

AVG Technologies

With the growth of AVG Technologies in recent years and the increase in development requirements, it wanted to streamline its processes and deliver a higher caliber of product from its development team to its Quality Assurance (QA) team. The leading security software company improves its time-to-market through automated continuous testing with Micro Focus® Silk Test™.



Overview

AVG was founded in 1991 with the express purpose of protecting people around the world using the latest in cutting edge security technologies. AVG is now recognized as one of the key players in the security software market. AVG has experienced significant growth in the last few years and continues to expand to address the needs of the global market.

Challenge

Software organizations face continual pressure to get software to market faster, and AVG is no exception. Software testing plays a key role in the product lifecycle to ensure that the marketed product meets and exceeds all quality requirements and customer expectations. At AVG, testing starts right at the software

development stage. As Petr Hlávka, Architect at AVG, explains: "For our flagship product AVG Internet Security, we wanted to maximize the amount of testing done during the early stages of the development cycle. This gives us a reduced time to market for every new implemented feature."

With the rapid growth of the company, its development and QA resources were under increasing pressure. Significant time could be saved if a more reliable and complete product could be delivered from the development stages. Testing throughout the development cycle would provide an opportunity to spot bugs and issues early on and address them straightaway. Hlávka was involved in the evaluation of testing solutions from Micro Focus and other vendors. Hlávka: "Following a thorough evaluation of the options available, we found Silk Test ticked all the boxes for us. Its pricing policy makes it an extremely cost-effective solution for us, and its ease-of-use meant it could be implemented quickly within our existing environment."

AVG Internet Security, its award-winning solution providing an effective firewall as well as virus, malware and identity theft protection, was the first AVG product to enter the new automated testing process.

"Our development/QA lifecycle would be weeks and could run to two-three months. Working with Silk Test, we have reduced this to the point where basic functionality testing takes just a couple of days."

ZDENĚK ŘEHÁK

Senior Test Automation Engineer
AVG Technologies



At a Glance

■ Industry

Computer Services

■ Location

Czech Republic

■ Challenge

To reduce time to market, the organization needed to maximize the amount of testing done during the early stages of the development cycle.

■ Solution

Use Silk Test to automate testing and test continually throughout the development cycle.

■ Results

- + Provided the ability to carry out over 1,000 testing scripts on modified code, resulting in 40 hours of concurrent testing on seven different operating systems
- + Introduced an easy-to-use interface, allowing the ability to outsource some test scripting and editing work, which lightens the development team's workload
- + Decreased the time and costs spent on change delivery through automated testing

“Our code quality and stability at the early development level has improved significantly, and this means that our QA team can focus on the newly implemented functionality rather than on regression testing.”

PETR HLÁVKA
Architect
AVG Technologies

Solution

Zdeněk Řehák, Senior Test Automation Engineer at AVG, says: “Our development/QA lifecycle would be weeks and could run to two-three months. Working with Silk Test, we have reduced this to the point where basic functionality testing takes just a couple of days. Through the continuous testing cycle, we are better able to catch and fix problems as part of the ongoing process. As a result, the code we deliver to our QA colleagues can be brought to market significantly faster.”

Results

Each night, during the off-peak hours, Silk Test, running in a VMware virtual environment, carries out over 1,000 testing scripts on modified code. In total, 40 hours of concurrent testing takes place each night, and the code is tested on seven different operating systems in order to help meet all customers’ requirements. In the morning, the development team examines the test results and corrective action, if any is needed, is taken on the code.

Řehák again: “What we find particularly useful is that Silk Test allows us to contrast and compare

tests from different dates. This helps us identify bugs and problems which are linked to each other. This transparency provides a valuable audit trail, and that is really helpful in tracking the progress of bug resolution and in pinpointing the root cause of problems.”

Around the time of a major product release, the development team has a high workload. Because Silk Test has an easy-to-use interface and programming language, AVG is able to outsource some of the test scripting and editing work, which takes the pressure off the development team at a crucial time in the product lifecycle.

Its experience with Silk Test has convinced AVG that continuous and automated testing at development level can decrease the time and costs spent on change delivery. According to Hlávka: “We intend to deploy the automated testing solution based on Silk Test for every future version of all our products...Ultimately, our products are reaching the end-users faster and in a more efficient manner, which is what we all want to achieve.”



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