

Testing Matters . . . Ingenuity



■ system testing services

Ingenuity

- Quality and Risk Managed Approach
- Pertinent Solutions
- Pre-release
- Automated Solutions
- Independence
- Integrity
- Proven track record

Ingenuity System Testing Services Ltd

Volume I ~ Issue I

Too Much Pepperoni Pizza

The industry which is electronically traded Insurance is soon to be bombarded by [even more] tales of doom upon doom, if the regulations are not followed.

We are going to hear so much about how hard it is and how severe will be the penalties of non-compliance that we are likely to get indigestion!

In the System Testing profession we have had this before, it was called "Y2K", the "millennium time bomb" and it had all of the same characteristics. We had to check compliance with rules which were not precise (in terms of embedded code) and with a completely unmovable deadline.

The bringers of doom were out in force, usually trying to sell a

silver bullet solution at the same time!



If you do get indigestion too early, the usual symptoms of indigestion will prevail ~ gross lack of activity and a desire to avoid facing any further helpings.

How are you going to tackle the monitoring and managing, the designing and verification?

No, Ingenuity are not offering a silver bullet solution, they rarely work!

It might be worth reading the closing article though. . . .

"Ingenuity are not offering a silver bullet solution, they rarely work!"

Dealing with high-pressure deadlines requires structure, skill and commitment, nothing more

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So Why A Newsletter?

We know that Ingenuity are often thought of as being owned by particular Software Houses or Insurance Companies.

In fact, we are fiercely independent in all aspects of our ownership and the work we do.

Just what do we do?

"Oh, they are a bunch of people who test rates"

Not quite right!

We are a collection of highly trained professional testers who bring proven Quality Management skills to help our clients measure and manage their business risks.

So, why a newsletter?

It is our way of illustrating what we do for our clients, what we

could be doing for you and how we keep ahead of the issues facing Quality Management and Risk Mitigation.

There are many relevant matters to tell. Even if you do not test with Ingenuity we hope to inform and entertain.

Simon Mills FRSA
Managing Director

Testing Matters . . .

Misys Endorse The Ingenuity Way

For quite some time, Ingenuity has been running pre-release tests on the Misys OaSys Platform for their clients.

This testing is aimed at finding any issues relating to Monthly Updates and their follow-on implications. The execution of hundreds of extremely focused cases was once limited to post-release testing as the only viable option.

Finding the issues is only the start. Being certain that the corrective action is properly established before approaching the

developer is as important a process as finding the issues. In the past, there simply has not been sufficient time to undertake this work in time to do any more than influence a mid-month or following-month release.

Because Misys have to limit the number of "pre-release issues" and Ingenuity make certain that only properly formulated and clearly re-testable corrections are presented, Misys are able to provide Ingenuity's clients with this significant advantage.

The testing work is conducted

within a strictly controlled Quality Management Process, which has taken skilled professional testers many years to develop. As a consequence of this, Misys are able to "see" the testing which is being performed and optimise their own Quality Control procedures, in respect of Ingenuity clients. A truly win-win situation!

During 2004, the process is being extended to Household and other Classes and will be made available to new clients.

Misys AQC ~ Throw A Six To Start!

If you are not a client of Ingenuity, Misys offer a fine alternative called "AQC".

This process allows a set of cases to be run through the quote engine and produce output for the Insurer to determine whether or not they have any "problems".

Whilst this is a radically different solution from that employed by Ingenuity, it allows an Insurer to

perform checks on their products.

Currently available for Motor and with Household hot on its heels, the AQC "Test Pack" is a populated set of quotations, which allows an Insurer to commence some amount of verification.

Ingenuity can assist in showing you how to optimise this process, so that you can "throw

a six" to start on the ladders to structured testing. Contact: Phil Hampton at Misys.

AQC provides an Insurer with a serious opportunity to monitor and manage risk

So Where Do I Buy My Ingenuity Testing Tool?

"Maybe I should buy this Ingenuity tool", you might decide. "So where can I buy it?"

The answer is simple, "it" cannot be purchased as if a tool!

Ingenuity provide for their clients a very precise and focused blend of Quality Management, Structured Testing and Business Risk Analysis skill and capability. With this, we are able to conduct the testing effort to provide the

measures that enable our clients to do what they do best: manage their risk and focus on selling their products.

We do use specialist tools but, on their own and uncontrolled, they can do nothing constructive. Our specialism is in knowing which tools to use and how to deploy them to make the difference our clients require.

With all tools there is the need to employ craftsmen before the best results can be obtained



A Large Piece of Cheshire and a Slice Of Single Gloucestershire

Pre-release testing is the name of the game. Why?

Provided it is properly controlled, it can provide insight into the behaviour of a forthcoming release.

This insight can be most helpful if it provides the confidence which is desired.

Why do you test? We test in order to provide confidence that the system carrying our clients business is doing so with the minimum amount of attendant risk.

Where problems do exist, the earlier they are found, the less damaging they are to the confidence our clients enjoy with their "supplier". The earlier cohesive efforts can be brought to carry out any corrections, the happier the software suppliers are.

Cheshire Data Systems are giving Scylla a serious overhaul and have been kind enough to allow Ingenuity to have "beta" access, in order to develop a pre-release test method for our clients. The "signs" are very

good, and a business model has been developed which will allow our clients access, once the Cheshire and Gloucestershire ends of this process have completed their developments.

Watch this space!

Contact: Paul Ware or Nigel Phillips at CDL.



Simon Heads off to Siberia . . .

First the bad news, he is coming back! Why Siberia? Well, it makes a change from Washington DC, Rome, Helsinki and all of the other places Simon Mills, the MD of Ingenuity, travels to in order to teach, and to listen to the goings on in the world of System Testing.

"As professionals, we must contribute to and keep ahead of our specialism".

Participating on the world stage is nothing new to Simon and Ingenuity.

Siberia is for Relaxation, after giving master-classes to a group of testers in St Petersburg ~ a series set to run over the next year or so.

Relaxation? Yes, while most people head for the sun, Simon is more likely to be heading for colder climates or anywhere

which has good museums of aviation!

"As professionals, we must contribute to and keep ahead of our specialism" ~ wherever it takes us!

Give a Dog a Bone

Yes, it is another story of pre-release testing!

With the reasons and the benefits mentioned in other parts of this newsletter it would be wrong not to mention, last but by no means least, **Sirius!**

When asked by Paul Jones of Insurance technology provider, Sirius Financial Systems, if we would participate in their own development of a pre-release

testing capability, we happily joined the experiment on behalf of Allianz Cornhill.

As this newsletter is being written, we are moving headlong into using the pre-release testing which the Sirius development provides, to extend even more of our work into the earliest possible phase of production.

For more information, contact: Paul Jones at Sirius. 0121 779 8400

Why "give a dog a bone"?

The first correct answer gains the winner a fine "Ingenuity" lap top bag!

Answers to: simon@ingenuitytest.co.uk





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The Testing Practice ...

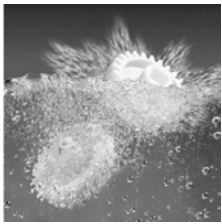
Ingenuity is the working name of a somewhat unique group of people brought together by Simon Mills over a period of some 10 years and based on more than 20 years of gathered experiences in the field of "System Testing".

Our specialism is in bringing a unique blend of Pure System Testing and Quality Management techniques, coupled with an appreciation of the Business Risk Management imperatives to bring pertinent and focused testing and quality management solutions to our clients.

In particular, we have developed the techniques to manage automated testing within exacting and hectic delivery schedules.

We underpin this with a track record of timely delivery, integrity and professionalism, where we have a highly developed ethos of "working as partners" as a way of life and not as a mask to disguise "outsourced".

Within the arena of Electronically Traded Insurance, Ingenuity have won the respect of Developers and Insurance Company Clients and earned the reputation as the place to go for a job well done.



Reach for the Remedy !

FSA Indigestion? ~ Reach for the Remedy

In the run up to "Y2K", those of us who had many years of experience as testers, set about our tasks using the skills we already had at our finger tips. Ingenuity took care of the needs of several major institutions, in terms of "Y2K Test Strategy design" and they all sailed through.

Ingenuity are staying at the front of the requirements and the discussions, so that our clients are well briefed and ready to tackle the matters which are able to be addressed by testing and quality management skills and that is just about everything!

The skills of the Professional

Tester align exactly to the processes desired to make the transition to compliance a success.

A paper has already been written which sets out the minimum that an Insurer should expect from their testing and verification processes. It is, however, a "working document" and will be revised as the needs of compliance become more precisely understood. The current document is available from Ingenuity on request.

Of course, you may prefer Indigestion!

"The skills of the Professional Tester align exactly to the processes desired to make the transition to compliance a success."