

ANZ achieves an ROI of AUD4.27 million through efficiency improvements

IBM Rational software helps enable greater collaboration and automation

Overview

The need

To reduce costs through greater efficiency and productivity, ANZ needed a set of tools to support a companywide program to improve management of its testing environment.

The solution

ANZ chose a suite of IBM Rational software to enhance management of its testing environments by providing collaboration and automation capabilities.

The benefit

The bank's technology department gained the ability to assume an increased workload of 30 percent to 35 percent without adding resources.

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) was originally founded in 1835 as the Bank of Australasia. Today, the bank serves customers in 32 countries in Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East, Europe and America and throughout Asia and the Pacific. Headquartered in Melbourne, the company employs 48,000 people worldwide and provides a range of banking and financial products and services to around eight million customers.

Seeking to improve efficiency and reduce costs

Like many other organisations, ANZ faced pressure to reduce costs through greater efficiency and productivity. The company's technology department, which primarily purchases enterprise applications and then establishes integrations between them and its other systems, saw a significant increase in demand for its services from within the company. Realising that it couldn't just continue adding more resources to keep up with the growing demand, the department sought to implement a set of processes and tools to improve automation and drive greater efficiency.

"When I took this role in 2009, there was a big push for technology to contribute to lowering costs for the bank," says Frank Fabian, head of testing environments, delivery services, ANZ technology, ANZ.



"Our costs are flat, even though our demand has increased by about 30 to 35 percent. We're doing more with the same amount of resources."

 Frank Fabian, head of testing environments, delivery services, ANZ technology, ANZ Fabian saw room for improvement in the company's existing methods. For example, for every six weeks of testing, teams spent two weeks getting the appropriate environments set up. In addition, because the bank lacked a central asset repository, assets were scattered throughout the company on PCs or multiple LANs, which put ANZ at risk in the event that those assets were lost. Finally, the bank needed better traceability so it could demonstrate to various regulators, such as the Monetary Authority of Singapore, that it was adhering to the necessary processes and regulations.

ANZ launched a cohesive, companywide initiative to improve the management of its testing environments. The bank evaluated 26 technology solutions to use for the initiative. "We needed to find the tools that would support the processes to underpin our business going forward," says Fabian. "The tools had to support our organisation geographically because we have delivery centres around the globe. The tools also had to support our processes and allow us some control over these processes."

Establishing greater traceability and automation

ANZ chose a suite of IBM® Rational® software to help improve its testing environment management. First, the bank uses IBM Rational Asset Manager software to manage deployable artifacts. The application serves as a central repository for the entire organisation. In addition, it includes built-in processes to manage workflows and relationships between assets. Artifacts within the application are linked to a baseline in the source control system, providing traceability from the artifact back to the source.

ANZ also uses IBM Rational Build Forge® software to automate software deployment. The application allows the bank to kick off the automated deployment of artifacts from Rational Asset Manager software to nonproduction environments.

Solution components

Software

- IBM® Rational® Asset Manager
- IBM Rational Build Forge®
- IBM Rational Team Concert[™]

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 Ben McCoy, service optimisation manager, ANZ technology, ANZ Finally, ANZ uses IBM Rational Team Concert™ software, which provides a source code management interface. The software can also enable ANZ to see what its teams are actually doing and whether they're adhering to established practices. Additionally, the application helps enable managers to keep track of team member workloads using work item management, dashboarding and reporting capabilities.

When users deploy an environment using Rational Build Forge software, the application captures the console output, recording what occurred in the environment. When the deployment is complete, a record is sent back to the Rational Asset Manager software, linking it back in to the asset, giving traceability from the environment, back to the artifact, back to the source. Now, ANZ can demonstrate from the source code change through to the actual deployment that what it intended to deploy is what it actually deployed. Users must include release notes that document what's included in each release, such as change request numbers and defect ID numbers, providing traceability to requirements and defects.

Creating increased agility through greater collaboration

Before the enterprise management initiative, collaboration was challenging. Teams had their own processes and used their own tools. Now, it's easier for ANZ to share configuration management and deployment management resources across projects because all teams use consistent tools. Individuals can be assigned to different projects, helping enable the company to respond to changes much more quickly. "Using the Rational software makes us more agile. From a workforce management perspective, we are able to move our resources around a lot more effectively so we can respond to changing needs quickly," says Ben McCoy, service optimisation manager, ANZ technology, ANZ. Using standard tools across the company also helped reduce the time required to begin working on a

new project from three months to four weeks. "Because we have standard tools and processes, we're not reinventing the wheel every time," says Fabian. "We've reduced our training time as well, because all of our teams are using the same tools."

Reaping the benefits of automation

"Automation plays a key role in how quickly you can operate in a changing environment," says McCoy. "The fact that we're using Rational Build Forge software for our automation means that if we invest the effort up-front to put the right levels of automation in place, it pays off when we need to make changes. Execution is quicker so we can respond a lot better to program needs." This level of automation enabled ANZ to reduce the number of people needed for each project. In the past, the bank would typically assign seven people to each project. Now, ANZ assigns just three to four. In about 15 minutes, teams can deploy components that used to take three days to deploy. Plus, if there's an issue with a deployment, it's a lot easier to figure out what went wrong.

Ultimately, the environment management improvements enabled the ANZ technology department to achieve an ROI of AUD4.27 million from cost savings and efficiency improvements within the first year. The bank expects to exceed its target of an AUD8.5 million ROI for the second year. And it achieved this savings while taking on an increasing amount of work. "Our costs are flat, even though our demand has increased by about 30 to 35 percent. We're doing more with the same amount of resources," says Fabian.

For more information

To learn more about IBM Rational software, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit the following website: ibm.com/software/au/rational/

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