

Project Note

Smoke tests: Turn it on and check for smoke



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SUISSE**

For a major Swiss Bank Zühlke developed a test system for software. The customer wanted to automate the test process in order to minimise costs and save the developer's time. The project team utilised open-source tools.

team and developers the next day. The test cases are modular so the team of developers can later expand or adapt them without major effort.

Task

This project involved a banking platform called INVESTnet. To meet the high standards involved, extensive software testing is required. Credit Suisse regularly conducts smoke tests to develop and maintain for platform. These tests check the basic functioning of the software to determine whether a release should undergo further testing. In this project, Credit Suisse wished to automate the process in order to minimise costs and effort and create systematic feedback loops for the developers. The bank commissioned Zühlke to carry out the automation with readily available tools.

Implementation

To automate the smoke tests the project team utilised the open-source tool Canoo WebTest. First, test cases were defined in XML in an ANT-based syntax. The tests were then integrated in a continuous build tool to assure automatic runs. A cruise control function automatically starts the smoke tests at night and reports the results to the test

Customer Benefits

- Minimised cost and effort: Non-automated smoke tests took up an entire work day every week. Following automation the tests can be run automatically at night. This approach frees up the developers to perform more productive work and provides them with daily feedback on the tested release. The modular structure minimises the work required to maintain the test cases.
- Return on investment within no time at all: This solution hits the break-even point in no time at all thanks to the use of standard software and the elimination of manual labour in conducting the tests.
- Efficient utilisation of development capacity: Smoke tests provide a quick way of determining the basic functionality of a release. As a result, the precious time of the test teams and the developers can be applied efficiently to promising release candidates based on confirmed test results.



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