edumate
learn + connect + grow + achieve

Overview

Business Challenge
As a provider of an advanced web-based educational system relied upon by K-12 students, their parents and school administrators and teachers, Edumate needs to rapidly release well-tested system enhancements and fixes.

Solution
IBM® introduced its Business Partner* TestPro, which integrated its TestPro Automation Framework with IBM Rational® Functional Tester to automate testing of daily updates to the Edumate system

Edumate meets its vision

Automated daily testing reduces operational costs and improves product quality

Edumate is a software development company with a vision: to create the world's most comprehensive web-based student learning and management system. It was born out of sheer frustration that every student, regardless of individual strengths and weaknesses, was subject to the same syllabus and education regime. No stand-alone system existed that enabled profiling based purely on individual needs and abilities. This made it difficult – often impossible – to give each student the attention and guidance they rightly deserved in order to achieve their true potential.

Edumate was developed to fill this void and is widely used in independent schools from kindergarten through primary and secondary education. As a student-centric platform of shared knowledge, it enables the collaboration of information by those who have the greatest impact on a student's educational and personal development – uniting fragmented knowledge of a student's profile throughout their school life, putting information at the fingertips of school administrators, teachers and parents, and providing students with the tools to take greater ownership of their learning so they can develop to their full potential.

IBM

Business Benefits

- Automation reduces resource costs and time for test cycles

- Potential for improved product quality, through greater capacity for a wider range of testing

- Helps to facilitate increased productivity within the development and support teams

- Promotes faster turnaround for defect resolution

- Assists with reduced release errors resulting in lower support costs

- Increased product performance and higher user satisfaction

Achieving the vision

The Edumate philosophy is one of ongoing improvement. The all-encompassing objective is that every student should reach his or her full potential aided by a continuously developed and improved learning program. The company relentlessly pursues and actualises this philosophy through continual research and development and constant consultation with those who interact daily with students.

This involves the application being under continual development using an agile approach, with system modules – including class schedules, student results, parent details, school communications and pastoral care – being enhanced and fixed on a daily basis.

A challenge that must be continuously addressed is the release of a professionally tested product. To meet this need Chief Technology Officer, David Savill, sought a way to automate the ongoing testing of Edumate enhancements.

"Our testing was being conducted manually, with builds and tests performed ad hoc. As suppliers of a web-based system which adapts rapidly to the changing needs of the education community, we needed to find a way to integrate product testing into our continuous release approach," David Savill says.

Automating product testing

IBM was approached for help by Edumate and introduced its Business Partner* TestPro, an Australian leader in the field of software quality and testing throughout the development lifecycle.

TestPro addressed Edumate's challenge by implementing its TestPro Automation Framework (TAF Pro) which integrates with IBM Rational Functional Tester. TAF Pro enhances the features of Rational Functional Tester via an agile development cycle.

Solutions Components

Software
- IBM Rational Functional Tester

IBM Business Partner
- TestPro

"Our product is being tested faster and more thoroughly, lowering our operational costs and better supporting our commitment to our users."

— David Savill, Chief Technology Officer, Edumate

Once it understood Edumate's business imperatives and development environment, TestPro helped the company integrate TAF Pro to automate its test processes. Releases of Edumate software are built on a nightly basis and, on completion of each build, the release management environment initiates a regression test. Test results are then available for review by Edumate developers the following morning.

During the integration process, which involved constant review, TestPro also delivered a range of services – including 'train the trainer' to educate and develop Edumate's TAF Pro, as well as changes and enhancements to TAF Pro to meet Edumate's specific development environment.

Supporting continuous improvement

Edumate is experiencing a number of benefits that support its business vision of delivering continuous improvement of the educational experience.

It has reduced the cost of resources involved in test cycles, helping to increase productivity within its development team. New ability and capacity to conduct regular, automated testing – across a greater range of test parameters – has resulted in improved release quality and increased product performance.

As a result, Edumate has achieved a faster turnaround on defect resolution – leading to greater overall user satisfaction. And fewer product errors has reduced support costs, helping to free up the support team to work on new enhancements rather than fixing previous releases.

David Savill says, "Our product is being tested faster and more thoroughly, lowering our operational costs and better supporting our commitment to our users – students, parents and schools."

About Edumate

Edumate is an Australian independent software vendor leading the way in web architected student learning and management systems for Kindergarten to Year 12 schools.

Edumate is a student-centric platform of shared knowledge, that enables the collaboration of information by those who have the greatest impact on a student's educational and personal development. Edumate is the driver that unites the fragmented knowledge of a student's profile throughout their school-life and puts information at the fingertips of School administrators, Teachers and Parents while providing Students with the tools to take greater ownership of their learning and develop to their full potential.

www.edumate.com.au

About TestPro

TestPro is an Australian IT Services provider with a specialist focus on assisting its clients to deliver projects at a higher quality and with less risk, through its consulting services and product expertise in the software quality and testing field. The experience of its highly skilled team has been gained through many delivery exercises, working on web-based systems, ERP software and a wide range of custom applications. www.testpro.com.au

For more information

To learn more about how IBM Rational software can support the software development and delivery process, contact your IBM sales representative or visit: ibm.com/software/rational/

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