



GLOBAL INVESTMENT BANK

A testing time for derivatives. StarBase engaged to test strategic application



“The StarBase solution means we can anticipate and accurately plan future developments to avoid disruption to the business.”

Global Testing Manager

Key Facts

Company

- Global Investment Bank
- Location: London

Challenges and Opportunities

- Deliver a strategic application processing 4,000 transactions per second
- Ability to track and report on any one of 14 million individual Futures and Options trades per hour across a global network in real-time

Objectives

- To scope, design and project manage the delivery of a new strategic application
- To deliver an application fit for purpose on time and within budget

Why StarBase?

Critical Success Factors

- StarBase demonstrated exceptional technical skills and a thorough understanding of the business to ensure GTR was delivered on time, within budget and to the specification required
- Total ownership by the StarBase team
- Guaranteed and delivered seamless project management across multiple teams in many time zones
- The flexible approach to live testing evidenced by StarBase saved further investment in additional infrastructure
- Virtualising scenarios during the design and build phases avoided additional investment to retro-engineer functionality
- StarBase demonstrated that integrating non-functional testing at the outset cuts the overall cost of development and significantly reduces the time required to 'go live' making the business more agile

StarBase Solutions and Services used on the project

- Scoping, designing and project managing the test and development cycle of a business critical application
- Non-functional performance testing an application based on TIBCO Business Works using Green Hat Tester and Green Hat Performance

The banking crisis of 2007 forced the financial world to change. The legislation and regulations introduced placed a massive burden on banks to ensure transparency across all transactions. This in turn has required the banking community to develop new policies, procedures and software to meet the challenges.

Mission Critical

To exploit its position in the profitable Listed Derivatives market, the client took the strategic decision to develop a bespoke application to form the basis of this high-volume, complex business sector. Designed and developed

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in-house by the client, the Global Market Transactions Repository (GTR) application needed thorough testing to ensure it was robust, scalable and integrated with the rest of the bank's infrastructure before it could 'go live' and generate revenue for the business.

Recognising the GTR's significance and the lack of available experience or skills in-house, the client investigated the options available for rigorously testing the application. It was faced with either the costs, time and uncertainty associated with acquiring the testing and virtualisation skills required or outsourcing the project to specialists. With the time, budget and quality constraints imposed by the business it made financial and operational sense to outsource.

Total Solution

With more than 19 years' experience StarBase was commissioned to scope, design and project manage the GTR's non-functional testing to ensure it met the technical and functional goals set by the business. In partnership with a large number of internal teams across different time zones, StarBase worked backwards from the performance required, go live date and resources available to develop a rigorous and transparent 'Test and Tune' timetable. To avoid additional infrastructure costs the StarBase schedule had to accommodate out-of-hours testing in the live environment. Commenting on the decision to outsource, the Programme Manager for Listed Derivatives for Business Engineering, said, "The StarBase contribution was massive. Not just from the technical perspective they also demonstrated excellent project management and coordination skills, bringing a large number of our infrastructure component groups together as a single team".

Virtualisation

Using Green Hat products (GH Tester and GH Performance) to simulate 'what if' scenarios, StarBase demonstrated where the GTR met its targets and where it needed further fine tuning. The Test and Tune cycle revealed the application's bottle necks and by virtualising scenarios StarBase demonstrated the hardware and software solutions required.

Blueprint

Due to the success of this project, the client identified the GTR as the blueprint for future software development. The successful rollout clearly demonstrated the financial and operational benefits of pre-development testing throughout the design phases and in particular, how virtualising scenarios enabled the team to identify issues and develop solutions during the build phase rather than incurring the additional cost of developing fixes retrospectively. Going forward, all projects will include testing and virtualisation during the design and validation phases enabling the client to quickly bring new products and services to market. In addition to delivering the project on budget and on time, StarBase took the time to transfer some of their testing skills and experience to their client-side colleagues.

Due to the collaborative approach of the StarBase team, they have been invited to work with other client business units on similar mission critical projects. Commenting on the project's success, the client's Global Testing Manager, said, "StarBase has demonstrated that integrating non-functional testing at the outset cuts the overall cost of development and significantly reduces the time required to 'go live' making the business more agile."

StarBase is the UK's leading performance testing consultancy, trusted by major enterprises to mitigate IT systems risk since 1992. We ensure the consistent performance of our clients' key systems. As specialists, we possess an unrivalled depth of experience, knowledge and insight, creating smart and value-adding solutions for complex situations.

Performance Testing

Combining the best testing tools with effective processes can improve the bottom line

Testing Tools

Guidance on testing tool selection - the right tools for your technology challenges and to improve productivity

Functional Testing

Smarter processes and greater automation will reduce cost and duration of the project

Managed Testing

Let us take responsibility for all your testing requirements

Address

StarBase Computer Services Ltd
Calleo House
49 Theobald Street
Borehamwood
WD6 4RT
United Kingdom

Telephone

+44(0) 20 8236 7000

Email

sales@starbase.co.uk

Website

www.starbase.co.uk