Communications: Eliminating Database Dependencies that Delay Performance Testing

Due to constrained access to dependent databases, a communications company had a team of 25+ performance testers that were routinely unable to execute any performance testing for weeks on end. Parasoft’s service virtualization now enables them to run performance testing as early and extensively as the project demands. Onshore and offshore team members all have 24/7 access to “virtual databases” that were created by recording the actual database transactions during one of their limited access windows.

The Challenge: Accelerating the Rollout of New Performance-Sensitive Functionality
A leading communications company was working on an initiative to increase revenues by providing customers new opportunities for interactivity. However, key milestones were being missed as a result of software testing delays. Satisfying increasingly strict SLAs is a critical component of their business, yet performance testing was often delayed because the team could not access databases connected to the application under test.

Without this access, the team of nearly 30 performance testers could not run a single performance test. Performance testers often had to wait weeks to access the necessary test environment—and when they finally gained access, it was commonly limited to extremely limited time periods (e.g., one hour windows). This severely impeded their ability to run the breadth of tests needed to ensure that applications satisfied performance expectations. Shared access to the QA team’s databases was not feasible, and resources were not available to acquire, configure, and manage additional databases for the purposes of performance testing. That’s why the organization turned to service virtualization.

Service Virtualization Enables the Team to Identify Performance Problems Prior to Release
With Parasoft’s service virtualization, the organization is now able to run performance tests as early and extensively as the project demands. Onshore and offshore team members all have 24/7 access to “virtual databases” that were created by recording actual database transactions during one of their limited access windows.

As a result of having ubiquitous access to the dependent databases, the performance testing team is now able to execute their complete test plan. Since performance testers can now perform more extensive testing without waiting for access, the organization has accelerated time to market by approximately one week per each six-week iteration. This has also enabled the organization to identify and resolve various performance bottlenecks before they reached the field—where they could have compromised the market success of the new program.