

TestAce CTE

TestAce™ CTE is an innovative test automation framework that interfaces with third-party telecom test tools to provide a centralized testing environment.

TestAce™ CTE allows testers to execute suites of tests on multiple tools at the click of a button.

Web-based, at-a-glance reporting and metrics provide utilization reports and detailed breakdowns of test run statistics.

TestAce™ CTE is packed with features that improve testing quality and increase equipment utilization.

Many Telecom Operators and Network Equipment Manufacturers invest heavily in expensive test simulation tools. The benefits of doing so can be considerable: they generally allow testing to be carried out more quickly, certainly at higher loads; they can isolate network elements, and create negative test scenarios to see how elements cope with failures elsewhere in the network.

But how easy is it to make the most of that investment? Those with the skills necessary to set up and use these tools can be hard to find and, although many tools have rudimentary schedulers, the reality is that most of the time these expensive assets are underused during the day and remain idle at night and during weekends. This is where TestAce comes in.

TestAce interfaces directly with multiple test simulation tools and makes executing tests with hard-to-use simulators an absolute breeze. Once you've written your test tool script, TestAce's tool interface modules allow you to run and run again at the click of a button.

TestAce's intuitive and flexible scheduling tools allow suites of tests to be run out of normal working hours, and regression sets to be run at regular times. Intelligent queuing allows tests to follow each other as soon as a suitable hardware resource becomes available – no need to guess how long a test will take in order to schedule the following one.

Scheduling tests for unattended running is all very well, but how often does an unattended test fail because something in the test network wasn't set up correctly? TestAce's answer is

to run side-scripts for checking, configuring and monitoring the Device Under Test – or any other elements in the network – before, during and after each test.

These can be used for all manner of checks – the

Key Features

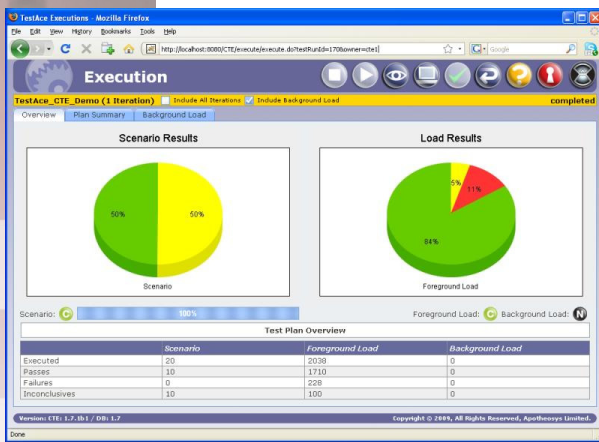
- Click-to-run execution environment
- Interfaces directly with test tools
- Controls multiple test tools simultaneously
- Advanced side-script management
- Test Import & Test Generation
- Foreground & Background Load
- HP Quality Centre integration

What is a test automation framework?

For some people "automated test" simply means one performed using a simulator rather than a handset.

For others it means an ability to schedule a test to run unattended, perhaps at night.

For us it means a well-designed, dedicated system that manages and executes suites of tests on multiple simulators, checks and configures the test network before and after tests, and collates results and logs for off-line analysis and metrics generation.



results of which are recorded along with the test results – and these give your tests a much better chance of completing successfully and drastically reduces the number of false fails.

That's only part of the story though. If you're scheduling tests to run overnight, you need to be able to come in the following morning and know that you'll have a good picture of what happened - good and bad. TestAce records everything that happens during a test, stores log files and the results of any pre or post-test checks. It's all easy to find and quick to retrieve too – TestAce's well-designed backend database structures take care of that.

Finding bugs that only appear under load can be a real headache – you need detailed logs to diagnose the problem but high load and detailed logging really don't mix. TestAce deals with this with its unique background load testing capability. Background load scripts provide the load that causes the error to happen, and then when the background conditions are right, TestAce starts the foreground tests automatically.

You can use different scripts for background and foreground and, when you're done, you can even plot the background and foreground results together so you can see exactly what effect the background load is having on your failure rate.

Key Benefits

- Increase test tool utilization
- Combine multiple tools
- Execute more tests
- Reduce false fails
- Find root causes more quickly
- Capture expert knowledge
- Limit access to complex elements
- Better test team management
- Greater lab stability
- Record every test and log file
- Testing consistency
- Effective regression testing
- Maintain testing audit trail

Tech Specs

TestAce is a Java-based web application that runs on a 1U rack mounted Linux server. User access is through a standard browser, so any user with an account can use the system without having to download any software.

TestAce has dedicated test execution interfaces for a range of commercial test tools and also supports Perl scripts and manual tests.

Contact Apotheosys for the latest list of supported test tools.

Test teams don't have to stick to just one test tool (although that's not what test tool manufacturers would like you to believe!) so we support multiple tools all at the same time - so you can use the best tool for the job. If that means using, say, a Catapult MGTS for background load and a Tektronix G35 for single-shot foreground tests - then that's just fine.

We're realistic enough to realize that test teams don't start with a clean slate – you'll have tests already written. So we've developed a test import module to enable existing test cases to be automatically imported into TestAce. It creates all the database entries and parameter lists that TestAce needs from existing test tool tests, all with minimal user intervention. It's a massive timesaver and reduces errors significantly too. On top of that we've also developed a module that generates new test tool tests from a template – this is another huge timesaver, especially for building regression test suites.

TestAce supports several mainstream test tools already – contact us for an up-to-date list. It also supports several proprietary tool interfaces, and we are always happy to

consider requests for new ones. We also offer consultancy, installation and training services. So, if you'd like to know more, contact us and we'll be happy to talk to you about your test automation needs.

Apotheosys Limited
Basepoint Business Centre
Rivermead Industrial Estate
Swindon, SN5 7EX, UK
+44 1792 602566
info@apotheosys.co.uk
www.apotheosys.co.uk

