

CASE SUMMARY

Compliance demands software that is as reliable, rugged and as error free as possible

Compliance issues are high on the agenda for every IT manager, especially within the finance sector and the operational risk requirements of the Basel II Capital Accord in particular are highly pertinent.

Testing is crucial in ensuring failsafe software, and it is up to IT managers to persuade the rest of the organisation to take testing seriously and give it the investment it deserves.

LDRA works hard to provide the right tools to ensure that software is as reliable, rugged and as error free as possible. The company provides analysis and testing tools to major financial institutions, helping them to create robust and dependable systems that meet critical standards and reduce the risk of failure. One such company LBS West, has been using the LDRA tool suite for 10 years:

LBS West improves service while reducing testing time by 75% and development time by 25%

LBS West in Germany (Westdeutsche Landesbausparkasse) is a market leader in the German housing finance market, with around 2 million customers and 43% of the market. LBS West is committed to providing an efficient and customer-focused service and as such, constantly reviews its IT provision to ensure customers are provided with the best possible service.

In 1995 LBS West introduced the LDRA tool suite and has been using it on IT projects ever since to test native and hosted applications, provide a benchmark for 3rd party/contractor software verification, test date-critical systems such as annual statements and analysis of back office applications. LBS West has included the LDRA tool suite in all new developments ensuring it is an integral part of the development process.

LDRA Headquarters

Portside, Monks Ferry, Wirral, CH41 5LH, UK

✉: info@ldra.com ☎: +44 (0)151 649 9300

Benefits

Faults in many of LBS West's systems have now been reduced to an absolute minimum and 3rd party software products are now tested (with the LDRA tool suite) to stringent LBS standards before nearing the "go live" stage.

"With 2 million customers all waiting for documents at the same critical time, it is crucial LBS operates at maximum effectiveness" comments Heinz Langer of LBS West. "Having tested the particular computer systems using LDRA Testbed we can be confident that when we require critical systems to work at their maximum potential they will."

Development time, maintenance costs and testing time have seen a dramatic reduction since using the LDRA tool suite. The quality of all applications (including those of 3rd parties which are thoroughly tested using the tool prior to implementation) has also shown significant improvement.

Achieving Return on Investment

Acknowledging that ROI is often hard to quantify, LBS West nevertheless initially estimated that return on investment from saved maintenance effort on its new back office system, would cover its investment in the LDRA tool suite within two years. Heinz Langer was pleased that savings were seen much sooner than that:

"After using the tools for acceptance tests we estimated that the savings gained from reducing testing time were already greater than the tool cost. For the development of particular systems I observed that the development time was reduced by about 25% and the testing time by about 75%, as well as the quality of testing and coding increasing."

LBS West has become the market leader within its sector by providing a superior customer focused service.

LDRA has worked with many other companies in the finance sector including: Nat West, AIB Group, Sparkassen, Den Danske Bank, ING BBL, Hamburgische Landesbank and more. LDRA has 30 years' experience of providing automated analysis and testing tools for mission critical software applications in the finance, aerospace, defence, nuclear and automotive sectors.



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