

**GREENHAT**

ACCELERATION FOR INTEGRATION

Case Study

GH Tester: winning in Europe

GH Tester proved an essential tool in achieving TIBCO's successful competitive proof-of-concept, resulting in a new deal for our customer.

In the most hostile project environment imaginable, a major software vendor used GH Tester to meet an otherwise impossible deadline and beat the competition.

Summary

Green Hat Consulting was engaged by TIBCO to work on a customer proof-of-concept. In a very limited amount of time, a number of integration scenarios with Siebel and a mainframe had to be built, tested and then demonstrated. Because a quick and efficient method of testing was required, GH Tester was brought in. It was deemed an essential tool in achieving the eventual success of the proof-of-concept, resulting in a new deal for TIBCO.

Details

Paris, September 2001. Picture the most hostile project environment imaginable: a competitive proof-of-concept involving TIBCO and another well-known vendor of EAI software. Five days, nine integration scenarios and two major applications: Siebel and a mainframe. The prize at stake? A big software deal for the winner, defeat for the loser.

Green Hat Consulting, with their wide range of TIBCO skills and experience in integration projects, and one of the few companies in Europe with experience in integrating TIBCO and Siebel, was an obvious choice to pit against the opposing team's experts.

In five days, all software had to be installed and configured and as many of the nine integration scenarios as possible had to be completed for a demonstration on the Friday to the customer's vendor selection team. Access to the building was restricted to between the hours of 8am and 9pm, and the number of resources was capped at three. With these harsh restrictions in place, every second counted.

During the project, a number of problems arose. One of the key systems to be integrated was a mainframe. The competing vendor did not have a direct way of interfacing with the mainframe, so the customer had devised a screen-scraping

script which produced a message at the end of the process. The problem, though, was two-fold. The screen-scraping script took about five minutes to run. This frustrated efforts to perform unit testing on the integration manager workflows, as every time a message was required, the script had to be executed and a delay of five minutes ensued. Secondly, for several hours at a time, no testing at all could be performed because the script was locked out of the screens required on the mainframe, whilst the mainframe performed batch updates.

The installation of GH Tester radically changed this and other scenarios. GH Tester's subscriber tool was used to capture the message published by the mainframe. This meant running the five-minute screen-scraping program only once. Messages could then be replayed at will from GH Tester at the click of a button, ending the wait, even when the mainframe was unavailable. This relatively simple idea enabled the Green Hat team to continue testing when no-one else could. By using GH Tester to save the message into a file, there was no need to recapture it when machines were rebooted.

The graphical subscription tool also made discovery of configuration problems in adapters much easier to locate, as the entire contents of the message, including its structure, could easily be viewed.

Results

There is no doubt the proof of concept would not have been as successful if it were not for GH Tester. Integration took place faster and more reliably as testing could happen quickly and efficiently at every stage of the process. The graphical display of messages was even used in the demonstration to show the events "inside the box". Green Hat's customer (TIBCO) emerged victorious from the competition and secured another customer of their own.

"GH Tester radically changed the scenario ... the team continued testing when no-one else could."

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