TEST AUTOMATION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why should I be interested in test automation?

The need to regression test large mission-critical systems quickly and thoroughly is a fact of life in business today. Organizations that either take too long to test or cut corners testing will likely incur costly delays or system problems that will impact the bottom line. The only practical way to thoroughly regression test today’s large complex systems is to automate the process.

2. Why do so many organizations have trouble realizing the benefits of automation?

There are a number of reasons:

- Many organizations do not have a well defined testing process. Automation works best when there is an effective, robust manual process already established to provide the foundation for the automation.
- Tool expertise is expensive and in short supply.
- Developing and maintaining automated scripts is often expensive.
- While automation tools are very powerful, they do not enforce a robust, maintainable automation architecture. It is all too easy to automate in ways that are difficult and expensive to maintain.

3. My testers are already swamped. Isn’t automation just more work?

Automated testing cannot totally replace manual testing and it is not cost effective to automate everything. Done properly, developing automated tests should be a seamless, natural progression from manual testing. Automation does require some additional effort to plan and develop the tests. The savings are realized during regression testing. Much less effort is required to execute the regression tests, speeding up roll-outs of system fixes and enhancements.

4. What kind of tools do I need to automate testing? Are they expensive? Isn’t it impossible to find people who know how to use the tools?

There are many test automation tools available today. An analysis of your requirements should be conducted before purchasing any tool. The best tools can be
expensive. Automation requires both experienced staff and good tools. An effective automation architecture will reduce the need for specialized tool expertise.

5. **Can I reduce my testing staff once I’ve automated?**

The answer to this question depends upon the size and nature of your projects. If your testing includes large amounts of manually repetitive tests, then automation should reduce your staff requirements.

6. **When should I start the automation process?**

As early as possible. There are many things testers can communicate to developers that will make a system easier to test and easier to automate. Moreover, if manual testing is approached in the right way, it will be easier to automate the manual test cases. This is unlikely to happen if automation starts late in the project.

7. **What is Mosaic’s role in test automation?**

Mosaic provides support in all the areas necessary for successful automation:

- **Testing Process** Mosaic’s testing process, MSTAR®, provides a solid foundation for test automation.
- **Automation Architecture** Mosaic’s automation architecture focuses the automation on the needs and objectives of the testing rather than on the structure and capabilities of a particular tool. We believe our architecture is the most advanced in the industry.
- **Tool Knowledge** Mosaic’s consultants have experience with the major automation tools and can mentor staff in the most effective use of their test automation tools.

Mosaic has a proven track record in planning and managing test automation. For more information, contact us at:

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