

“Take your SAP test automation challenges head-on...and win!”

Automating **SAP** Testing with Sonata Software

Customers of large packaged ERP applications like SAP face certain unique challenges. The requirements / functionalities of ERP systems are very complex and span several silos within an organization.

To add to the inherent complexity of ERP systems, organizations customize them extensively to their internal processes and also to integrate with other internal and external systems. At the same time, SAP itself drives customers to upgrade to its newer versions and hot packs. Coupled together, these factors may affect the mission-critical functionality of SAP applications. Since no two SAP customers are exactly alike, it's difficult to predict where failures may occur.

The only way to ensure that features of the applications work as expected is to perform testing. But for an application as comprehensive and complex as SAP, it may prove to be a daunting effort from time as well as cost perspectives. However, failure to test the applications is bound to have a serious impact on an organization in terms of business interruptions and opportunity costs associated with them. And with Sarbanes Oxley regulations now in effect, penalties may go beyond mere business interruptions.

Most organizations test the applications manually for a variety of reasons -- non-availability of business analysts, tight deadlines, certain challenges posed by SAP's data dependency and mostly due to lack of experience in automated testing -- though manual testing of complex applications like SAP can be challenging. Not only does it take a long time, but the people testing the application must know what information to enter, such as account numbers, department codes, etc.

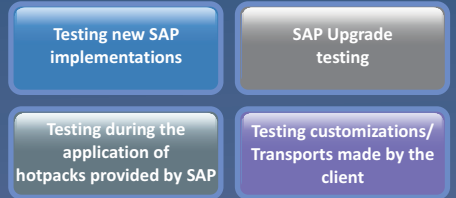
Typically, the people testing the application are from the business units rather than IT, which tends to affect their productivity. Tremendous delays due to manual testing often defer deployment of transports, OSS notes and hot packs, thereby depriving business users of the benefits of newer releases of SAP. Besides, manual testing also imposes limitations on test coverage and necessitates manual compilation of audit trails.

Hence, companies are looking for ways to effectively automate their SAP release testing. And that's where Sonata fits in.

Sonata's Credentials & Expertise

Based on an outcome-driven service model, Sonata's Testing Practice offers a compelling business proposition – cost optimization, productivity enhancement and improved software quality. Leveraging a Global Delivery Model (GDM), Sonata manages large and complex testing engagements for its customers worldwide.

Sonata is well-equipped to support SAP customers in their quest to achieve effective test automation at various stages of the application lifecycle.



Why Sonata?

Sonata has a **track record of over 15 years in implementing packaged solutions and upgrades** across multiple ERP solutions – including SAP, Oracle e-Business Suite, Axapta and Scala (Epicor) – for over 150 clients. This gives it an innate understanding of the typical business processes involved in ERP implementation, like Order-to-Cash, Requisition-to-Pay, Forecast-to-Finished Goods, Service and Support, Record-to-Report (financials), HR, etc. Additionally, it also has expertise in vendor-prescribed implementation methodologies like ASAP.

Sonata has partnered with leading enterprises to deliver effective test automation using a variety of tools, including HP Mercury. It is a **HP Software Gold Partner** for testing and has a vast experience of working with the entire range of HP tools used for test automation, such as HP Quality Center, HP Test Director and HP Performance Center. In addition, Sonata also brings in **expertise over HP Business Process Testing (BPT) suite** for packaged application testing, specifically for applications like SAP.

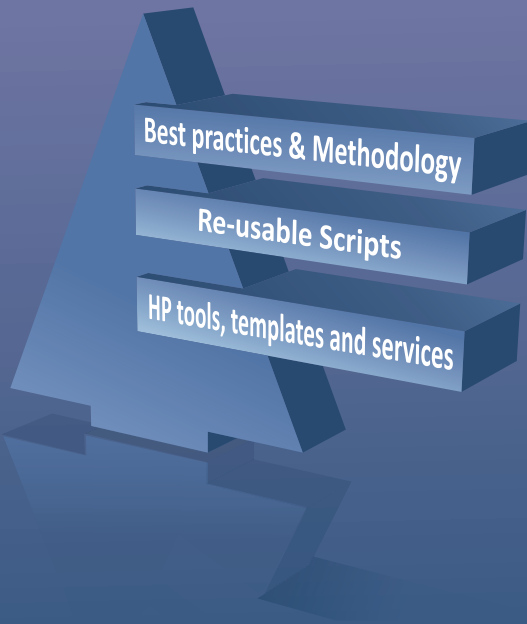
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SAP testing accelerator framework from Sonata

Sonata leverages its extensive ERP implementation experience, knowledge of HP BPT as well as cutting-edge intellectual property (IP) from our strategic alliance partner, to provide an **SAP test automation accelerator solution** that drives down the release testing cycle time by over 50%, and enables easier maintenance of the test scripts. The accelerator has been implemented successfully across several complex SAP environments across North America and Europe.

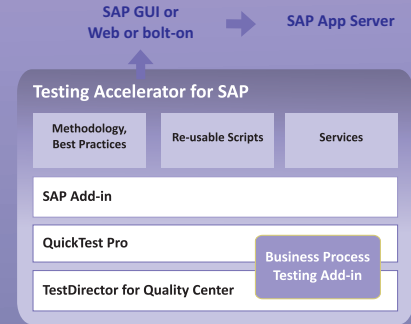
Components of the proven SAP accelerator framework include:

- A combination of the Mercury tools, templates and services
- A methodology for optimised “test design”, for SAP testing. Helps design modular components for testing a highly customized SAP environment
- Re-usable scripts across test cases and customers
- Data-driven approach to automation that ensures re-usability across multiple scenarios / test cases.
- Maintenance of these assets under TestCare program

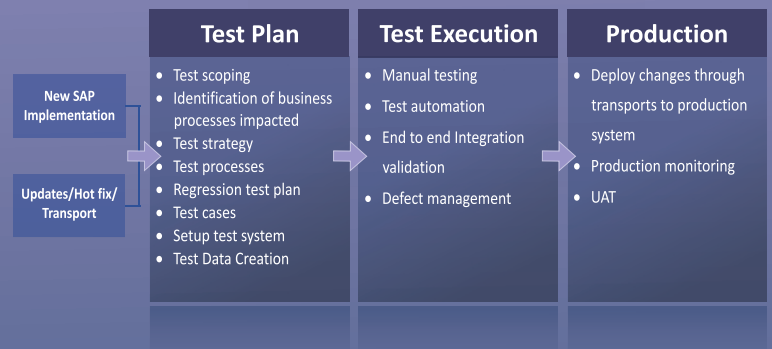


This extensible framework is deployed with services to automate both standard and custom transactions and include them in automated scenarios. SAP GUI, SAP Web, and even legacy systems such as a mainframe may be included within the scope of the deployment.

An architectural overview of the accelerator solution and how it interacts with the SAP application as well as other HP software tools, is provided below:



SAP Testing Methodology



Testing Practice @ Sonata

The SAP Testing Accelerator and SAP test automation services are a key component of Sonata’s Managed Testing Services model. Sonata’s Managed Testing Services act as a centralized and independent verification and validation arm for all application streams including SAP, providing end-to-end testing services -- right from Test Strategy to Test Planning, Test Execution, Reporting and Optimization. This translates to a complete ownership for delivering and ensuring the completeness, availability and change management of its customers’ business application landscape, managed by SLAs.

Sonata brings in deep domain knowledge to its client engagements through the experience of having worked with industry leaders in multiple domains such as Telecom, Travel, Insurance and Manufacturing. Based on mature processes, metrics-based approach and Global Delivery Capability, Sonata helps enterprises reduce operational costs to run “Business as Usual” systems. Its innovative delivery model helps enterprises identify the synergies across application streams, enabling effective resource-sharing and re-usability of test artifacts, while ensuring visibility of the end-to-end process flow spanning multiple applications.

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