NTT DATA

MEAT–PACKING GIANT GAINS UNDERSTANDING OF MORE EFFICIENT SAP ARCHITECTURE

CASE STUDY

SAP Global Partner

SAP LEAP
Large Enterprise Acceleration Program

THE CLIENT

The client was established in 1994, operating a central meat-packing facility processing beef and lamb in the UK. The facility has since grown, acquiring an additional packing installation and new facilities across different European countries. The client has also since entered into joint venture agreements in Australia and another European country.

The client is a "business-to-business" brand and has multiple SAP deployments. The packing plants are operated on a dedicated basis for the client's customers, and their business model has been adapted from country to country to meet local requirements in each case. The client works in close relation with leading food retailers to help them serve their customers.

Their stated ambition is to be the "first-choice partner for food retailers seeking excellence, insight and growth" moving forward.

THE CHALLENGE

The client was looking for a 'ready-to-go' test tooling solution and sought the tools, knowledge and training to be autonomous in future test tooling. Setting up a project in readiness for testing is typically labour-intensive and expensive. NTT DATA was challenged with providing a testing solution to combat this problem, negate the usual set-up costs associated with such a project, and free up the client's human resources for non-administrative tasks.

The project was complicated by the client's existing SAP landscape; they had multiple SAP deployments running across the business. Despite this, a suite of manual and automated testing tools and templates was required that would support all typical project test phases.

NTT DATA supports and guides clients through their digital transformations to ensure long-term success.

THE SOLUTION

Typically, test tooling is a five-stage process that starts with the identification of a business's requirements, then goes through test planning, test case design and test execution, and concludes with assessment and correction of defects.

In such a complicated and large-scale scenario, the platform proposed as the solution is Tricentis, the industry leader in software testing and an NTT DATA partner. Tricentis supports a continuous testing framework, enabling smart impact analysis, end-to-end process automation (including intelligent end-test automation), data integrity testing throughout the process and test management, insight and reporting. It is a platform that provides real-time results and is renowned for its high-quality assessment functionality.

In support of the project, seven deliverables were proposed: Cloud set-up/install, a test execution plan, ECT installation and guidance, a demonstration video on test creation, an explanatory slide on how the system will run and a real-time automation results review.

The solution would be set up in such a way that, using these deliverables and NTT DATA's guidance through this process, the client will in future be able to manage and execute their own SAP testing, and implement changes to their SAP architecture themselves.

NTT DATA has the ability to integrate non-SAP offerings into its SAP projects to give their customers the best possible solution.

THE RESULT

A global test framework was built to support the client's multiple SAP deployments, and that could be implemented in parallel waves across global locations. The test team are now familiar with the latest Tricentis test tooling applications, including qTest and ECT, and the client can now automate their own testing scenarios. Best practice, standardised templates have been built to enable easier and consistent testing on future projects.

The client states they are "extremely likely to continue to invest in their SAP landscape, and a programme of work is likely to begin in the coming months. As part of this transformation, Testing will be an important part of making the journey as smooth and efficient as possible."

In the process, a strong relationship has been built not only between NTT DATA and the client, but with the Tricentis team, who worked sufficiently closely with NTT DATA on the solution that a partnership agreement has now been signed.

WHY NTT DATA

Having established a three-way partnership with SAP and Tricentis, NTT DATA is in a position to deploy experienced resources and accelerators in testing scenarios, providing the best possible-solutions to deliver quality and excellence in such projects.

NTT DATA is ready to build an offshore test automation factory and flex resources as necessary, customised to the client's needs in each case to deliver them long-term success. In terms of the SAP S/4HANA solution landscape, NTT DATA's knowledge is deep and comprehensive, facilitating the automation process and saving customers time, money and effort.

WHAT'S NEXT

The client has embarked on their SAP journey taking into account lessons they have learned from this project. In total, the roadmap spans 2021 to 2025, and includes an upgrade of their existing architecture to SAP S/4HANA. A rollout across all of the client's global regions will take place, covering Poland, Denmark and beyond, and including their finance and indirect procurement areas.