

ROI Drivers for Application Lifecycle Management Solutions with Micro Focus ALM/Quality Center

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Application Delivery Management

We know that [ALM solutions](#) save time and make life easier for a lot of stakeholders in the software dev/test/release world. But, what is the ROI for such solutions? Can system owners determine if their outlays for ALM are paying off? According to IT Central Station users, [Micro Focus ALM/Quality Center](#) shows a clear ROI. As their reviews reveal, ROI emerges from a solution's ability to handle large complex workloads, reduce testing and provide end-to-end traceability and visibility.

Except where noted, all the people quoted in this article work at organizations with more than 10,000 employees.

ROI in ALM

IT Central Station members are finding ROI with ALM/Quality Center. For example, Leon V., a Head of Testing at Pick n Pay, a retailer, said, "We've seen ROI plainly. We can do more projects. It's easier to do the maintenance. It might not be cents or dollars savings, but time-saving is definitely there." Shinu T., a Sr. Manager for Quality Assurance and Testing at a comms service provider, had a similar experience. He remarked, "We have definitely seen return on our investment in Micro Focus. Imagine the amount of hours that our guys would be spending tracking stuff in Excel. If you look at the number of man-days that my team would have to spend on that and at the licensing costs, of course it is worth it. I'm very happy with it."

Collaboration and time savings were what led to ROI for Ashish Y., a Managing Partner at Verve Square Technologies, a small tech services company. He explained, "We definitely feel that it has given us a huge advantage from a collaboration and time savings perspective." Manoj R., a Quality Lead at Vodafone, a comms service provider, also found that the solution saved time with background activities and helped his team's delivery move forward.

The Ability to Handle Large, Complex Projects

An ALM solution that can handle large projects contributes to ROI by enabling the project to move forward more quickly—cutting costs and making team members more productive in the process. Being able to handle many projects concurrently is a related driver of ROI, as Leon V pointed out. He said, "In terms of its ability to handle a large number of projects and users in our enterprise environment, we have 17 dedicated testers and automation specialists in the test centers and plus or minus another 35 to 45 business users/developers or systems analysts that access the product."

His team runs multiple projects over multiple domains at any given time. In his case, productivity arises from the solution's ability to send out

emails as it logs defects. This makes it possible for someone working over multiple projects to know exactly where to find the defect and correct it. "It has huge scalability," said Lisa G., an IS Director, ERP PTP Solution Architecture at a healthcare company. She added, "It's been used for multiple applications that we support from large SAP programs to a smaller system."

Reduced Testing Efforts

Testing takes time, and therefore money, to complete. When ALM solutions can cut back on testing requirements, the resulting savings contribute to ROI. ALM/Quality Center earns praise from users in this context:

"Prior to us using Micro Focus for this program, my company had been using a lot of manual testing. So we had to reproduce or find scripts over and over again. Quality Center enables us to have a single library where people can reference back as we go through multiple releases. We are able to bring non-SAP systems into the fold as well and increase their productivity as related to testing and compliance."—Lisa G.

"It's an effective test management tool. When you have to map all the requirements, and need requirement traceability, it reduces test management time. Compared to managing testing in Excel, it reduces it by 50 percent."—Test Manager at a construction company

"Testing time has decreased for manual execution because tests are being executed with UFT."—Test Specialist at a small consultancy

"Speeds up our testing and facilitates consolidation of information for reporting."—Sai K., a Sr. Architect at a small tech services company

End-to-End Traceability and Visibility

ALM is an area of IT work where seemingly small obstacles to productivity can add up to wasted time and money. End-to-end traceability and visibility keep application teams working efficiently by enabling them to manage multiple projects with relative ease. This productivity in turn drives ROI through more cost-effective utilization of employees, contractors and outside firms.

As Leon V. put it, "Quality Center has improved my organization from a traceability and test coverage point of view. We have multiple vendors providing development to my company, Pick n Pay. If we use automation or Sprinter, the tool documents the steps for us as we follow it to the point that we've got a defect, so it's easy to send that information on to third parties so that they can duplicate the defect on their side and then provide us with a fix."

Ashish Y. echoed this sentiment, stating, "I love linking/associating the requirements to a test case. That's where I get to know my requirement coverage, which helps a lot at a practical level. So, we use the traceability and visibility features a lot. This helps us to understand if there are any requirements not linked to any test case, thus not getting tested at all. That missing link is always very visible, which helps us to

create our requirement traceability matrix and maintain it in a dynamic way. Even with changing requirements, we can keep on changing or updating the tool."

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