
ABOUT THE CUSTOMER

This UK based company is one of the leading vendors of stockbroking software for brokerages in the UK and the rest of Europe. The customer's software is used for transacting on UK and Irish scrips through the CREST network service.

THE CHALLENGE

The stockbroking software is an online stock trade and settlement software.

Some of its main features include:

- Orders capture
- Settlement
- Portfolio management
- Payments
- Corporate actions

The customer wanted their product tested for Euro currency conversion and Y2K compliance. Also, as there were frequent releases of the software planned, there was a need for automating test scripts for regression.

THE SOLUTION

Y2K Compliance

While testing for Y2K compliance, the system date was advanced to the year end of 1999. Multiple trades were entered and made through the entire settlement cycle and checked for Y2K compliance (i.e. date was stored / displayed in DDMMYYYY format).

The different levels at which checks were made are:

- Application (GUI) level
- Database
- Reports
- External Messages

Euro Conversion

As part of the European Union (EU), it was mandatory for the member countries of the European Monetary Union (EMU) to change their local currencies to Euro. The currencies that were converted as per EMU requirements had a fixed exchange rate to Euro. Although the UK was not a part of the EMU, as a member of EU, it was obliged to have dual reporting in both local currency as well as Euro. To test this:

- All combinations of orders with local currency, EMU currency and External Currency were applied to the deal currency and settlement currency
- If the currency was an EMU Currency, then it should be automatically converted to Euros
- All reports for UK clients had to be reported in both GBP and euros
- For Irish clients, change of local currency to Euro was needed, including
 - Conversion of past portfolio transactions to Euro
 - All reports in Euro format

Regression Test Scripts

As the application had a front-end graphic user interface, it was decided that a testing tool with record/replay facility be chosen. Mercury Interactive's Winrunner tool was chosen for recording the regression test scripts. TestDirector was used to manage the test suites and to track bugs.

THE BENEFITS

- Euro conversion and Y2K projects both required significant manpower to test. By offshoring, the client was able to concentrate on development and also realize huge savings in testing costs.
 - Regression test scripts reduced time and cost for subsequent releases.
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