

# Selecting a Load Testing Tool

How to get what you want and need...

# Agenda

- Introduction
- RFP Process
- Bringing the tool in
- Experiences and conclusions after 4 year

# Introduction

- Worker's Compensation Board of BC
- Crown Corporation
  - Formal RFP process
  - Existing Processes
  - Wide Variety of Hardware and software
  - Existing Testing Software (Rational) is available.
- Bad Experience with Auto Testing - Shelfware

# RFP Process

- Very Formal!
- Developed a questions list
- Sent them out to CompuWare, Mercury, Rational and Segue.

# RFP: Question List

- Location
- Support
- Financial
- References
- Platforms
- Data Capture
- Reporting
- Scripting
- Other

# RFP Results

- CompuWare, Segue and Rational responded
- Mercury did not > Under the rules of the RFP we could not pursue them further
- The respondents did give demos
- Rational did a pilot
- Rational was the choice

# What we learned from this experience

- Some perceived important things were not:
  - Amount of VU users
  - Protocol Support
  - Integration with Rational Functional Testing
  - Consulting
  - Location in town

# What I did not like

- The shackles of the RFP
- The RFP was lumped in with monitoring tools
- Could not evaluate LR



# Bring in in the tool

- Bad experience with Automated Testing
- Aim to embed this
- Budget for tool was the easy part
- Budget for developing procedures the hard part
- Budget 480.000\$ 280.000\$ for hardware and software

# Technical embedding

- 2 agents 4-way pentium xeon with 4 GB each
- In tech lab, now in computer room
- Initially still with token ring
- Later on separate switch straight on the backbone
- Network recording caused secadmin to go nuts
- Later we moved set up to segments closer to the servers
- For N-Tier even with 2 NICS
- Problems with NTLM/Kerberos
- Informix, IBM DB2 stored procedures, Mixing DCOM and SQL in 1 scenario, PeopleSoft
- All sorts of VB utilities to make life easier

# Procedure embedding

- User Procedures manual: Standards, locations, security rules etc.
- System procedures manual: Install etc.
- Performance test manual
  - first testers would do the perf test design
  - To educate people

# Training materials

- For managers, testers, SA, PM, Perf testgroup etc.
- No interest whatsoever.

# Further activities

- Making sure that PT gets budgeted
- 1 sheet flyer
- Talking to PMs
- Presenting for Test Leads, Developers, PMs
- Developing a quick and easy spreadsheet for budget determination
- Writing issues for projects (Test leads are now on board)

# What worked

- Systems procedure manual
- Performance testing manual
- The marketing/bugging PMs
- The technology part
- I got to be the go-to perf guy

# What did not

- Testers doing test design (still separate group)
- We never used 1000 Vus
- Informix never used anymore
- Performance Testing Manual never used outside the group
- User procedure manual: Not used by us because we know
- Training material hardly ever used