



Highlights

- Most organisations want to focus on their customers, not their software. At the same time, IT departments and business users are under constant pressure to deploy applications and upgrades faster and with fewer resources.
 - Test automation is the smart approach to meeting testing goals and requirements while using resources more efficiently.
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Automated software testing: what you need to know

Why is test automation important?

With business changing faster than ever before, it is increasingly impractical to test software manually. Automated software testing allows you to manage the risk and impacts of recurring changes in your SAP environment. A complete automation solution replaces manual processes, significantly improves quality, increases business agility and decreases risk.

The benefits of test automation

Test automation:

- is faster and less expensive than manual testing
- eliminates the 'human factors' that can cause tests to fail
- enables more comprehensive testing of more processes – and more variations of those processes – than manual testing could ever allow
- frees up expensive and limited resources
- automatically generates reusable documentation of business processes
- documents results for improved governance and audit coverage
- increases test coverage to reduce the overall risk of a change
- standardises test processes to ensure basic business procedures are consistent across multiple business units, organisations and geographic regions
- provides constantly updated guidelines and documentation to help you train new employees or those moving into a new position
- reduces the cost of ownership and maintenance of software applications.



What should you look for in a test automation solution?

An effective test automation tool:

- is designed to allow business analysts and (non-technical) business users to write and execute tests
- can cover most major user interfaces, including all sap interfaces (gui/portal/bw) and other standards such as java, .Net and html
- enables you to perform easy maintenance and updates, and allows test assets to be used multiple times – spanning multiple transport and system versions – without needing to rewrite or build tests
- allows data to drive or change the process
- is designed for ‘lights-out testing’; that is, it can analyse a potential change, identify the changes being proposed, test the processes affected, and report the results of the proposed change – automatically and unattended.

The challenge of managing test data

Whether testing manually or using automation tools, identifying or creating quality test data is one of the biggest challenges in a testing environment.

In fact, more than half of the testing time can be spent preparing data. Data may be consumable and need constant replenishment, and because it is often linked to previous steps in the testing process, it can change at any moment.

A test automation tool should capture appropriate data for each step in the test directly from the SAP tables, and refresh that data as needed.

Find out more

If you would like to learn more about IBM’s software delivery solutions and how they can benefit your organisation, please contact us on 1800 557 343.



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