Siemens

Silk solutions deliver a continuous integration testing process resulting in significantly shorter test cycles.

Overview
This division of Siemens develops the XHQ Operations Intelligence product line which is in use with many global oil and gas and chemical companies. It aggregates, relates and presents operational and business data in real-time to improve enterprise performance.

Challenge
The quality assurance team at Siemens has the task of supporting a global set of customers running different versions of the XHQ solutions. With patch releases every two months, major service pack releases every four months, and a major product release every nine months across the various versions, multiple testing teams based in North America, Latin America, EMEA, and India are involved in the effort.

A large part of the testing effort was manual and when the latest XHQ version announced support for mobile devices, the team realized it needed help to increase its effectiveness. Yim comments: “Our ultimate goal was to increase the percentage of automated tests. As our customer base and our platform support have grown, we need to shorten our test cycle if we are to meet our time-to-market objectives.”

Solution
Although Siemens looked at alternatives, the fact that Silk Test was already in use, and offered excellent integration opportunities with Silk Central™, made the decision quite easy. Java is important in the XHQ development cycle, with desktop modules and server code mainly Java-based, and Silk4J, within Silk Test, was issue, as outlined by Benjamin Yim, Principal Quality Assurance Engineer at Siemens: “We used Silk Test™ but in a limited fashion. Testing teams would use different ways of storing test cases; in Word, Excel and a proprietary test case management system. There was no standardized test case management system and a real lack of visibility, and hence control, into what each of the teams was working on. We had great difficulty collecting meaningful data; couldn’t really track test execution and test results; regression tests had to be repeated; and we couldn’t test well on mobile devices.”

Results
+ Increased product quality through early testing
+ Keyword-driven testing requires no coding knowledge
+ Significantly shorter test cycles
+ Automated mobile platform testing
+ Full visibility increases team collaboration

“The seamless integration between Silk Test and Silk Central helps us to easily query test cases and build test execution plans which are tailored to specific releases.”

BENJAMIN YIM
Principal Quality Assurance Engineer
Siemens
“Using the Silk solutions has increased our overall product quality. Issues are caught in development, even before we start testing, and the amount of testing platform coverage, including all our mobile platforms, means that we can shorten the test cycles significantly.”

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Results
Yim touches on a key benefit: “The seamless integration between Silk Test and Silk Central helps us to easily query test cases and build test execution plans which are tailored to specific releases.”

The percentage of automated test cases is increasing and test execution status is easily tracked so that testing resources can be allocated more effectively. The keyword-driven testing means that test engineers can build and execute tests without any coding.

Yim comments: “Using the Silk solutions has increased our overall product quality. Issues are caught in development, even before we start testing, and the amount of testing platform coverage, including all our mobile platforms, means that we can shorten the test cycles significantly. The integration between Silk Test and Silk Central helps us to easily select our test cases and track the test cycle so that we have full visibility into its status.”

He concludes: “I look forward to designing our Silk Central charts and reports so that we can collect quality data for each release and look for ways to continuously improve our processes. Micro Focus® has been with us all the way with implementation advice and great support throughout the process.”