



# Octopus

## Automated Testing Control System



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## Tenfold Acceleration, Or Installation Testing With Octopus

Testing the installation of every issued solution build has always been considered a torture for testers and at the same time a perfect training that improves such vital QC engineer qualities as thoroughness and persistence.

### Why So Difficult?

First of all, installation testing is very complicated involving from dozens to hundreds of test steps.

Second, there are lots of setup modules.

Third, the setup modules of every product build must be tested at least in eight systems: Microsoft® Windows® XP with Service Packs 1, 2, 3, .NET 1.1, 2.0, 3.5, 4.0. Taking into consideration the requirement to carry out testing in English and German you get a great deal of tests!

Fourth, for eight systems you need at least eight virtual PCs, which requires up to 50 GB of disc space. Besides, it is important to take care of snapshots to ensure that you have the proper environment. The enormous amount of all above mentioned details makes it quite difficult...

It all results in long and routine manual testing. To test the setup module of one (!) product build manually an experienced tester needs two and a half days, which is 20 working hours! And what if there is more than one build issued during the day, which actually is often the case?

### The Rise of Automation

With the introduction of Octopus (although it was called differently at the time), everything changed as if by magic! It took Octopus 2 hours to test one build setup module!

As soon as Team Foundation Server (Microsoft Visual Studio® 2008), the version control system used in our company, has sent a notification that a new build is ready, the testing starts immediately. If the developers team issues new builds before the previous build has been tested, the new build is automatically queued to be tested later. There may be several builds in the queue; or you may assign a higher priority to some of the queued builds so that they are tested in the first place. Every bug is automatically reported to the bug tracking system; as soon as it is fixed in the next builds, it is automatically closed by the system.

Octopus means liberation from routine for a QC engineer. A tester may devote his efforts to other tasks with a higher priority while the system continues testing issued builds and developers receive up-to-date uniform comprehensible reports.



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