

Attest – Test Automation Portal

A Case Study

Background:

The customer is a Boston MA based Testing automation company. They are a leader in the Automated Test Equipment space and have been designing, manufacturing and selling automated test equipment since 1961. They have three main product divisions; Assembly test, Semi-conductor Test and Vehicle Diagnostics test. They currently have revenues of \$500M/Qtr (annualized \$2B) and operations in over 20 different countries globally. The customer runs its business primarily on Oracle EBS application suite comprising Financial, Distribution, manufacturing and HRMS applications. The IT footprint includes other packaged and home grown applications as well and they are integrated with the Oracle application suite.

Problem Statement:

The customer has a monthly release management cycle. All changes that are planned to be released to production are migrated to a testing instance. Over 382 different transactions that are organized into approximately 20 key end to end business processes are manually tested each month. All aspects of the testing including test data mining test data management, test execution and audit trail maintenance is done manually. The testing is executed by an offshore team comprising 6 analysts supported by two subject matter experts and one on-site PM (part-time). The key concerns with this operation were:

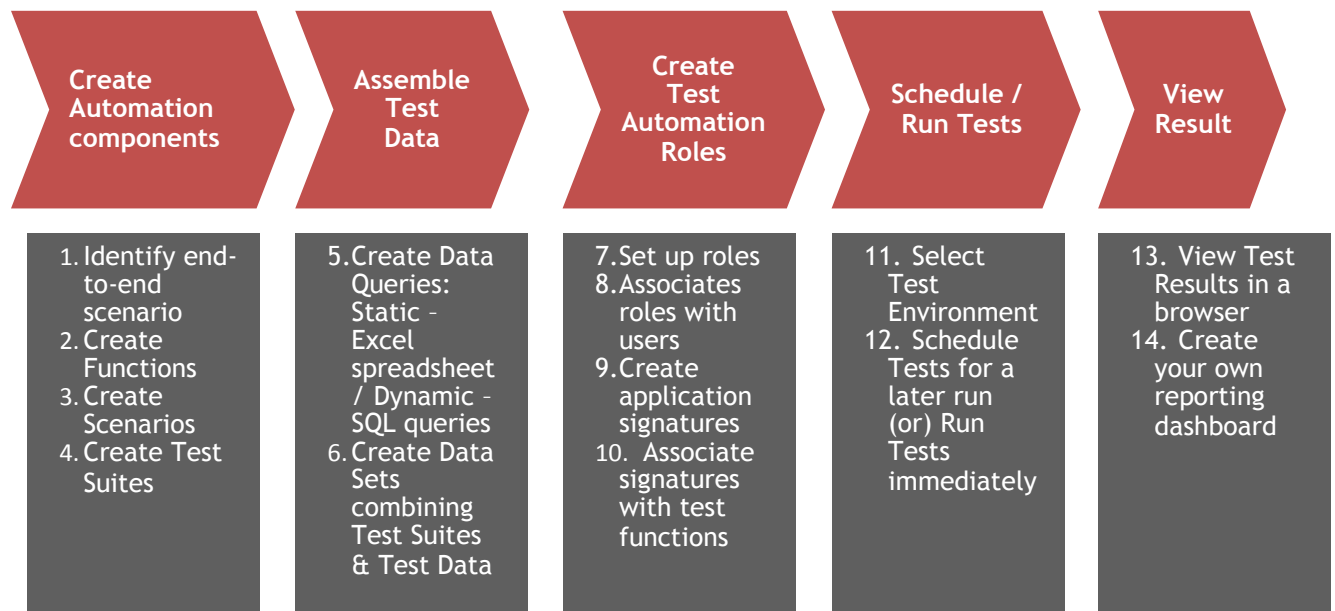
- The testing was very time consuming. It took the team anywhere from 5-8 days (30-40 man days) to get the testing done
- The data mining, and management was very cumbersome and error prone especially because each test cycle was being done on a new application instance.
- Test execution often relied on the expertise of individual team members and this resulted in resource based bottlenecks.
- The IT organization did not have the ability to react quickly to application changes or patches
- Maintenance of audit trail was very arduous and many times not possible since test instances would be periodically refreshed.
- It was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the manual “cook books” for regression testing
- Employee turnover in the testing team would be very difficult to manage

Some prior attempts to automate the testing had not yielded good results because limitations in the tools resulted in islands of automation that did not buy them much.

Solution:

A decision was made to invest in an automated test orchestration system that will enable them automate all the steps of their key end to end business processes. The objective was to create a repository of the 300 + business transactions that could be reused in as many end to end processes as necessary. The customer was looking for a tool that would provide them with a flexible component architecture that would very easily allow for transactions to be added or removed from the end to end process. A key requirement was that any acceptable solution should have a comprehensive data mining capability with the ability to maintain a repository of test data sets that could be flexibly used with one or more test scenarios. The users also wanted a system where the same business scenario could easily be pointed to run on different instances in parallel to allow testing for more than one initiative at a time. The customer chose Attest because it met all of the above requirements out of the box.

The Entegration / Neocortex Solution

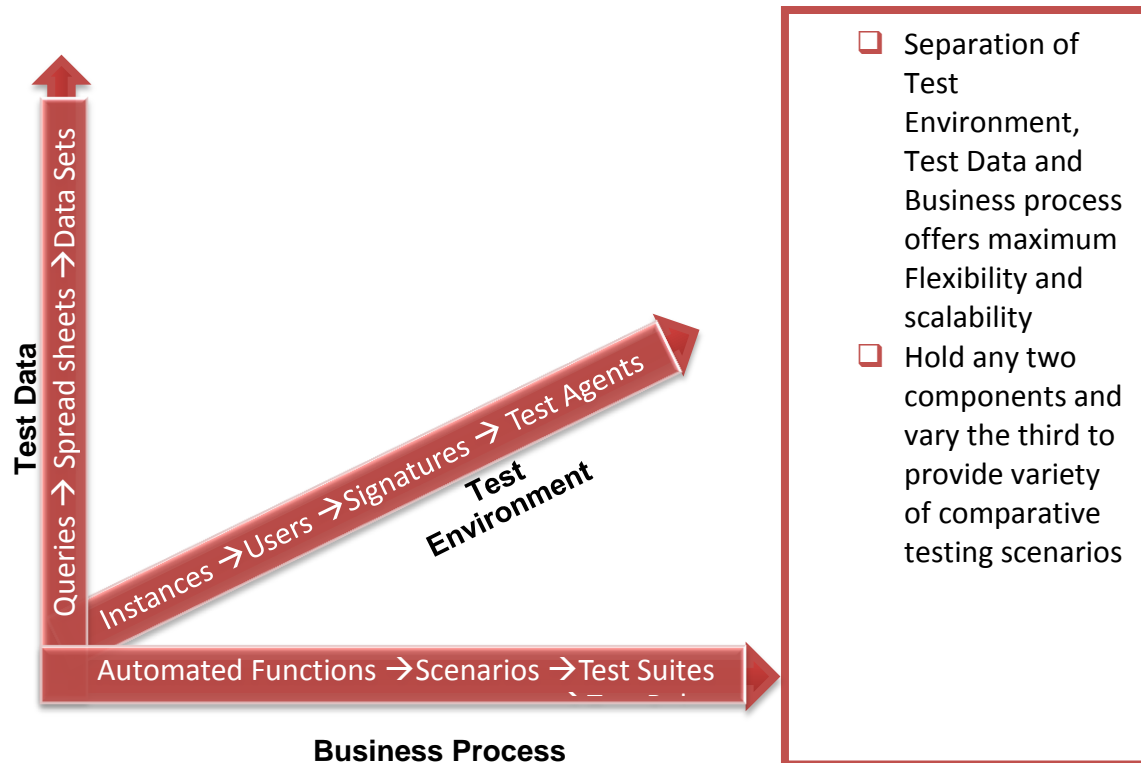


Business Benefits:

Three hundred + individual business transactions that included standard Oracle Application transactions and custom transactions were automated using HP QTP™. Numerous transactions and processes were automated using Oracle PL/SQL™.

- Over 30 end to end business processes were created covering the key Q2C, P2P, Financial, Planning and Manufacturing operations.
- Complete audit trail for all transactions including report output and concurrent program log files are stored and available to view.
- Flexible architecture will allow testing of multiple projects without re-creating scenarios
- Changes in the testing infrastructure can easily be accommodated
- All operations related to testing can be accomplished from a single Portal.
- Provides greater confidence and agility to IT organization
- Shorter project timelines and release cycles

Flexible Architecture



End to End Scenarios:

The following end to end scenarios were deployed.

Release 1	Release 3
Planning to Cost Cycle - Discrete (Standard) Discrete (Standard) Order to Cash - ATO (STD JOB) Order to Cash - Drop Ship Order to Cash - Internal Sales Order (ISO) Order to Cash - RMA Procure to Pay - Standard Purchase Orders (Inventory) Procure to Pay - Inspection Scenarios	Cost Management Process Oracle Custom and Standalone Transaction-(Inv Transactions) Oracle Custom and Standalone Transaction-(ABC analysis and cycle counting) Planning to WIP Process Cycle Oracle Engineering Order(Bills) Planning-Slotting Taxware Master Check up Oracle Business Flow Merlin Interface
Release 2	Release 4
JE to GL posting Period Closing Order to Cash - Subsidiary, FNO, End Use and Finance Confirmation Process Order to Cash - MIT Process Procure to Pay - Releases against BPA Schedule to Build - Discrete (Non-Standard) Schedule to Build - Discrete(Standard with OSP)	Procure to Pay - Standard Purchase Orders (Closing PO) Procure to Pay - Release a Planned Order for a Buy item from the Planner Workbench PO Scripts Warehouse Management System Supply Chain Planning Invoice to Payment Fixed Assets

Key Metrics:

- Team of 5 offshore developers , one offshore PM and one on site part-time PM completed project in 5 months
- Over 300 business transactions Automated
- Over 30 end to end business transaction scenarios created with flexibility to create more
- Testing time reduced from 30-40 man days to 30 hours
- Numerous out of the box dashboard reports with capability to create more reports easily.