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Aol.

AOL Helps Ensure the Flexibility and Reliability of Their SOA Initiative withParasoft SOAtest

America Online, better known as AOL, is a global Web services company that operates some of the most popular Web destinations, offers a comprehensive suite of free software and services, runs the country's largest Internet access business, and provides a full set of advertising solutions. When AOL decided to transform their traditional subscription-based ISP to a service-oriented architecture (SOA). The move was part of AOL's strategy to provide fast integration of custom services for new and current business partners — both internal and external.

AOL determined that testing their Web services was a necessary part of this transformation. AOL discovered Parasoft SOAtest at the StarWest International Conference on Software Testing Analysis & Review where Parasoft was demonstrating how easy it is to get up and running on Parasoft SOAtest.

Saving Time from the Get-go

Hemadri Dasari, Lead QA Engineer for AOL, was a key participant in evaluating Parasoft SOAtest. As he recalls it was "very easy for us to get started and to begin developing test cases."

Dasari went on to explain that to get started, he merely turned to the Parasoft SOAtest Help documentation for direction. Then, based on some of his pre-existing WSDL files, started creating test cases – automatically.

AOL determined that for them the most costeffective solution was Parasoft SOAtest. Their decision was proven a good choice immediately. Greg Kozy, Vice President of AOL's QA Division, adds that his team was running tests with Parasoft within one hour after deployment.

Increasing Productivity through Automation

In addition to the time saved by the ease of getting started, AOL found that Parasoft SOAtest saves them time in preparing and running SOA tests. Tara Kantharajapur, an AOL QA Engineer, explained that before Parasoft SOAtest was implemented, he and other QA engineers were manually entering command lines to send test requests, and then manually delivering the responses.

Now, Kantharajapur says of SOAtest, "It's speeding forward preparation of our tests and executing them and automatically finding problems that occurred during the testing.

Dasari confirms his teammate's assessment of time savings. Based on his own calculations, Dasari says that he is 30 to 40 percent more productive using Parasoft SOAtest than he would be with other products because Parasoft SOAtest is automated.

Going Above and Beyond

AOL has been using SOAtest for nearly two years. As AOL is keeping pace with the ever-evolving world of technology, Parasoft SOAtest moves right along with them in stride.

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> is the excellent support that we get from the team at Parasoft."

In the beginning, AOL needed various types of customizations for its specific Web service needs. Dasari explained, "The Parasoft support team really understood our implementation and then helped us create some Java classes and create some Python scripts to suit our needs." He goes on to say, "The support is awesome! I haven't seen this kind of support with any other product that I've worked on. What sold SOAtest was the ease of use; what kept us continuing with SOAtest is the excellent support that we get from the team at Parasoft."

Expanding Horizons

In recent months, AOL expanded their use of SOAtest to more QA and even Development. Tony Angelo, who is a Lead Senior Developer, was recently introduced to SOAtest. He explained that AOL wants to standardize on one solution for testing Web services. Angelo went on to say, "So, if a developer is not there, I can always just run his tests with Parasoft SOAtest."

Maintaining Resource Ratios

As expansion of SOAtest continues to progress among Kozy's QA Division at AOL, Kozy recalls a presentation he attended when AOL first moved into the SOA arena. It was mentioned that in software development – historically speaking – the ratio of developers to QA people had always been two to one. Kozy was warned that with a move to SOA, QA would ultimately out number development.

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> and the execution of Parasoft SOAtest here."

As time has passed, Greg Kozy shared what he has learned since that day. He said, "With the use of automated tools — including Parasoft SOAtest — we've been able to keep our Dev to QA ratios the same, two developers to one QA, something we could not have done without them. The teams have met all their aggressive deadlines, so I am pleased with the selection and the execution of Parasoft SOAtest here."

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