

CONTINUOUS DELIVERY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Fine tune your approach to assurance, testing, and deployment with Acutest

Acutest's Continuous Delivery Assurance Framework (CDAF) provides you with the flexibility required for long-term success. It helps you find defects immediately after errors are made during the design and development phase of your project. And it enables you to deploy fully- tested releases on demand. Our customers make releases more quickly and have high-quality, error free services in production as a result.

By adopting CDAF, your programmes will gain an automated assurance capability and improve delivery. You will save resource in every release and have fewer defects during the formal phases of testing and acceptance, as well as in the production stages.

CDAF will help you define and implement a full-lifecycle way of working based on a framework. It is aligned to our Agile and BDD test scripting approaches and uses a mixture of our own open source, low-cost tools, and where appropriate, your existing or proprietary tools. This minimises the cost and maximises return on investment. It also avoids expensive annual maintenance fees to third parties.



"CDAF (Continuous Development Assurance Framework) is the most mature, working, and practical implementation of continuous delivery I have seen."

*Nick Wadge, EMEA Chief
Technology Officer, Nomura*

NOMURA

Assurance approach

Our flexible approach is designed to test any application by establishing a single source of accurate real-time reporting. We do this by creating a shared understanding repository using workflow tools such as Jira, Azure DevOps or Microfocus ALM.

Our approach starts with a key stakeholder workshop to gain a clear understanding of your organisation's priorities. This will determine the selection of the ways of working for the next levels which are:



Developing propositions describing priorities and the definition of success



Developing stories and associated scenarios describing the product/service behaviour



Evaluating scenarios for automated testing, ensuring the fastest, most efficient testing

The key to successful assurance is automating time-consuming work to create a minimum set of tests for maximum benefit. A vital part of this process is to carefully review and approve the stories and scenarios to identify and fix any potential defects before development takes place. This approach to finding defects early ensures.

Acutest Principles and Approach

Our three main principles guide Acutest practice, these are:



Fail fast

Identify the imminent risks or blockers



Begin with the big risks

Start with the areas that have most impact



See through the customer's eyes

Your project, your success



CDAF components

Our CDAF approach encompasses two elements:

- **Ways of working** – to ensure that the right tasks are done the right way in the right order
- **Adaptive technical framework** – providing the capability to keep everything under change control, manage the process, set up the environment, execute the automated tests and report the results.

Ways of working

We use the best practices associated with working releases to ensure speed and efficiency. These vary depending on objectives and requirements of the services being delivered. Every technique is based on the Acutest principles and are proven with existing Acutest customers.

These ways of working mean we focus on the most important elements of delivery and that the elements are well specified and designed. Linking this approach to the tests ensure that when the tests pass, the service works.

Adaptive technical framework

This is the test tooling components and automation framework. As standard practice, CDAF interacts with the system under test using public domain test tools and page objects and fixtures. The automated tests work irrespective of your chosen development methodology, including waterfall deliveries, agile development, hybrid projects and subcontracted work.

CDAF can be used as a part of continuous delivery and integration of applications, or for frequent testing of larger IT releases to remove any surprises prior to deployment. For organisations with pre-existing test automation tools, we will work with these where we can, and for those without our Acutest Accelerator provides a ready to deploy toolset for speed of deployment.

The automated framework enables tests to be run through the development lifecycle. It provides insightful management information of testing performance and monitoring you can choose to run the tests on demand, individual, in groups or altogether.

During the final stages of delivery, you can run test frequently to assure end to end integration and acceptance. You can run your tests immediately before deployment to live, and on your live services to ensure they're working correctly.

What are the measurable benefits of CDAF?

You will be able to make working releases faster and with less effort and see a dramatic reduction of defects in late stages of testing (more than 90% per cent). There will also be minimal rework and you'll gain the capability to make releases at a moment's notice. Using CDAF, you will see far fewer incidents during live service.

Why Acutest and Trustmarque?

In April 2021, Acutest joined Trustmarque, adding their testing expertise to Trustmarque's 30+ years IT transformation consultancy, provides an unrivalled option for those wanting to increase the pace, precision, and impact of digital transformation. Acutest is a market-leading testing and quality assurance provider with a rich history of helping customers with their digital transformation and change projects.