



Micro Focus Service Virtualization for ERP

The Problem

Greater complexity in software development and testing has become inevitable with developers and testers facing a range of challenges, including compressed release cycles in fast-moving iterations and agile sprints, as well as delays from limited or no access to services and application components. Challenges like these reduce the probability of success for their projects. These problems are then amplified with enterprise resource planning (ERP) and other large-scale, modularized software systems.

With ERP platforms, dozens of modules are interdependent upon one another for data exchange, processing, and other core functions. An ERP system may also need to interact with software platforms running on the systems of external partners, and the challenge of testing in a service-oriented environment can appear overwhelming.

One of the most prevalent challenges occurs when multiple testers are working in the same test beds. It's nearly impossible for them to perform their tests effectively if they cannot change data to perform different tests, and yet doing so is almost certain to negatively impact the activities of other testers.

The Solution

Service virtualization resolves all these challenges.

With Micro Focus Service Virtualization, companies like SAP (a leading ERP platform) are able to ensure developers and testers do not encounter these problems. This solution enables staff to simulate real-world conditions as they create, develop, and test complex composite applications. In this way, they can reduce defects while significantly shortening software development cycles and reducing cost overruns.

With Micro Focus Service Virtualization, developers are able to construct complex simulations of software in development, allowing them to create virtual representations that incorporate all the components and dependent systems involved. Whether accessed in-house or through the cloud, development and testing teams can simulate behavior and performance characteristics for an application. They can even run tests with large data volumes to mimic real-world conditions.

With these virtual services in place, barriers associated with testing on a live system are eliminated. Business and data services can be tested at 24/7, without restrictions due to compliance, security, or capacity issues. And with Micro Focus Service Virtualization, third-party components that may not otherwise be available for testing or would result in expensive pay-per-transaction costs can be simulated.

The End Result

Implementing service virtualization for ERP, SAP, or even stand-alone software cannot 100% guarantee that a production error will never occur. What it will do is expedite service testing, enable teams to scale their testing exponentially to explore unlimited scenarios, and increase productivity and test coverage within the same resource pool.

For SAP and other ERP platforms—and for that matter, any software ecosystem that involves communication among a myriad of enterprise departments and potentially trading/business partners—seamless, efficient, any-to-any data exchange is becoming paramount to operability. Service virtualization is the only testing solution that can meet that challenge.

