



SQS PractiQ - Regression Testing in Maintenance

Outsourcing limits the cost of regression tests

The complexity of software products doubles every two years, and with each adjustment that is made, the risk of unwanted side-effects rises too. Regression Testing in Maintenance is an external service provided by SQS. It ensures that test coverage can keep pace with these rises in complexity without costs getting out of hand.

An end to cost explosion

The number of products from software producers grows by as much as 70 per cent every year. Among IT systems the growth figure is assumed to be at least 60 per cent, and the number of tested systems about 36 per cent. All in all, this means that the complexity of products and platforms doubles within a period of less than two years - an exponential rate of growth.

Every time that the code is changed because of a release, update, redesign or patch, there is a risk that functions that have already been successfully tested will be unintentionally disrupted, which can cause a system to slow down considerably, for example.

This is why so-called regression tests are essential. They make sure that risks and side effects in development are kept to a minimum.

However, it is only in the rarest of cases that companies' test departments are able to keep pace with the growing complexity of the systems. Software systems are ever more heavily and closely integrated, giving rise to ever more complex test environments and test tasks. In turn, as a result, not only are costs constantly increasing, but product risks are too. At the latest when the management also sets ambitious savings targets, the development department is no longer able to face up to the cost pressure. Regression Testing in Maintenance from SQS provides support in addressing this challenge. Numerous projects with customers in various branches of industry have shown that an explosion in costs can be prevented through this SQS service. Average savings of roughly 30 per cent are possible - along with rising quality.

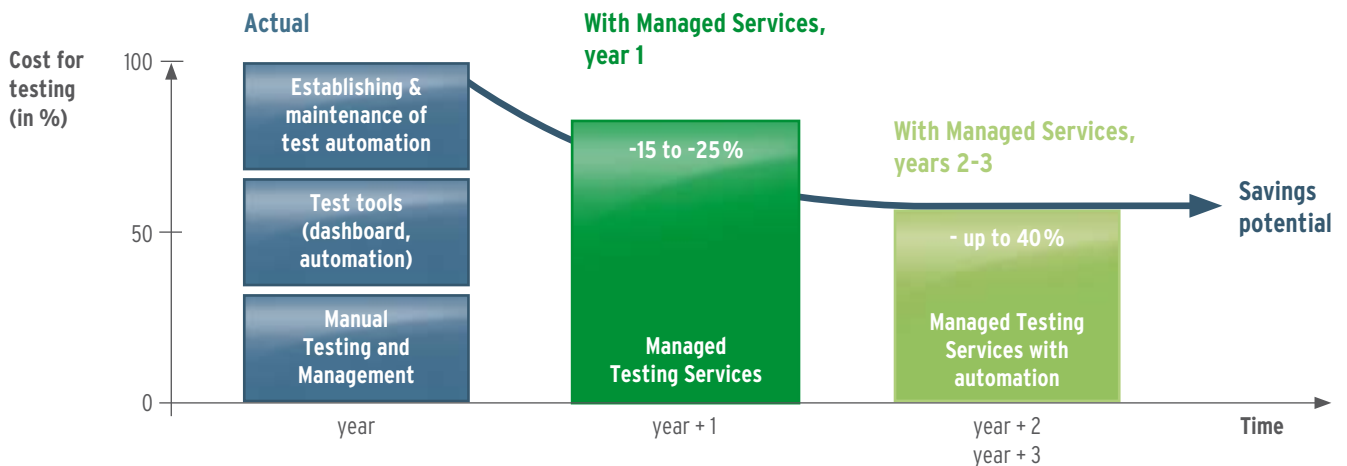
Simply outsource your worries

SQS offers this assistance as a Managed Service - in response to rising cost pressure and the growing complexity of the systems. As has been demonstrated in numerous projects, savings of 15 to 25 per cent can be achieved through test outsourcing in the first year alone. Experience shows that a further 15 to 25 per cent can be attained from the second year of outsourcing onwards - through the automation of all previous test cases, instead of continuing to initiate them individually and manually.

About SQS: The SQS Group is the largest independent provider of software quality management and software testing services. Founded in Cologne, Germany, in 1982, SQS has around 1,450 employees in 14 countries worldwide and achieved revenues of € 143 million in 2008. With more than 5,000 successfully completed projects under its belt, SQS has a strong customer base, including half of the DAX 30 companies.

SQS PractiQ solutions - best practices, services and tools as a package: Software quality management and quality assurance often need to be faster and less expensive in many companies. SQS has all-in solutions at the ready to handle challenges that companies frequently face and thus enables its clients to lower IT costs and raise the quality of systems.

Managed services and automation offer potential for cost optimisation



The main reason why this is so useful is that with every further development of a product the number of test cases that have to be re-tested time and again also grows. Thanks to the SQS service, there is also no longer any need to be constantly deciding on the right test tools in each case, and then afterwards managing and maintaining those tools. What is more, licence fees for the tools are no longer applicable either. The step back is equally possible: if required, all of the processes can be re-integrated into the internal IT department without difficulty and returned to the company's own responsibility.

Competence for a fixed price

It is estimated that two thirds of the costs of an application in its lifecycle are incurred from its maintenance, and only one third from development in the first place. This makes it plain that by far the greatest potential savings can be made in the further development and upkeep of a system. Regression Testing in Maintenance from SQS offers an all-embracing service for this very purpose on the basis of tried-and-tested service level agreements (SLAs) that are derived from years of experience with all the relevant test tools and therefore cover the entire production chain. For a Swiss company, for example, SQS implemented a suite with test cases for the whole value chain within the customer's IT - from customer management, costing and pricing right through to invoicing.

Your advantages at a glance

- Quality improvements and cost savings of around 30 per cent
- Reliable automation of test cases
- No more evaluation, licensing, management or maintenance of test tools necessary
- Transparent cost structure
- All processes can be re-integrated into your own company at any time without difficulty

Contact

Do you have any other questions, or do you need more information?
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