

To maintain its leading position in the marketplace, Deutsche Bank is constantly delivering, and improving upon innovative new products to clients globally. Time-to-market in any business environment is critical – the quicker the testing of a system is completed, the faster the product can be utilized in the marketplace.

The Bank is now leveraging software test automation to help move new products through the testing pipeline and into action faster. In the past, software testing was manual, time-consuming, and inaccurate.

Automation tools validate software by creating repeat-

able and scalable tests. These tests can be run unattended to identify bugs and report on the health of a system. "Harnessing test automation to improve quality and reduce time-to-market is critical," says Tony McCarthy, Global Head of Equities Technology and Global Settlement Technology Group (GSTG).

abTrader, GCIS Siebel, aSpaar, abPrism, Mamba (Max Blue), abParafix, and other Deutsche Bank IT projects are implementing test automation to deliver change quickly and in a high-quality fashion, while avoiding the system downtime that can have disastrous effects on business.

Leading the way in this area is the T² Test Automation Group within GSTG headed by Nick Altar. T² recently developed abTest, which allows automated tests to be created by business analysts or other users on Excel, without knowledge of any technical testing language.

"Using abTest, I can have my software vendors automate their testing of our systems," says Bardo Gibson, Global Program Manager of Global Markets Sales Technology. "We can now reduce our release cycle from two to three months to potentially two to three weeks." The impact on the bottom line can be significant, especially when test resources turn out to be scarce or expensive.

Some of the advanced features in abTest allow the system to recognize expected responses and flag any errors, as well as store information from one test and then use that information again in a later test (e.g., create and then cancel a trade).

"Financial software is extremely complex and even making a minor change can adversely impact the business if not regression tested," adds Altar. Yet regression testing sometimes gets skipped when the timeline is tight. Moving forward, test automation can help eliminate this problem.

Says McCarthy: "Let's take abTrader as one example. It's a complex product and normal full regression test cycles can take over 25 man-weeks per site. With multiple sites to test and new releases monthly, automated testing was our only choice."

"By using the custom abTest product with abTrader, what used to take five testers five weeks to complete, can now be completed by only one tester in just a few days," adds Brooks Betz, T² Automation Project Manager.

"Thanks to automation it now feels like I have extra staff on my team. And they don't need to sleep or eat, or get bored re-testing the same thing," says Lou Laudisio, the regression testing manager whose team made automation a reality for abTrader.

Rudy Reagin, Head of the Deutsche Bank Human Resources IT Group in New York, recognizes the importance of performance testing HR's abPrism compensation and benefits application: "Working with the T² Group, we analyzed our response times, simulating large numbers of users on the system using a tool called Loadrunner. Our team was able to concisely target potential bottlenecks, treat existing issues, and therefore achieve substantial performance gains," says Reagin.

For more information on the product log on to <http://getweb.abtrader.ny.dbs.com/insured/tag>.

Leveraging Test Automation

By Pamela Jones

Software test automation offers speed to market at low cost.



Brooks Betz (l) and Nick Altar, creators of abTest.

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