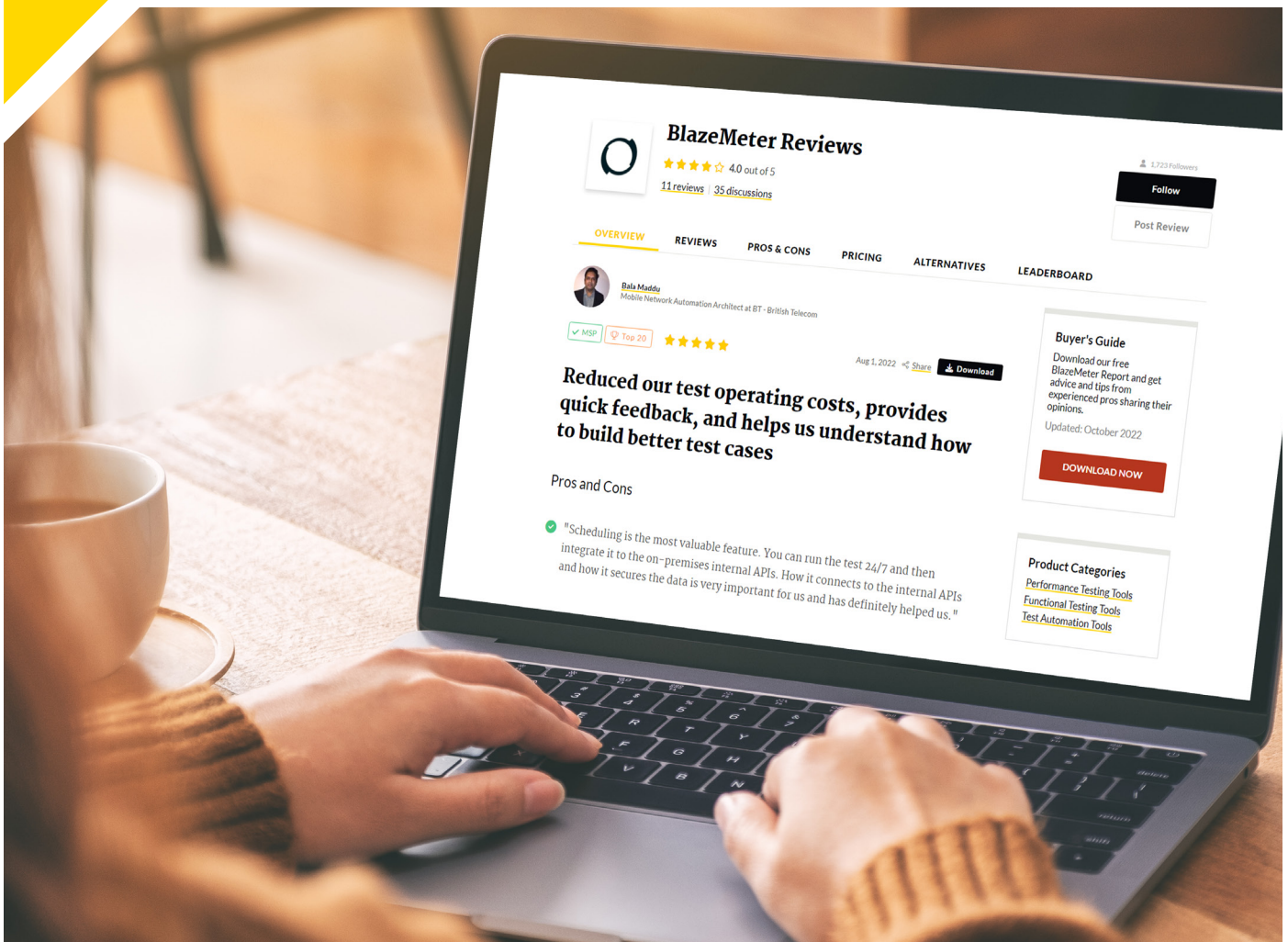


PeerPaper™ Report 2022

Based on real user reviews of BlazeMeter

Five Advantages Your Peers are Discovering with Continuous Testing



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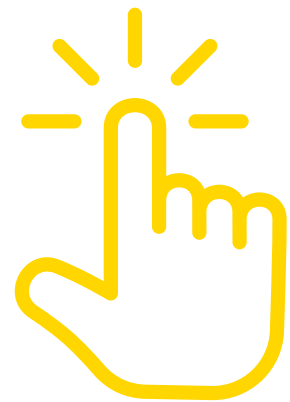
Introduction

The accelerating pace of software development, combined with the increasingly complex nature of applications, have made continuous testing a best practice to ensure reliability, optimal user experience and security in production. This paper explores the qualities required for an effective continuous testing solution, based on the experiences of real users of BlazeMeter by Perforce. It also reveals the five most compelling advantages these users have experienced with continuous testing. As shared in reviews on PeerSpot, these include being able to bridge agile methodologies and the Center of Excellence (CoE), shifting left, and testing on the fly.

Overview of Pressures on Dev and Test That Argue for Continuous Testing

Software makers of every stripe face a host of new pressures in the software development process. Now, more than ever, customers expect new features and updates to come out on a rapid cycle. Competition pushes software makers to release new code as often as every day, or in some cases, multiple times a day.

Quality must not suffer as the tempo of releasing picks up. Nor may costs be allowed to increase. To reconcile these conflicting forces, software teams are adopting continuous testing practices. With continuous testing, it is possible to perform rigorous tests—cost effectively—no matter how quickly the development process is moving. Continuous testing also enables the many varied stakeholders in the modern software development process to be confident that any software being released has been subject to thorough quality assurance (QA) steps.



Easy Adoption

Qualities of an Effective Continuous Testing Solution

What makes for an effective continuous testing solution? According to PeerSpot members, continuous testing works best when the solution offers a range of test tools. Cloud deployment capabilities help, as do ease of adoption and the ability to create test data.

Offers a Range of Test Tools

Software testing necessarily involves multiple types of tests. Continuous testing must therefore enable a range of test tools. A QA Automation Engineer at a company with over 200 employees spoke to this need, saying he was pleased that BlazeMeter “includes a broad range of test tools, including functional tests, performance tests, API testing, etc.” A QA Automation & Perform Lead (C) at Canadian Tire, a retailer with over 10,000 employees, likewise remarked, “We have a very high opinion of the range of test tools the solution provides. It has a great deal of potential and we are just scratching the surface of it currently.”

“In terms of the range of test tools, when there are API calls we can do automation testing, functional testing, performance testing, and use Mock Services to create a situation that the APIs are down,” said a Service Virtualization Developer at a tech services company with over 10,000 employees. He added, “We are able to handle everything that has to do with APIs. Whatever we have to test—the functionality, the behavior—we are able to do so with the help of BlazeMeter.”



Service Virtualization Developer
at a tech services company with
10,001+ employees



“Whatever we have to test—the functionality, the behavior—we are able to do so with the help of BlazeMeter.”

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For a Quality Assurance Manager at a financial services firm with over 10,000 employees, what mattered was BlazeMeter's support for a variety of open-source tools, like JMeter and Gatling, along with different web driver versions, such as Python and YAML. He said, "If it's open-source, BlazeMeter supports it for the most part. BlazeMeter's range of test tools is fantastic." Figure 1 depicts this capability in symbolic terms.

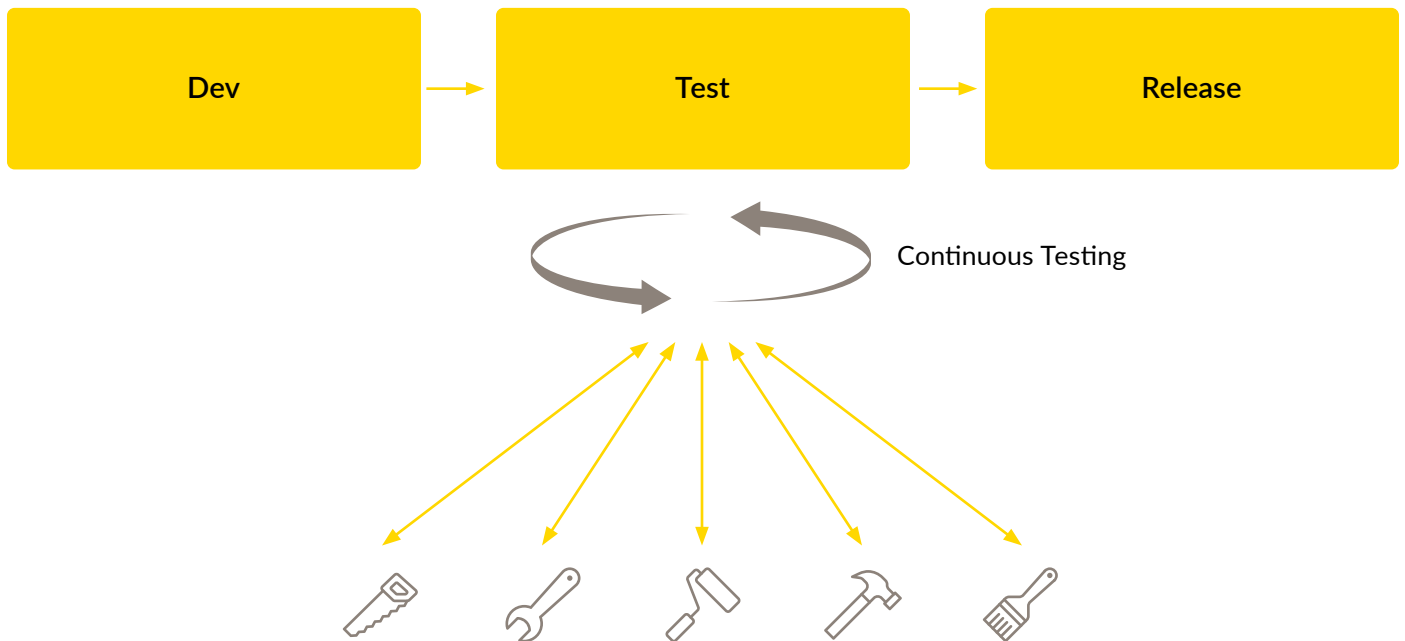


Figure 1 - Symbolic representation of support for multiple testing tools in continuous testing.



QA Automation &
Perform Lead (C)
at Canadian Tire



“Using cloud-based load generators is highly valuable to us, as we can test from outside our network and increase load generation without having to upscale our hardware as much.”

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Has Cloud Deployment Option

A continuous testing tool will ideally offer a cloud deployment option. As a Senior Engineer at CIBER, a software company with more than 5,000 employees, explained, “Providing the Cloud load generator is a good feature. We can run executions from multiple locations. Very few tools provide that.”

The QA Automation Engineer also likes that BlazeMeter is a cloud-based solution, “which gives me a single point of execution and reporting.” He felt this was a good quality for a solution to have, because, as he said, “We can take links to executed test cases and send those to developers. If they have questions, the developers can follow that link to the test and duplicate it or run the test for themselves.”

“We have six on-prem load generators on our network, and the rest of our deployment is in the cloud,” shared Canadian Tire’s QA Automation & Perform Lead. To him, this represents “a very simple architectural design.” He elaborated on the value of the cloud by saying, “Using cloud-based load generators is highly valuable to us, as we can test from outside our network and increase load generation without having to upscale our hardware as much. The cloud load generator is there when we need it and is the feature we leverage the most.”

Is Easy to Adopt

Ease of adoption stood out as an important characteristic for a continuous testing solution. Dev and test tend to be challenging enough without the added difficulty of getting team members to use new tools. According to Canadian Tire's QA Automation & Perform Lead, "We have not faced challenges in getting multiple teams to adopt BlazeMeter. We onboarded around 50 users in three quarters, which is incredible considering we had two performance testers before implementing the solution."

A Mobile Network Automation Architect at British Telecom (BT), a comms service provider with over 10,000 employees, facilitated adoption by creating a sandbox for his team, a place where they could experiment. He said, "People really wanted access to it, so I added more and more people, and the designers are now part of it."



Robinson Caiado G.
Sales Leader at Better Now



“For developers and Agile teams, it’s very helpful when we can use something quickly. That has helped a lot in the adoption.”

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“BlazeMeter is very simple,” said the tech services Service Virtualization Developer. “Even for beginners, they give some options in the Mock Services. If you’re a beginner, you can create a Mock Service and it gives you a description for each and every step. This way, beginners can easily adopt BlazeMeter.”

A Sales Leader at Better Now, a small tech services company, who acknowledged that adoption is a challenge that his team faces with every new tool or process, felt that BlazeMeter could be adopted quickly because it is easy to use. He added, “For developers and Agile teams, it’s very helpful when we can use something quickly. That has helped a lot in the adoption.”

Getting QA teams to adopt BlazeMeter has not amounted to any “significant challenges” for the financial services Quality Assurance Manager. He said, “Once most of our users actually spent time using the platform, they really enjoyed it and continued to use it.”

Enables Creation of Test Data

Testing goes better with the right quantity and quality of test data. Such data is not always available, however. There either isn't enough of it, or production data contains private information so it cannot be used. To solve this problem, it is necessary to create test data. A continuous testing solution that has this ability will be looked upon favorably.

The QA Automation Engineer described how this works. He said, "BlazeMeter can create test data for performance and functional testing. The process is pretty straightforward. You can enter data into spreadsheets or use their test data generation feature. You can create thousands of data points if you want."

The ability to create performance and functional test data is important to BT's Mobile Network Automation Architect. This is because, as he said, "We're looking at big loads of customers moving onto 5G standalone architecture. We're also looking at Narrowband IoT, machine-to-machine communications, and vehicle-to-vehicle communications."

For this user, the ease of test data creation using BlazeMeter is the best part of the solution. He went on to say, "I worked with them on the test data creation and how they provided feedback in the early days. It was really good. They have implemented it on the performance and mock services. Originally, we managed the test data on CSVs and then ran it with JMeter scripts. It was good, but the way BlazeMeter created mocks with regular expressions and the test data is quite nice. It reduced some of the challenges that we had, and managing some of the data on cloud is really good."

5 Advantages When Implementing Continuous Testing

Once in use, continuous testing provides several advantages on dev and test teams. For instance, they can bridge agile teams and Center of Excellence (COE), taking pressure off the latter for testing duties. They help with “shift left” strategies, while offering the benefits of testing on the fly. Software quality improves, too.

#1 – Bridging Agile and COE

Without the right continuous testing tool, the COE is often the “go to” resource for a variety of testing needs. At some point, this can be overwhelming for the COE. A continuous testing solution enables agile teams to do the required testing, relieving the COE of the burden. This was the case for Canadian Tire’s QA Automation & Perform Lead, whose group was leaning on the COE team for performance testing.



**Bridges
Agile and
COE teams**



Bala M.
Mobile Network Automation
Architect at BT - British Telecom



**“BlazeMeter
absolutely helps
bridge agile and
COE teams.”**

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He said, “BlazeMeter opened up performance testing for us. The solution has opened up the practice to the whole enterprise, making teams more self-sufficient, and that’s the most significant benefit. Performance testing is no longer segregated to one team.” Previously, they had been using a client-based performance testing tool. For staff to access it, they needed to remotely connect to a Windows VM and book time with that controller.

Other notable comments about bridging agile and COE include:

- “BlazeMeter absolutely helps bridge agile and COE teams.” - Mobile Network Automation Architect at British Telecom
- “It’s also very good at bridging Agile and CoE teams. One thing that we are exploring right now, to make sure it works correctly, is the integration of BlazeMeter in the continuous integration and continuous delivery journey.” - Sales Leader at Better Now, a small tech services company
- “It gives us both options. BlazeMeter is designed so that we can grant access to whoever needs it. We can grant access to developers and anyone else on an Agile team. It allows us to shift left even farther than a traditional center of excellence approach would allow us.” - Quality Assurance Manager at a financial services firm with over 10,000 employees

#2 – Shifting Left and Using Scriptless Testing

Software testing is “shifting left” today, meaning that testing occurs earlier in the development lifecycle. This makes it possible to identify and remediate problems before they get into production. Several BlazeMeter users on PeerSpot acknowledged the value of being able to shift left with continuous testing. Better Now’s Sales Leader shared, “It has definitely helped us to implement shift-left testing. By doing performance tests faster and earlier in the process, we have the opportunity to prevent performance issues in production. That aspect is very good.”

Canadian Tire’s QA Automation & Perform Lead concurred, saying, “It’s a shift-left tool, and testing comes in much earlier than in the past. BlazeMeter is a valuable asset in this regard.” Previously, they waited until a later stage in the software development lifecycle (SDLC) before running a performance check. “And now,” he said, “we’re able to implement that much earlier in the process.”



**Ability to
Build Test Data
On-The-Fly**



Robinson Caiado G.
Sales Leader at Better Now



“The Scriptless Testing functionality means we can build a performance testing team in which some members don’t need to have extreme programming or development experience.”

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BlazeMeter also earned praise for scriptless testing, a capability that offers the benefits of moving faster while enabling non-experts to participate in testing. The QA Automation Engineer explained, “Out of all the functional tests, scriptless testing has been the standout piece for my team because it’s cloud-based. It’s easy for everybody to get into the navigation, and it’s pretty intuitive. There’s a recorder that’s already built into it. It’s easy to get started writing test cases with scriptless testing.”

“The Scriptless Testing functionality means we can build a performance testing team in which some members don’t need to have extreme programming or development experience,” said Better Now’s Sales Leader. He then added, “We can create a mixed team that has professionals with great expertise and less experienced people so that we can prepare them for the future.”



Bala M.
Mobile Network Automation
Architect at BT - British Telecom



“The on-the-fly test data improved our testing productivity a lot. The new test data features changed how we test the applications because there are different things we can do.”

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#3 – Building Test Data On-The-Fly

The fast pace of dev and test today makes it advantageous to test on the fly. BT’s Mobile Network Automation Architect revealed, “The on-the-fly test data improved our testing productivity a lot. The new test data features changed how we test the applications because there are different things we can do.”

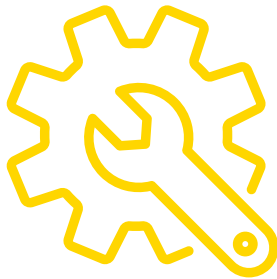
For Better Now’s Sales Leader, building test data on-the-fly helps his team increase test coverage. In their case, it has also decreased test cycle times by almost 35 percent.

Being able to build test data on-the-fly helps a Technology services specialist at a financial services firm with over 1,000 employees meet compliance standards. He said, “Real-time data helps us understand the behavior at each level of the test. So, we can define numbers that an application needs to achieve in the test to classify it as being OK or not. This data helps a lot in the real-time investigation. By looking at each level, we can identify the exact moment of degradation or break.”

BT’s Mobile Network Automation Architect uses BlazeMeter’s ability to build test data on-the-fly, which gives his team the ability to change information in the middle of a testing process. He said, “I just click on it and it opens on a web interface. I’ll update the number in my columns because CSV also displays it as a table. For us, it’s a lot easier. We don’t have to go back into Excel, open a CSA, manipulate the data, do a git check, etc.”

For him, the fly test data meets compliance standards because his team gets feedback immediately. “It’s not like they’re holding the data somewhere else,” he added. “We can also pull in the data from our own systems. It’s all encrypted, so it’s secure.”

#4 – Driving Improvements in App Quality



**Offers a
Broad Range
of Test Tools**

Done right, continuous testing should lead to better application quality. Canadian Tire’s QA Automation & Perform Lead addressed this potentiality when he said, “There is no doubt in my mind that BlazeMeter improved our software quality.” He then noted, “I don’t have a concrete figure, but I can say once we sunset our old solution, that will save us a significant amount of money on infrastructure, licensing, and maintenance. I also think there is an ROI associated purely with the increased quality of our software, thanks to BlazeMeter.”

#5 – Moving More Quickly By Using Mock Services (Virtual Services)

Continuous testing moves more quickly when testers can use mock services, also known as virtual services. Mocking is the process of creating a fake instance of a service where the actual service might be unavailable to access for testing purposes. The tester or developer uses BlazeMeter's Mock Services function for this purpose.

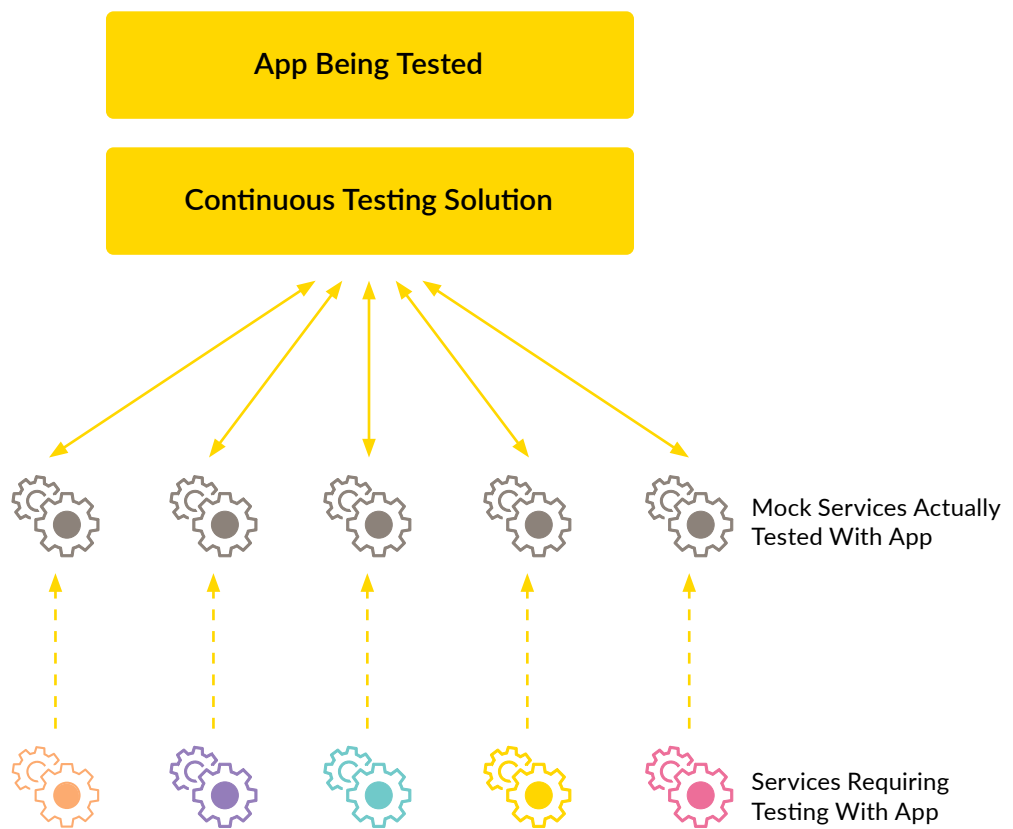


Figure 2 - Mock services being used for testing in place of actual services.



Service Virtualization Developer
at a tech services company with
10,001+ employees



“As a result of the Mock Services, the time it takes us to develop API automation is minimized.”

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A tech services company mocks up services that have not yet been delivered by third parties or are unavailable for various reasons. Instead of waiting until the actual service is ready, testers can proceed with testing using mock services. According to the Service Virtual Developer, “That means that even before getting the complete component, we can start working with something. There is no need to wait. As a result of the Mock Services, the time it takes us to develop API automation is minimized.” Figure 2 shows what this looks like.

“With the help of the Mock Services, we are overcoming everything,” said a tech services Service Virtualization Developer. “Wherever we are facing issues, whether they will be long term or temporary, by implementing the Mock Services we can bypass the faulty components that are not needed for our particular testing. In that way, we are able to reduce our cycle times.”

Mock services also enable his team to mimic the functionality of devices for testing. He framed the issue by saying, “It takes a week to create physical devices in a virtual way. Instead, with the Mock Services we are creating them in a minute, and that helps our end-to-end testing to be completed on time. The benefit of BlazeMeter’s Mock Services is that it takes us through our testing early in the cycle.”

Conclusion

Software development and releasing are not slowing down anytime soon, if ever. Testing must keep up if software development organizations want to avoid the costs and hassles of correcting problems later in production. Continuous testing offers a way forward. Making continuous testing work, however, requires the right toolset, along with people and processes. As users of BlazeMeter explain, an effective continuous testing solution is one that offers a range of test tools. It must be easy to adopt and have cloud deployment. The ability to create test data is useful, as well. Once in use, such as solution delivers a range of benefits. These include bridging agile teams and the COE, testing on-the-fly and better app quality.

About PeerSpot

PeerSpot (formerly IT Central Station), is the authority on enterprise technology. As the world's fastest growing review platform designed exclusively for enterprise technology, with over 3.5 million enterprise technology visitors, PeerSpot enables 97 of the Fortune 100 companies in making technology buying decisions. Technology vendors understand the importance of peer reviews and encourage their customers to be part of our community. PeerSpot helps vendors capture and leverage the authentic product feedback in the most comprehensive way, to help buyers when conducting research or making purchase decisions, as well as helping vendors use their voice of customer insights in other educational ways throughout their business.

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About BlazeMeter

BlazeMeter was designed and built by engineers who are passionate about open source. From mobile to mainframe, IDE or UI, BlazeMeter brings teams together on a single platform with shared visibility, tests, and reports. Developers and testers can work together, using the same tool, but focus on their level of expertise. The best part? BlazeMeter provides it all: performance, functional, scriptless, API testing and monitoring, test data, and mock services. Enterprise organizations like BT and the New York Times use BlazeMeter to prepare their applications for peak traffic events. With BlazeMeter, development teams can speed their digital transformation and shift quality left.

Visit www.blazemeter.com for a free account, to request a demo, or learn more.