

Time to reduce your Testing Costs and Improve Productivity?

INTRODUCTION

As the global recession takes a hold, it is time to look at things in a slightly different light both from a personal and business perspective. The mood of uncertainty affects us all and many of us are on a personal level adapting to the “challenges” ahead.

From a business perspective the same needs to be done, but how and where can demonstrable improvements really be made?

Membership of Weight watchers or Slimmer’s world could be a laudable action but clearly may help you to reduce personally but is unlikely to work with your company’s business!



From a testing perspective it is clear that the onset of change is likely to be even more of an on-going problem and the need to respond quickly to “the changing world” will be an increasing need. Clearly automation can play a part, but traditional approaches to automation have in the majority been costly failures especially from an expectation’s perspective.

If we consider the factors that can make a contribution, then they boil down to the same thing, doing more, in less time preferably at a lower-cost. Like a fruit machine getting all three in a line will certainly give a jackpot payout!

Automation in terms of toolsets are certainly mature, what needs “tweaking” is the approach and expectation. From an expectation viewpoint, it is certainly unreasonable to expect testers to get a “brain transplant” to become the equivalent of developers overnight. Traditionally “getting up to speed” in an automation tool is likely to take years rather than weeks and once again the outcome is that the test has been distracted from his/her purpose which is to test the new version of the application.

Expectation also comes across as “automation will be the panacea for all testing problems”, well a nice idea but realistically there are few examples of large-scale (in terms of number of test cases) of delivery of traditionally developed automated test cases which really make a business difference.

AXE BENEFITS

Automate testing throughout the lifecycle

Apply automation to tests for both UI and non-UI application, Components or SOA architectures. Components can be tested early to improve the overall quality of the development deliverables.

Future proof your automation investment

Axe tests work with all leading automation tools so you achieve greater flexibility on selection of software suppliers and offshore partners.

Proven return on investment on automated testing

Leverage investment of automation tools by cutting implementation costs by up to 75% and ongoing maintenance by up to 86% making automation affordable for your projects now.

Easy to use by all levels of testing staff

Facilitate automation using your existing non-technical staff so that automation is incorporated easily into your mainstream testing making it easier to manage and improve job satisfaction.

Quick and easy to implement

Implement automation with minimal impact on your testing timescale so that you’re building assets for the future at the same time as you undertake your testing.

So let us look at the approach, clearly we need something that conforms to the following criteria:

- An approach which gives the ability to scale in terms of large numbers of test cases and re-uses wherever possible what has been delivered before, usually in the form of re-usable components (tested parts of the test case which can be used over and over again)
- An approach which can be rapidly deployed across a reasonable number of testers at the same time, traditionally the cost to do this has been prohibitive and has only been applied to the “leading light” of the team
- An approach which can make use of tools purchased in the past that have currently become “shelf ware”
- An approach which maximises the contribution of all of the team, especially the scarce technical resources often used to script in traditional automation approaches
- An approach which allows the tester to use the same Excel interface whether testing UI components or SOA based architectures in a truly integrated sense
- Perhaps above all an approach which can be quickly adapted to changes in the business model such as outsourcing, near-shoring or in-sourcing without a degradation in quality or a loss of control

CONCLUSION

If the above can be put in place, then it is highly likely that not only can automation of difficult regression tests be achieved, but also that a “lasting change” in terms of productivity improvement can be made

In conclusion therefore as experienced practitioners in the automation field, we believe that Axe can deliver the required facets not only to make the automation successful and maintainable but also long-lasting. Our faith is based on previous automation successes, an indication of what to expect in terms of improvement is shown below:



- Reduction in the cost of achieving a “like for like” automation approach against traditional approaches by a factor of up to four
- Reduction in maintenance cost by a factor of five as compared to maintaining scripts
- Examples of ROI on Axe of over 3000% over four years
- Examples of Delivery of 1000+ test cases (automated and documented)
- As a rough estimate based on our experience, Axe can deliver up to 30 times quicker than the time taken to execute manually... this is of course linked with the ability to deliver quicker and in an “Agile fashion”

Axe supports Agile, TDD (Test Driven Development) and especially BPDT (Business Process Driven Testing)

If you would like to know more about how Axe can transform your automation into the “New Generation” standard and more importantly keep that “weight off”, please contact us or email us at info@odin.co.uk