

Test Environments and Data Management

Effectively managing test data and the test environment is a critical element of any software testing programme as failure leads to reduced efficiency and increased delays in releases. Yet creating suitable environments for development and test phases across a programme lifecycle is a complex and time consuming activity. It would be prohibitively expensive and virtually impossible to exactly mimic all possible hardware, software, network, data and usage characteristics of the expected live environments. A judgement must be made as to which characteristics are important so appropriate test data and environments can be selected. Such judgements require technical knowledge, experience and a thorough understanding of risks and constraints.

Capita has a wealth of experience in software quality assurance and testing. Our expertise, technical capabilities and commercial understanding makes us ideally positioned to manage, build, deliver and support your test data sets and test environments. And, as part of the Capita Group we can also seamlessly provide hosting and other technology services.

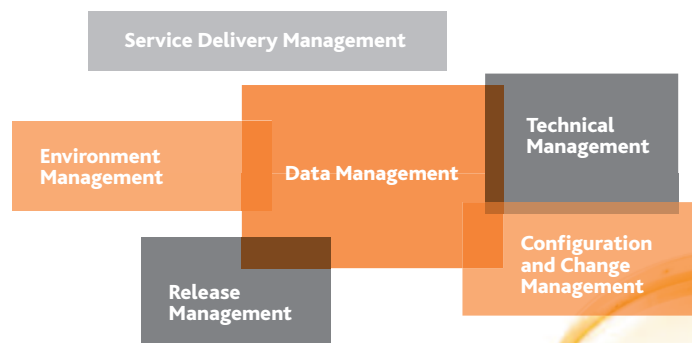
Our 'end-to-end' service delivers an integrated yet cost effective solution that will increase productivity and utilisation, reduce costs and risk and assure the quality of your software.

Managed Testing Infrastructure

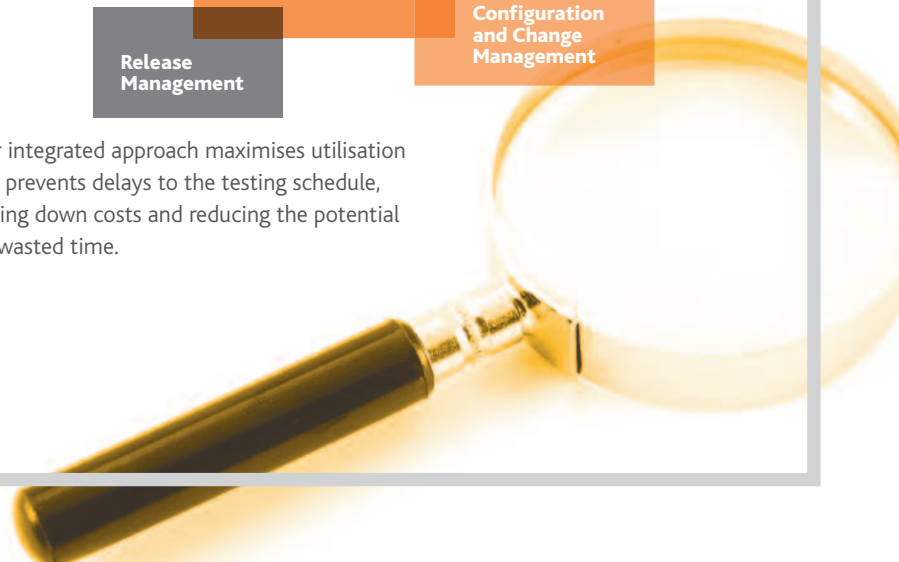
Building test environments invariably involves a tradeoff between achieving the 'best' test environments and managing cost. Yet well organised and managed test environments are critical to the testing and acceptance phases and, ultimately, to the quality of the software delivered to the business - especially in complex software delivery programmes.

Our Managed Test Infrastructure Service offers a comprehensive, flexible and cost effective solution for your environment needs. Our service takes full responsibility for the management and delivery of the testing environments. In addition to designing, building and deploying the test environments and related facilities, we ensure inventories and assets are effectively and pro-actively managed and maintained.

Surveys have shown that environment and data issues consume 40% of testers' and developers' time.



Our integrated approach maximises utilisation and prevents delays to the testing schedule, driving down costs and reducing the potential for wasted time.

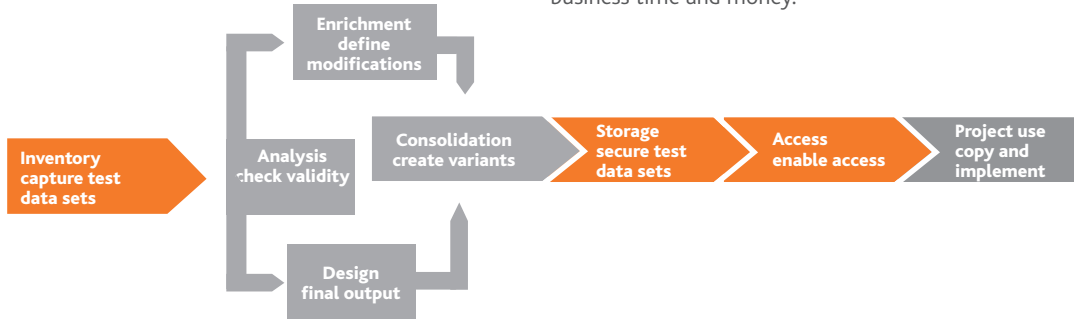


Test Data Management

A fundamental success factor in any testing programme is to ensure the test data is right. As it is this data that goes into specific test cases for specific test scenarios, mistakes here may have long reaching repercussions. Achieving the right balance of static and dynamic data is not easy. The more complex the testing programme, the bigger the problem especially as a business moves from testing single applications to integrated solutions. The solution is to centralise test data and create complete sets that correlate to the business needs and rules.

Our Test Data Management methodology has been developed by our testing specialists over years of 'hands on' experience.

Our proven approach ensures all necessary test data is present, consistent, immediately available and searchable - significantly reducing the time and effort usually associated with setting up test designs, preparation and environments. Testers are able to update test cases or create new ones quickly without spending too much time investigating what is good data for new scenario tests. This ability to easily generate alternative scenarios and test end-to-end transactions will improve the quality of the application delivered to production, saving your business time and money.



Data Integrity Testing

During any test programme, it is important to verify that the data stored is complete and sound. This should be done on a regular basis as updating, restoration and retrieval processes can cause the data to be compromised. Also, data often changes over time and therefore needs updating.

Our data integrity service will help maintain the integrity of your data and uncover any design flaws that could result in data corruption, unauthorised access, a lack of cross table data integrity and inadequate transaction performance.



Working with you, our specialists will set the baseline for the test plan, identify areas to investigate and define the types of testing needed – for example manual or automated. From here we look in depth at the design code, databases and file structures to develop verification and consistency checks. Finally we will look at system conditions that may affect the performance or stability of the data – for example back up integrity, recovery processes.

In doing so we will determine that the data stored is still valid and has not been altered in an unauthorised way (either intentionally or by malfunctioning of hardware). Regularly assuring the integrity of your data will ensure your data remains consistent, correct and accessible throughout the testing programme.

About Capita Assurance and Testing

Capita Assurance and Testing is the UK's leading independent systems quality assurance and testing solutions provider. We provide the full spectrum of governance, assurance, functional and non-functional testing services. Our services help organisations at all stages of test maturity to reduce risk, optimise cost and increase efficiency and business performance across the full IT lifecycle.

As part of The Capita Group Plc, Capita Assurance and Testing combines the agility of an independent specialist with the confidence and security of a FTSE 100 company and leading UK outsourcer.

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