

Netezza

TYING TOGETHER THE ENTIRE BUILD AND TEST PROCESS



FAST FACTS

NYSE: NZ

HQ: Marlborough, MA

Founded: 2000

Netezza, the global leader in data warehouse and analytic appliances, enables business users across the extended enterprise to leverage the power of high-performance analytics on all their data, simply and affordably. The Netezza family of appliances brings appliance simplicity to a broad range of complex data warehouse and analytic challenges.

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— **Dick Wallace,**
Technology Director,
Internal Development Tools,
Netezza

SITUATION:

PROVIDE CUSTOMERS WITH INNOVATIVE SOFTWARE UPDATES -- ON SCHEDULE AND BUG FREE.

Netezza Corporation sells the Netezza TwinFin™ appliance, a product that integrates database, server and storage platforms in a purpose-built unit to enable detailed queries and analyses on large volumes of stored data. The results of these queries and analyses, often referred to as business intelligence, provide organizations with actionable information to improve their business operations.

Core to the mission of Netezza is to provide reliable, innovative software updates to its customers so that they can take full advantage of their investment in business intelligence appliances. Consequently, Netezza has a large team of developers in the United States and India working around the clock in order to ensure an effective and sustainable data-analysis platform.

BUSINESS ISSUE:

HELP A GEOGRAPHICALLY DISPERSED DEVELOPMENT TEAM AUTOMATE ITS BUILD-TEST-DEPLOY PROCESS.

To keep pace with the software production requirements of the growing Netezza product line, Netezza had two full-time software release engineers spending the majority of their time running builds. At the same time, Netezza's internal development executives realized that the homegrown build and test scripts the release team was using would soon not be able to keep pace with future needs, so it began defining requirements for a fully automated build-test-deploy process and hands-off Continuous Integration.

SOLUTION: **AUTOMATE THE BUILD-AND TEST PROCESS WITHOUT GETTING RID OF EXISTING SCRIPTS.**

Realizing that it would take too long to build a custom, in-house solution that met their requirements, Netezza's Technology Director of Internal Development Tools, Dick Wallace, conducted an exhaustive search of the built-test-deploy tools market. His team then built a feature-comparison matrix of solutions that included both commercial and open source tools. Finally, the team narrowed its options down to Electric Cloud's ElectricCommander® and a commercial Continuous Integration server for a head-to-head product evaluation.

During the month-long implementation of the two products, ElectricCommander outperformed the other in several key areas, including the ease with which ElectricCommander could adapt existing scripts into an automated infrastructure and the ability to create a unit test database and capture test output to a dashboard. "We shortlisted ElectricCommander because it topped the critical features-and-functions list created by our development team," said Mr. Wallace. "But our final decision became obvious when ElectricCommander outperformed the alternative on several key metrics in a head-to-head test."

RESULTS: **RELEASE ENGINEERS FREED FOR MORE STRATEGIC TASKS.**

Compared to its homegrown build and test environment, ElectricCommander reduced Netezza's software build times from days to hours and freed up release engineering personnel to focus on more strategic tasks. ElectricCommander automates both phases of the build and test process at Netezza. Phase one consists of running the build and completing unit and smoke tests; the second phase consists of system tests. Netezza was able to utilize ElectricCommander to "tie everything together" in a seamless process. Developers are able to use the system directly with

no involvement from Release Engineers, making both groups more efficient. ElectricCommander also provided Netezza with a fully automated software production environment to conduct hands-off Continuous Integration through its integration with the AccuRev® SCM system.

Netezza's globally distributed development team is able to achieve greater efficiencies with ElectricCommander, including a greater ability to maintain tight production schedules for its appliances by building and testing across all clients and identifying potentially-costly issues as early as possible in the development process.

ABOUT ELECTRIC CLOUD

Electric Cloud® is the leading provider of Software Production Management (SPM) solutions. Electric Cloud solutions automate, accelerate, and analyze software build-test-deploy processes to optimize both physical and virtual IT environments. The company's patented and award-winning products help development organizations to speed time to market, boost developer productivity, and improve software quality. Leading companies across a variety of industries, including semiconductors, enterprise IT, ISVs, mobile devices, and transactional web sites rely on Electric Cloud's Software Production Management solutions to transform software production from a liability to a competitive advantage. To learn more please contact Electric Cloud at (408) 419-4300 or www.electric-cloud.com.

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