



WHY DO YOU NEED AUTOMATION TEAMS, WHY NOT EMPOWER YOUR TESTERS?

The Current Approach to Test Automation is flawed

Since the dawn of the software era, companies have been trying to automate the most mundane tasks like regression testing. Unfortunately very few companies have been successful. The HPs, IBMs, and Microsoft's of the world have the best-in-breed test automation solutions for their customers and in addition to it open source tools like Selenium and others are available for free. In spite of all the tool availability, 80% of the companies in the world are still below a 20% automation level. Specialized software companies are today addressing this challenge utilizing new approaches.

Testers and business analysts specialize in business processes. They have sound knowledge of the domain and business processes, and are critical in designing and defining the test scenarios. Running these well defined tests is a necessary evil, but using testers and business analysts to run these tests frequently is not the best use of their talent. To make the best use of their testers' time, organizations realized the need for a test automation tool. They either licensed a test automation tool – QTP, Test Complete, Ranorex, Rational Functional Test, Silk Test, TFS – or used an open source tool like Selenium, Selendroid, Robotium, Robo framework, etc. In most cases, these test automation tools were handed directly over to the testing teams, with the assumption that the testers could simply use this “Test Automation” tool, and everything would be automated. However, they were only able to move the automation needle from 0% to 8-9%, which resulted in making the overall cost higher than testing everything manually!

When organizations realized that the test automation tools were too complex to be used by testers, they created automation teams. Today, test automation tools are owned mostly by a new team called the “Automation Team”, and the automation needle has moved up from 8-9% to 15-20%. This approach is still more expensive than testing the apps manually, and the addition of yet another team in the process has resulted in the need for an automation framework, additional management oversight, etc.

Companies are forced to deal with the complexity of the test automation tools, and are building automation frameworks or adding third party solutions like Qualitia, Turnkey C-Factory etc. to ease the pain. A few firms have totally eliminated automation and are back to manual testing.

The primary objective for test automation was to take away the routine regression test execution burden from the creative testers. To achieve the objective, organizations bought test automation tools. To address the complexities of the test automation tools, companies formed automation teams. To address the complexities of test automation tools, companies built frameworks or purchased third party frameworks. All to achieve a 15-20% automation level. And in many cases, at a higher cost.

What companies need instead is a simple tool in the hands of their testers and business analysts, so that they can automate their routine business process executions and focus on the business outcome rather than the technical outcome.

How Verifaya can help

To address automation challenges of an organization, an automation tool has to have following characteristics. These are discussed below with reference to Verifaya platform capabilities.

Ease of Use

Automation tool should be easy to use for testing teams. Learning curve need to min as possible. Traditionally only 5% of testers are focused on coding, and majority of the rest are domain experts and not comfortable coding. Script less tool is more suitable to most of testers, so that they are more productive on their core job in identifying exemplary test conditions. Verifaya is scriptless tool and helps testing teams to quickly adapt to automation and help in reducing testing cycle time significantly.

Coverage

Success of any automation program is the ability to automate maximum possible test cases for regression cycles. This means that tool should have the ability to support multiple platforms, multiple devices, length and breadth of application development technologies. Verifaya supports following:

- Windows (browsers & native apps)
- Mac OSX (browsers)
- Android (browser, native & hybrid apps)
- iOS (browser, native & hybrid apps)

Richness of Verifaya capabilities results in high coverage automation test suits for a given automation program. Ease of use also contributes significantly for high coverage regression and smoke test suits.

Productive

For any initiative productivity is key to the success of the initiative. Productivity of an automation program depends on the features of the tool that helps in faster turnaround time for development of test cases, easy maintenance of test cases and integration with specific software development ecosystem. Verifaya has numerous features that have been included by automation experts, so that development of test cases is much faster and maintain test cases on the go.

Flexible

Another important characteristic of an automation tool is the flexibility to use the tool under challenging circumstances. Verifaya has provided much needed flexibility for testing teams, while automation of their applications. Verifaya has provided many functions to develop workarounds required to address unique automation challenges. Verifaya flexibility is one of the key factors for developing high coverage automation test suits.

Reporting and audit trail

Test automation is primarily help in faster turnaround while regression tests are conducted on release builds. This means that many decisions are taken based on regression and smoke tests. Some of the SLA's are governed by test results. Hence comprehensive test execution results are as important as software development for all stakeholders. To meet this need Verifaya generates comprehensive test results after each execution that is relevant to respective stakeholders. This helps stakeholders to quickly make appropriate decisions.

Conclusion:

Verifaya is one of script less test automation platform more suitable for testing teams to automate their mundane jobs like smoke tests and regression tests.

Verifaya is an automation platform that is script less hence easy to use by all testers with small learning curve. It has inbuilt libraries, hence automation is faster and no need to build reusable functions. Verifaya supports all latest technologies and devices, hence no need to use multiple tools for automation. Verifaya has an inbuilt framework, hence test cases are available within couple of weeks for running regression suites on software builds and most suitable for agile software development. Verifaya integrates with external test management, defect management; continuous integration etc., hence fits well into software development ecosystem seamlessly.