

## DATA SHEET

# OPTIMAL TRACE®

### Business Challenge

Poor or omitted requirements are the source of over half the problems found in systems. To improve accuracy, communication and the delivery of high-quality applications, Optimal Trace® facilitates the capture of well-defined requirements that can be fully traced through the project life cycle. Whether business analysts, non-technical staff, managers, developers or quality assurance teams, IT professionals gain the functionality they need to deliver applications successfully - all in a single solution.

### Product Overview

Traditional requirements management tools simply allow the user to manage a list of project requirements but make little or no provision for capturing more complete requirements upfront. Some vendors even require you to buy two separate tools - one for capture and one for management. Optimal Trace provides both. It combines powerful requirements capture features with standard requirements management capabilities. Optimal Trace supports both use-case and storyboard-style requirements, coupled with a requirements map, requirement flow diagrams and other visual features. Using an instant visual representation of how requirements relate to one another, business and IT users alike can determine whether requirements are complete.

### Key Benefits

Optimal Trace enables users to capture requirements in both a structured or simple fashion allowing them to express business needs, technical requirements or non-functional requirements of the system in an appropriate manner. Optimal Trace provides complete flexibility with folder structures, so users can organize requirements as desired, simply by dragging and dropping. Because structured and simple requirements are managed jointly, you can trace requirements easily to the business intent and achieve a “balanced” requirement set. With Optimal Trace, you can also:

- create multiple scenarios with steps that can be re-ordered, moved, linked or deleted with GUI-based actions
- organize requirements into logical groupings, while referencing requirements in other packages via branches or refinements
- use the graphical flow-diagram representation of scenarios to automatically update any changes to the textual representation

- connect different requirements across projects via branches
- fully break down high-level requirements to create a hierarchy and show different levels of detail

### Detailed Feature Overview

#### CONFORMS TO ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS

Optimal Trace's document generation capabilities eliminate the need to render multiple specification documents manually with every change. IT teams can compare the changes made to generated documents with the requirements managed in Optimal Trace, and use Optimal Trace's advanced merge capabilities to help re-import document changes. It includes associated artifacts such as sample screen shots, and any other custom properties associated with the requirements, to ensure complete and accurate documentation.

#### TEAM-BASED REQUIREMENTS MANAGEMENT... ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

Optimal Trace users can work on projects in real time connected to a centralized Optimal Trace server. While you work online, Optimal Trace automatically manages locks and permissions to ensure all users can work at the same time. You can also make a copy of the project and work offline, disconnected from the central server. When you re-connect to the central server, Optimal Trace provides advanced review and merge capabilities, synchronizing any changes with the active project without undoing other users' changes.

#### AUTOMATICALLY GENERATE TEST CASES

Optimal Trace's automatic test case generation maps all requirement links and dependencies to the test plan. This approach ensures each defined requirement is tested and meets a project's ability to deliver on business objectives. Optimal Trace integrates smoothly with leading testing tools, such as QADirector®, to transition automatically generated test cases seamlessly into the actual test environment.

#### MANAGING CHANGE WITH DETAILED IMPACT ANALYSIS

Optimal Trace helps communicate business needs accurately throughout the entire life cycle. Because requirements change,

however, IT needs to be able to react quickly. This requires IT teams to know what needs changing and what impact the changes may have to evaluate cost versus impact and determine the correct course of action. Organizations can deliver projects with greater predictability and control using these features of Optimal Trace:

- Traceability Tree traces all requirements to their dependencies, whether they are other Optimal Trace elements or external objects. Automatically generated by Optimal Trace, the Traceability Tree ensures full visibility of the connections and interdependencies within and across projects, as well as between elements of the project and external file artifacts.
- Suspect Links are automatically highlighted whenever a change to one element of the project may have a domino effect on another file link or dependency. This helps keep track of amendments and allows IT teams to see all impacts on one element of the project when changes occur in another.
- Change Analysis and Notification highlights changes to specific project requirements, packages or elements to enable a more collaborative approach to requirements definition. Automatic email notification allows you to receive details of the proposed change and who made it, ensuring that requirements are continually matched with business needs.
- Change History and Audit Trail records a full history of project amendments and changes. As a result, additions to and deviations from the project can be tracked at all times, supporting project accountability and confirming the correct amendments are made.
- Custom Properties and Fields can be created within each requirement for added flexibility. Attributing qualities becomes easy, as IT teams can quickly sort and find requirements based on custom properties, or capture domain-specific information alongside project requirements.

## Product Specifications and System Requirements

### Operating Systems:

- Microsoft Windows XP
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- Microsoft Windows Vista
- Microsoft Windows 7
- Microsoft Windows 2008

### Database

- Microsoft SQL Server 2005, 2008
- Oracle Oracle 10.2 Release 2, Oracle 11g Release 1
- MySQL 4.1 and 5.0

### Software Compatibility

- Microsoft Word 2000, 2003, 2007 (for document generation)

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