



SAP Digital Transformation Requires Continuous Testing



Testing is the #1 barrier to transformation success

Digital Transformation requires new and innovative software to be released rapidly—and with minimal business risk. The rapid cadence of release cycles is the new normal and with it comes the need to transform enabling processes and technologies. As organizations embark on the Digital Transformation journey, it becomes overtly evident software testing is a barrier to success. That's why leading analysts such as Gartner, Forrester and IDC all now recognize that the software testing process needs to change.

This is particularly the case with an applications environment such as SAP, where infrastructure changes can have far-reaching impacts. But no matter how fast you drive your next-gen initiatives, the SAP team must balance the business initiative to accelerate releases with the need to ensure an acceptable level of risk. Given that even a minor SAP update has the potential to bring critical business processes to a standstill, there's clearly an increased burden now being placed on the software testing function and its ability to detect those changes that might expose the business to significant risks.

SAP S/4HANA and SAP Fiori have introduced a transformation platform with the potential to accelerate the release of business differentiating software. However, while these innovative technologies are critical for powering SAP-enabled business transformation initiatives, they can only ultimately succeed if IT teams are ready to test them at a rate that keeps pace with the desired release cadence.

Today, software testing remains the #1 barrier to speed while representing roughly 40% of your application budget—this is a problem.

Reducing the burden of SAP software testing

As today's enterprise IT landscape evolves faster than ever, it's proving increasingly difficult for IT teams to keep pace with all the inevitable software changes that need to be tested. SAP-enabled business processes now frequently span multiple SAP applications and platforms, and things get even more complex when you factor in the many additional SaaS applications that organizations use – all with their own separate release cycles – as well as mobile deployments.

So, whether it's major software modernization initiatives, regular SaaS updates, or just day-to-day upgrades and patches, the sheer pace of software changes across your extended SAP environment is proving more and more challenging. The routine management of change is now effectively driving IT teams towards a continuous testing model. This requires business analysts, SAP Key Users and software test professionals to re-evaluate their software testing strategy as well as legacy toolsets in order to address the testing backlog.

Traditional testing simply can't match today's high-performance SAP delivery requirements

As Digital Transformation becomes the status quo in high-performance enterprises, traditional test automation solutions are increasingly struggling to meet demands for shorter release cycles. Even though organizations are investing significantly in order to modernize their applications delivery capabilities, the reality is that legacy testing tools and outdated manual testing practices will ultimately delay release cycles and ultimately eroding the expected business benefits.

This is particularly the case in the SAP arena, where it's estimated that over 50% of SAP customers currently aren't using any form of advanced test automation solutions, and that 8 out of 10 SAP users are still reliant on manual testing tools as their primary form of testing. Increased testing backlogs confirm that traditional software testing approaches simply can't handle these increased testing demands. This not only causes issues when it comes to IT productivity – it also significantly increases the risk of software failure and serves as a real barrier to business improvement.

Introducing this level of business risk is clearly unsustainable and explains why software testing is now such a priority. With even the smallest untested application changes now having the potential to cause a disruptive impact by bringing critical processes to a standstill, it's increasingly imperative that organisations move quickly towards a more automated testing approach. However, it's not all downside. By increasing the focus on automated testing, and by equipping business analysts with the ability to understand and focus testing efforts on their top business risks, organisations will be able to free up critical resources to accelerate their Digital Transformation initiatives.

Key Tricentis Tosca SAP testing benefits:

1. Gain clear insight into business risks of SAP release candidates
2. Comprehensive support of SAP User Interfaces and technologies,
3. Accelerator Packs for SAP S/4HANA (Fiori)
4. End-to-End Business Process Testing
5. Certified Integration with SAP Solution Manager 7.2 to help you prioritize testing

Evolving towards Continuous Testing for SAP-enabled processes

With average traditional test automation levels settled at around 20% for years now, it's no surprise that changes across the industry are making effective test automation harder and harder to deliver. Application architectures have become more distributed and complex, combining virtually endless combinations of different protocols and technologies – all within a single business transaction. Agile and DevOps also means that IT departments already operate within a continuous delivery world, with SaaS apps updates now released anywhere from every two weeks to thousands of times a day. Not surprisingly, the time available for productive test design, maintenance and execution work becomes less and less, with many IT departments simply running just to keep up with their existing software release cycles.

And with software now established as the primary interface to the business, it's hardly surprising that application-related risks have become such a concern. That's where a Continuous Testing approach can prove valuable, helping organisations to control risk with specific regard to the increased complexity and pace of modern application delivery. Executed correctly, Continuous Testing serves as the core of an organization's agile downstream process – effectively executing automated tests as part of the software delivery pipeline in order to provide risk-based feedback as rapidly as possible.

Transforming the SAP software testing process with Tricentis

Given the increased complexity and pace of modern application delivery, there's a pressing requirement to transform the software testing process so that IT gains continuous feedback on the business risks associated with software releases as quickly as possible. That's where Tricentis can help

The Tricentis Tosca Continuous Testing platform enables enterprises to automate testing for multiple generations of commonly-used SAP technologies and user interfaces, and tests are easily updatable when a business process changes. Tricentis also offers strong integration with SAP Solution Manager 7.2, with new features in Tricentis Tosca 11.1 including bi-directional synchronization of the SAP Solution Documentation, as well as risk-based assessment to speed up the test planning in SAP Solution Manager.

Tricentis helps accelerate SAP testing to keep pace with Agile and DevOps. Featuring the industry's most innovative functional testing technologies – ranging across risk-based testing, exploratory testing, CI/CD integrations, model-based test automation, service virtualization and test data management – Tricentis Tosca breaks through the barriers associated with conventional software testing tools.

Leading organizations such as HBO, Whole Foods, Toyota, Allianz, BMW, Starbucks, Deutsche Bank, Lexmark, Orange and UBS already use Tricentis Tosca successfully to achieve 90%+ test automation rates. That's why leading analyst firms such as Forrester, Gartner and IDC now recognize Tricentis as an 'industry leader' in the critical Continuous Testing space.

About Tricentis

With the industry's #1 Continuous Testing platform, Tricentis is recognized for reinventing software testing for DevOps. Through risk-based testing, scriptless end-to-end test automation, and the industry's most extensive technology support, Tricentis breaks through the barriers experienced with conventional software testing methods. Our innovative technologies simplify testing for even the most complex enterprise applications—transforming testing from a roadblock to a catalyst for innovation.