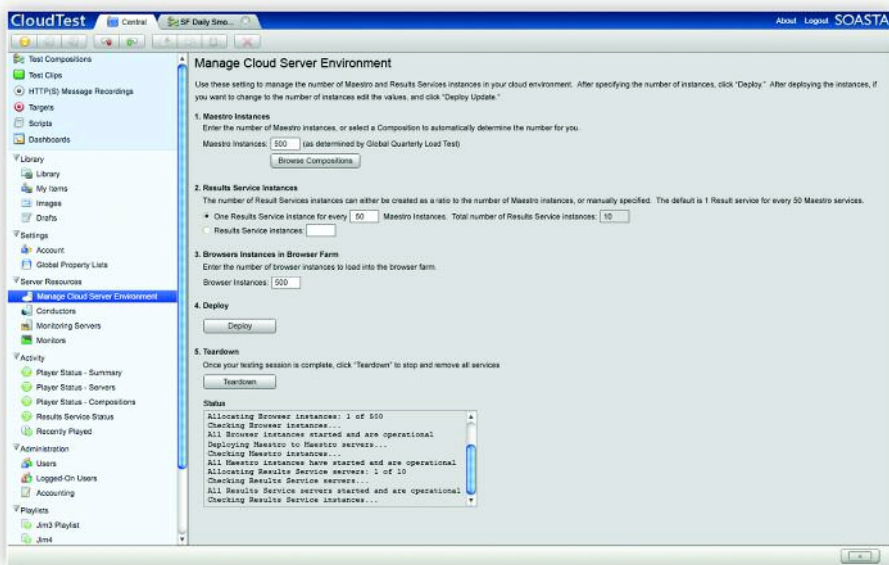


SOASTA Keeps 'Em Down On the BrowserFarm



Whether you're using multiple cloud-service providers or just one, BrowserFarm adds real-browser loads to their virtual ones.

Cloud testing company SOASTA on March 11 introduced BrowserFarm, which combines the virtual load generated by its CloudTest On-Demand service with that of real browsers. According to the company, the feature enables more realistic validation of the "last mile client-side experience of Web systems." Introductory pricing through June 11 is set at US\$500 for a 500-browser performance test.

The advantage of using real browsers for testing, according to SOASTA CEO Tom Lounibos, is that it allows testers "to understand what could lead to abandoned shopping carts, poor user experience or frozen transactions..." The system can simulate geographically dispersed loads from thousands of instances

of Linux- and Windows-based browsers running various application technologies, combined with hundreds of thousand of virtual instances. This gives testers "the flexibility to measure end-user experience regardless of a user's location or browser choice," he said.

The BrowserFarm release comes on the heels of the Feb. 18 launch of CloudTest Global Platform, a cloud-based load and performance testing and analysis tool that works atop cloud platforms from 3Tera, Amazon, Enomaly and Rackspace and streams performance data to user dashboards in real time. Pricing for the service starts at \$1,000 per test-hour, including all underlying platform costs, tools and results analysis.

Don't Lose Sleep Over Software Assets

A service launched in early March by software governance solutions company Protecode might help testers sleep better at night.

The Software IP Audit is a service that the company says can be particularly helpful to companies that for example

are in the process of a merger or acquisition, product introduction, demand for IP indemnity or are about to commercialize a research project. It serves to identify licensing and copyright attributes of open source and other software assets of an enterprise, and reports relevant obligations, similarities between two code sets and other attributed of binaries or source code. Pricing was not disclosed.

Regression Test In A Browser Sandbox

When testing requires closer proximity to a browser than provided by some far-flung cloud, there's a way you can keep it virtual and still have it running on your desktop. Xenocode on Feb. 23 unveiled Browser Sandbox, a free tool that permits any number of different browsers or browser versions to be executed on a single Windows machine at the same time. Regression testing never had it so good.

Regular readers might recall coverage on these pages of Virtual Application Studio, Xenocode's US\$40-per-seat tool that turns any application into a self-contained executable, able to be e-mailed or transported on a USB drive to run on any modern Windows PC without so much as touching the registry. Browser Sandbox lets you do the same thing with browsers, and download and launch them right from the Web.

Browser Sandbox is available now at www.xenocode.com/browsers, where you're also find "sandboxed" versions of IE 6, 7 and 8, FireFox 2 and 3, Chrome, Opera and Safari.

Real-Time Klocwork

Klocwork, which makes automation tools for source code analysis, has joined with real-time operating system developer ENEA Embedded Technology to create a version of Klocwork Insight intended to simplify the validation of software for aviation and other safety-critical systems.

Insight is Klocwork's flagship source code analysis tool for C/C++, C# and Java that works from within many integrated development environments, permitting "developers to check in bug-free code," according to the company. If you're responsible for command and control systems such as those in avionics, you'll also need to conform to the FAA's DO-178B specification, which defines coding standards for fail-safe systems. Thanks to the partnership, users of the tool, combined with ENEA's DO-178B expertise, will allow organizations to "achieve credit for numerous objectives of DO-178B certification."

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