

Insurance: Reducing the Infrastructure Costs Associated with Staged Test Environments

An insurance company needed to establish seven distinct test environments for a new application. Each environment had to leverage data from over 20 back-end systems. This was not only complicated, but also costly: licensing the MQ broker that drove communications between the application under test and the back-end systems cost approximately 100,000 Euros per environment. Using Parasoft service virtualization to emulate the interface to the back-end systems, they were able to cut the dependency on those systems and significantly reduce the costs associated with establishing the expected test environments.

The Challenge: Enabling Extensive Testing without Incurring Exorbitant Licensing Costs

A global insurance provider commissioned the development of a new insurance application. To ensure that it met the organization's strict quality expectations, they required that it pass through their standard test procedure, which involved multiple phases of testing conducted on 7 different test environments.

Establishing and maintaining all of these test environments would be complex and time consuming since each environment needs to access data from 20+ back-end systems. Due to this complexity, it would take weeks to get a stable environment up and running. Moreover, it would be incredibly expensive. Accessing the back-end systems requires an MQ broker, and licensing the MQ broker would cost 100,000 Euros per test environment. Although this expense might be justifiable for certain environments (e.g., production), the organization preferred a more cost-effective means to bring the appropriate data into other required environments (e.g., training, pre-production, development, etc.).

Service Virtualization Emulates Back-End Functionality—Without the Associated Costs

Using Parasoft Virtualize, the organization was able to emulate the application under test's interaction with the back-end services. The emulation was designed to route traffic directly from the application under test to the virtual assets hosted by Parasoft Virtualize, which delivered the necessary range and scope of test data. In this way, they very deliberately cut off all interaction with the MQ broker that would be so costly to license for each test environment.

The organization was impressed by how simple it was to create and maintain virtual assets that enabled them to execute a broad range of rigorous testing. Their only regret is that they did not adopt service virtualization earlier in the project. In future projects, they plan to leverage service virtualization from the earliest phases of the project to accelerate parallel development as well as to "shift left" much of their testing process.

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