

CASE STUDY: CIRCUIT CITY

The Circuit City logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a red rectangular background with vertical stripes.

OUR CLIENT

Founded in 1949, Circuit City Stores, Inc. has grown to become one of the leading consumer electronics retailers in the US. They are headquartered in Richmond, VA and have over 1500 stores in North America and Canada.

WHY THEY CAME TO US

Circuit City's IT department needed to integrate into its core operations a new retail point of sale (POS) system to replace a proprietary one written in the mid-80's.

While the new POS system, SurePOS, is Linux-based, many of Circuit City's legacy applications run on IBM iSeries computers.

WHAT WE DID

We implemented TestBench to enable the purchasing process to run smoothly and to shorten the time it takes to complete project segments.

The new point of sale project called for SurePOS to be configured as a thin-client with regionally located servers. Circuit City's IT department leased a new i5 machine and created four partitions. Each partition was loaded with copies of TestBench along with assorted modules to set up mirror images of the production environment solely for testing purposes.

The testing phase of the POS implementation project was critical to the whole project and had to be efficient. The test team defines the test criteria and then prepares a subset of the data for testing purposes using Original Software's Extractor solution. Extractor is a TestBench plug-in and enabled the team to define the structure of the live database and create database subsets that retain referential integrity—the result is perfect mini-databases for testing use.

Test scripts were then written detailing which of the dozens of tests to use on four different legacy application environments that the POS system feeds.

HOW IT WORKED OUT

As the QA work progresses, the development group's ongoing efforts to enhance the legacy applications must continue. The team use TestBench to unit-test much of their work. "The Extractor module has been enormously helpful in pulling data from tons of files to set up the data cases for testing. It has been a huge time-saver because I can take one from a year ago and use it over and over with just minor changes" says Eve Cook, Application Developer at Circuit City's headquarters.

Aside from virtually eliminating software defect, improving several different routine processes, collapsing the development test cycle for new or modified applications, and reducing costs, TestBench also delivers value in less quantifiable ways.

"Across the board, TestBench is a tremendous help in getting the whole environment stable and integrated. These tools have really helped improve my personal confidence in the test data and how tests are set up. I can focus on testing the software's functionality and don't have to worry if the environment is set up properly."

Tracy Buckley
Application Developer, Circuit City

Original Software: +44 (0)1256 338666 630-321-0092
solutions@origsoft.com www.origsoft.com

The Original Software logo consists of a red circle containing a white silhouette of a person sitting at a desk with a computer. Below the circle is a blue shadow effect.

Original Software