

Leading Insurance Provider

Business Case

QA testing for any application has to be exhaustive and cover every possible scenario, however unlikely. The most important thing for testing is test data. For an insurance company this test data will be of different types. Most of it like customer data can be created in-house. But there is data from outside vendors like credit reporting companies, driving history from the dmV etc. Testing this external data would include testing the connection and the data received. Generally these vendors publish their own test data. They release a list of names or VINs which when queried do not hit actual people but return test data. There might be situations with illegible, incorrect or partial data transmissions. These situations cannot be accurately tested if the imperfect data transmission cannot be recreated. But the company cannot contact vendors and ask them to publish this kind of test data. So what should be done?

How we solved it.

The QA development automation team came up with the idea of an in house test data generator. This system would sit between the test automation system and the external vendor. When the tester requests data for a particular name this system would look within itself, to see if it contained the data. If it has data for that name it returns it and if it doesn't it will pass on the query to the vendor. Also, when data returns from the vendor, the tester will be able to go into the system and manipulate the data to suit his particular test case. The test automation system would communicate with this test data generator using web services. In this way, the challenge was met.