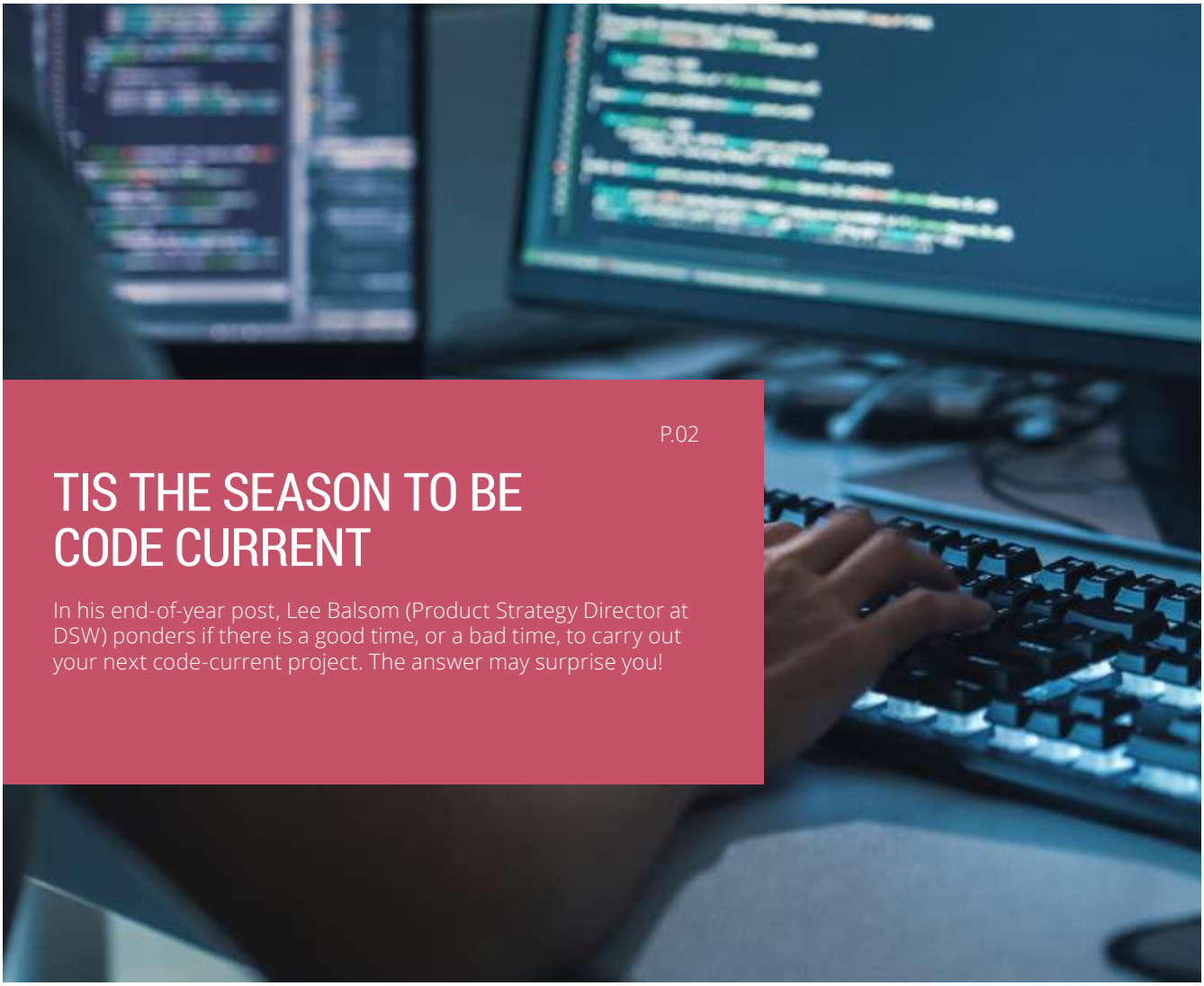
DIMENSION

From DWS

ISSUE # 18



P.02

TIS THE SEASON TO BE CODE CURRENT

In his end-of-year post, Lee Balsom (Product Strategy Director at DSW) ponders if there is a good time, or a bad time, to carry out your next code-current project. The answer may surprise you!

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TESTING 101 WHAT, WHY AND HOW WE SHOULD TEST?

In this article we go back to basics and explore the fundamentals of ERP software testing – why should we test, what we should test, and how should we test!

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THE SUN HAS SET ON ORACLE'S MOBILE APP FRAMEWORK

You may have heard that Oracle sunset the Mobile App Framework for its ERP customers earlier this year. In this post we explore what that means for Oracle and JDE users.

P.08

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LATEST SWIFTEST RELEASE 23.2?

In September 2023 we announced the latest version of SwifTest. Release 23.2 has a clear focus on performance enhancements and process improvements.

TIS THE SEASON TO BE CODE CURRENT?

In order to not set off an ear-worm, I'll avoid the fa-la-la's, but I will mention the importance of the timing of your code-current projects.

A lot has been said over the years about code-currency and the benefits it brings to every organization. Ensuring your JD Edwards EnterpriseOne code base is up-to-date, that you are using the latest & greatest functionality, code improvements, security enhancements and all the other benefits that the latest code level brings are myriad, and has been covered in many articles and blog posts. This blog seeks to answer the question – WHEN should I get code-current?

Oracle/JDE will soon be releasing Update 8 (UN8) of E920 – Release 24 – most likely Q4 2023 if we track previous years. UN8! That's essentially 8 years of net-change since E920 was released in 2015. In numbers of years terms, that is similar to comparing base E920 with E812! From 2007! In other words, a heck of a lot of change to standard JDE E1's business process/application functionality, not to mention the underlying tools differences in the semi-accompanying Tools Releases.

In those days of major releases every few years, organizations could easily be forgiven for "postponing" their upgrades for many years – even decades. They were, after all, large, expensive and let's be honest – quite onerous projects. These days, however, under the continuous delivery model in E920, keeping (and staying) code-current is a substantially easier proposition. In modification retrofit terms alone, DWS typically sees around 4-8% of an organizations overall modified footprint impacted by code-current Oracle net-change, meaning these code-current projects are fast.

They are efficient. They are cost-effective. And they are a smart thing to do. But WHEN should you pull the trigger on your code-current project?

Obviously there are organizations that have specific busy periods during the calendar year, and they simply cannot spare the time and resources to tackle a code-current project during a particular period of time. Of course, DWS can take the stress away by delivering an already-retrofitted, code-current finished product to you, with minimal impact to your own IT staff, but that's another story for another blog.

Then we have many organizations that won't act until UNx is released. History shows us these updates are released Q4 each year, typically Nov/Dec. These organizations tend to seek help from DWS with their code-current projects between December and the following March. Which is fine if that is your "quiet spell" in the calendar year. For everyone else, though, waiting for the Update to arrive may not be optimal timing from a business perspective. But it needn't be a problem.

A typical example would be an organization that decides to wait for UN8 to be released, despite the lead up to the holiday season being a notoriously difficult time for several reasons. They select December 1st 2023 as their target ESU/Code-Current date, and on that date proceed to download UN8 and (the handful of) ESUs made available by JDEdwards subsequent to UN8's release.

Not forgetting that UN8 itself contains all previous ESUs. Updates are cumulative. That is, they include all previous E920 ESUs. The important factor to consider is that when you elect to get code-current, you typically nominate not only the Update but also the subsequent ESUs you wish to get current against.

Now take a second organization. This company decided on a target ESU/Code-Current date of October 1st, 2023, and on that date download the previous year's UN7 (from Nov 2022) and all ESUs (several hundred of them) made available by JDEdwards subsequent to UN7's release. This means this organization is effectively at an ESU level only two months shy of the first example. For all intents and purposes they are at ESU level "UN7 and 5/6ths (of UN8)".

This essentially means that, so long as you choose to get code current on a (semi) regular basis, it matters not WHEN in the year you opt to run these small, efficient projects. It doesn't necessarily need to be seasonally aligned with the release of Oracle's Updates. So when should you pull the trigger on your code-current project? The answer is simple. From an ESU/Update perspective, it really doesn't matter. Or put even more simply: **Now.**

https://dws-global.com/tis-the-season-to-be-code-current/

TESTING 101 – WHAT, WHY AND HOW WE SHOULD TEST

The ERP software market is big business, with the global market value predicted to exceed US$50billion in 2024. (Source: Statista Market Insights 2023) An integral part of day-to-day operations within the manufacturing, distribution, construction, healthcare, logistics and government sectors, ERP software is essential to the smooth running of a wide variety of organisations.

With most major players delivering software updates on a quarterly or bi-annual basis, the installed base is faced with the choice of regular code-current projects (a concept Oracle has named continuous adoption), less frequent "major" upgrades or falling behind the current release and missing out on opportunities to improve functionality, security, and cost efficiency. Whichever route they choose, there is an element of risk involved.

Why should we test?

On the surface, the answer seems pretty straightforward. We test to mitigate risk. To prevent errors passing downstream into the ERP production environment and creating havoc. Of course, the reality is somewhat more complex. Functional and performance testing is essential for many reasons, not least of which is the inherent complexity of ERP systems. They comprise multiple modules, draw data from multiple points and integrate with a wide variety of business systems. The complex dependencies between these elements means even small changes to the base code can have ripple effects throughout the business.

Testing isn't just about identifying and eliminating bugs. It contributes to a variety of business imperatives. Ensuring systems function as predicted and integrate properly with data sets is critical, but so are data protection and regulatory compliance. The halo effect of well tested and maintained systems extends to user acceptance, employee morale and bottom-line financial savings.

What should we test?

When organisations undertake an ERP software upgrade or update (ESU), they have varying degrees of control over what updates they choose to take and when. Updates to standard objects tend to go relatively smoothly, but changes to custom code can be more challenging. The larger your custom footprint, the more complex the technical retrofitting becomes, and the more testing is required.

DWS Dimension Focus
Dimension Focus - Test planning made easy
Dimension Focus analyzes ESU and code changes down to the event and function level. It utilizes bespoke dependencies logic to identify the standard and custom objects impacted by the change event.
Test only what needs to be tested.

With multiple dependencies, it can be difficult to identify exactly what objects have been affected by an upgrade or update. Testing is time consuming and can account for more than 50% of the overall project resource, so defaulting to a “test everything” stance is simply not cost effective. The ability to forensically analyze the impact of an ESU will save a huge amount of time and effort over vthe duration of any project.

How should we test?

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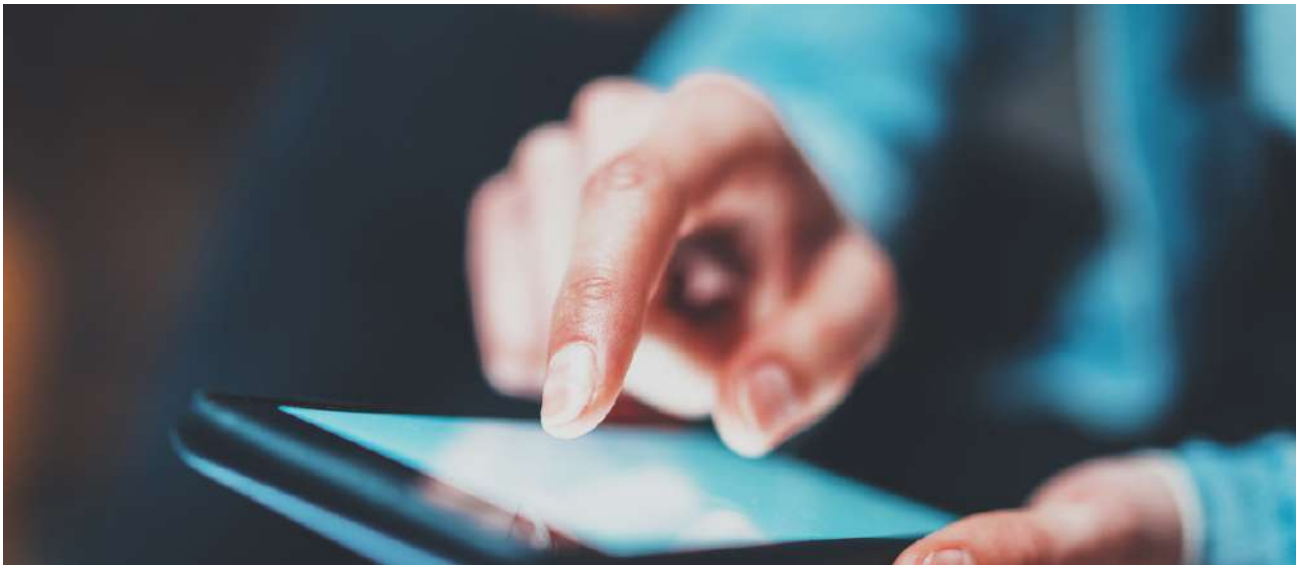
DWS Dimension SwifTest
Dimension SwifTest – test automation for Oracle and JD Edwards.
Dimension SwifTest significantly reduces the time and effort associated with functional testing. It is the easiest way to set up and execute your testing without the need for specialist test engineers or programmers.
Run smaller, faster, smarter projects.

THE SUN HAS SET ON ORACLE'S MOBILE APPLICATION FRAMEWORK



You may have heard the news that Oracle is sunsetting its mobile application framework (MAF) for its Oracle ERP customers, including JD Edwards EnterpriseOne users. Here's what you urgently need to know if you run JD Edwards Mobile Apps.

Oracle moved to "sustaining support" for its JD Edwards EnterpriseOne mobile applications in May 2021, and official support for MAF ended in June 2023. The latest release of MAF supports Android 11 and iOS 15, but these operating systems are fast becoming obsolete, which may present JDE mobile app users with compatibility, security and integration challenges going forward.

So, what does this mean for JDE EnterpriseOne customers?

MAF – the lowdown

Back in 2013 Oracle's JD Edwards EnterpriseOne product team released Mobile Enterprise Application functionality that allowed clients to create mobile applications that would run natively on both iOS and Android phones. For staff members who need to access applications on the go, being tethered to a desktop device is impractical, and so the JDE Mobile Enterprise Applications were the ideal solution. This functionality leveraged Oracle's Mobile Application Framework (MAF), harnessing the power of the EnterpriseOne Application Integration Services (AIS) Server, and was a successor to the cumbersome browser-based ADF mobile applications.

The release of this functionality was particularly good news for users who needed geographical freedom, such as warehousing staff with a lot of ground to cover. However, overall adoption of mobile apps was lower than anticipated, and the decision was made to remove ongoing support.

Of course, this means there is no longer any guarantee that mobile applications developed with Oracle's MAF will work correctly on devices that are running later, unsupported versions of the Android and iOS operating systems. As such, if MAF-developed applications have been running on devices that are still using older operating systems, the applications are likely to stop running as soon as the device is upgraded to a later OS release.

Who's affected?

Though the uptake of MAF for JDE customers was lower than expected, there are still several users within the ERP space who are likely to feel the effects of a support withdrawal.

Inventory transfers: Drivers at large, geographically diverse organisations (oil companies, for instance) who use mobile apps to provide real-time inventory updates for better supply chain management.

Sales orders: Sales representatives who use mobile apps to enter sales orders while they're with customers rather than having to wait until they get back to the office – streamlining the process while minimising the chance of errors and delays.

POs and requisitions: Warehouse staff and shop floor workers who use mobile apps to order supplies on the go, sending approval requests to supervisors who can then authorise POs from their own mobile devices.

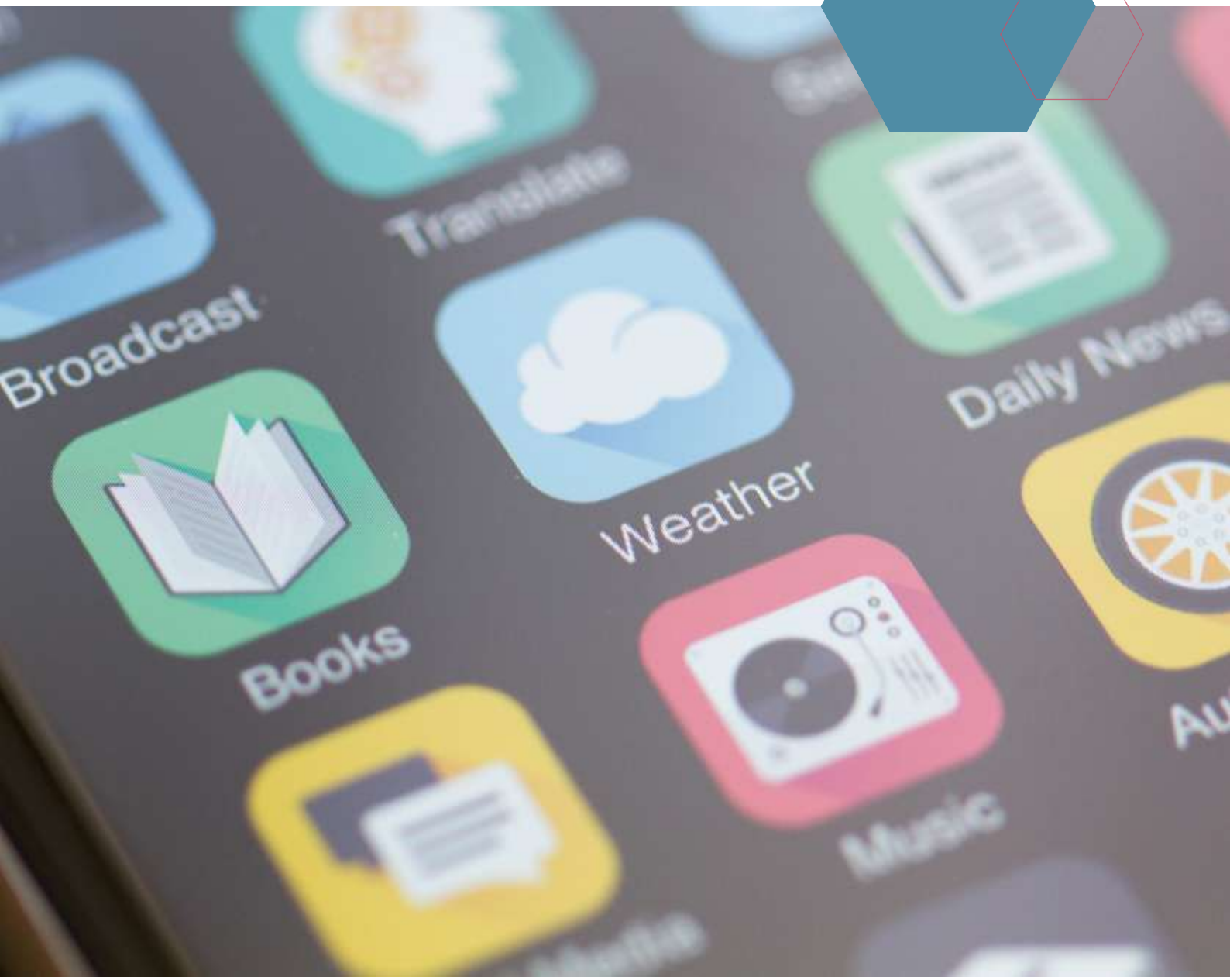
What does this mean going forwards?

If you've invested a lot of time, money, and effort in implementing a mobile app for your JDE EnterpriseOne users, it's reasonable to want reassurance that the functionality can be retained. Understandably, you may now be wondering where you can get help and assistance for a mobile solution that is no longer supported.

Users of mobile applications will still have options going forward. Although Oracle's MAF is discontinued, it is being replaced with Visual Builder. If users want greater flexibility, there are also open source alternatives available. These are likely to be attractive options as the open source nature means a wide community of development and support options.

Fear not – DWS is on hand to help. With a wealth of experience in mobile applications design and development, our expert teams are in prime position to provide support and insight into how to best look after the mobile side of your ERP system.

https://dws-global.com/sunset-oracle-maf/



WHAT'S NEW IN SWIFTEST RELEASE 23.2?

On Sep 11, 2023 we announced a new version of SwifTest Release 23.2. This release focuses on performance enhancements and process improvements.
As we roll out these upgrades, let's take a look at what's new and improved for the latest release.

Dimension SwifTest

Dimension SwifTest now has a new-look Dimension Hub, with an enhanced framework that offers performance improvements and a range of brand-new features.

The key upgrades centre around log-in and credential management. After signing in, users will now be able to see the subscription they're currently signed in to (in the case of multiple subscriptions) in the title bar of the application, as well as on the "Details" tab of the "Projects & Catalogs" node in the tree. In addition, we've improved security within the Windows Credential Manager – the application will now validate that the username stored in the credential matches the one on the project or test, so that the test fails if they don't match.

DWS is pleased to announce a powerful new feature that is available to SwifTest users. You now have the ability to host SwifTest, and your database of DS scripts, in any of the multiple Microsoft Regional Data Centres around the world. This can help you to meet your specific data residency and compliance requirements.

This provides customers with the ability to deploy applications where they are needed and to take advantage of a regional data centre that is deployed within a latency-defined perimeter and connected through a dedicated low-latency network. Microsoft has more global regions than any other cloud provider, offering an unprecedented level of choice and control. Contact your DWS sales representative for further information.

As part of the latest release, we've added the following ease-of-use enhancements:

Execution History

An issue relating to execution history has now been fixed, where previously the application failed to select the first action correctly when clicking "Screenshot" and "Save As".

Deleting multiple actions

When right-clicking multiple actions in a test and clicking "Delete", the application now deletes all the selected actions without users having to manually delete each action.

Region number handling

For a more streamlined process when executing tests on machines with different regional settings, the "Compare" action is now more capable of handling numbers with different regional-setting formats.

Button Detection

And, on the JDE EnterpriseOne app, the "Click Control, Personalisation or Grid Option" action now correctly detects the "Export" and "Import" buttons above grids on a form.

We've also added an upgrade to our Oracle Cloud Applications, which now allow actions to interact with a second or embedded window for optimum usability.

Dimension LoadTest

Dimension LoadTest logoThe biggest improvement to Dimension LoadTest in this release is the new agent pre-execution validation check.

As part of this check, the Controller will ensure that all agents in the LoadTest definition are online and ready before starting to execute, making it easier to achieve a successful run by helping to prevent offline or still-busy agents being excluded.

To support your LoadTest setup and planning, we've released two brand-new LoadTest guides: Dimension LoadTest Knowledgebase and Dimension LoadTest Virtual Machine Guide. For targeted user support when it comes to getting started, ramping up and troubleshooting, we've also added some updates to two of our previous guides, MTRs Dimension LoadTest and How To Run a LoadTest.

All guides are accessible to customers via the Dimension Hub.

https://dws-global.com/whats-new-in-swiftest-release-23-2/

30 DAYS FREE

TRIAL SWIFTEST FOR FREE

We're currently running a **30-day trial of SwifTest**, to give you the chance to get hands on with test automation for JD Edwards or Oracle Cloud Apps, before committing to implementing it fully. Try SwifTest today with no obligation to renew!

About DWS

Since 1998, we have been providing development and technical services to organizations looking to customize, integrate, extend, upgrade or support implementations of JD Edwards Enterprise One and Oracle Fusion Cloud Apps. We also sell EnterpriseOne testing products that leverage our deep domain expertise and help customers run smaller, faster and smarter projects.

DWS serves a global client base using proven methodologies and proprietary DWS Dimension™ tools.

Our best-practice approach and eye for detail help us deliver products and services that save time and money and continually drive down your TCO for JD Edwards.

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