Not All Cloud Testing Tools Are Created Equal

February 2014
The cloud’s arrival in testing land

The advent of the cloud has brought with it a myriad of testing tools ready to help us do our jobs more effectively and efficiently. There are many advantages to using cloud-based testing tools as opposed to installed options:

- **Intuitive design.** Cloud-based tools are often more user-friendly in terms of their interfaces and functionality.
- **Simpler collaboration.** Because cloud-based tools aren’t installed on a specific machine, it’s easier to share tests and results with other people.
- **Increased scalability.** Cloud-based tools allow you to run more tests at a time than is possible with installed solutions, without purchasing additional software or hardware.
- **Flexible access.** Since most cloud-based applications are web-based, you can connect to them from any browser on any mobile device.
- **Ongoing support.** While installed solutions tend to be updated only rarely, cloud-based solutions are constantly under development, offering more features automatically to users rather than locking them away in new versions that must be purchased.

These advantages may also bring with them cost savings, as cloud-based licenses tend to be cheaper than those for installed tools, and as they typically don’t require the purchase of additional hardware.

Of course, not all tools offer the same services. Let’s take a look at some of the different types of cloud-based testing tools and weigh the pros and cons of each.

**Manual Test Managers**

Do you still track your manual tests and their results in a spreadsheet? With a manual test manager, you can take that same information and move it to the cloud.

Manual test managers offer a fresh way for you to create your manual tests, assign them to users, and have your users log their results, all within a browser-based application. Most manual test management applications also allow you to compile results to create graphs and reports, making it easy to see how your application is performing at a glance.

**Pros**

- Easily access your manual tests and results from any web browser.
- Instantly create graphs and reports based on results.
- User management is typically included, so you don’t have to hunt down testers and compile their results via email.
Cons

- Only manages manual tests and results. Doesn’t incorporate automated tests or accommodate continuous integration.

Sample applications in this category

- qTest
- TestWave

Automated Test Extenders

Do you have automated tests that you run in-house on your own machines but want to expand your coverage by running more tests in parallel? Automated test extenders allow you to connect to their servers in the cloud so that you don’t need to purchase more hardware in order to scale your automated testing efforts.

Most extenders allow you to run multiple tests at the same time to help you complete your test runs in a more timely fashion. They also typically allow you to run your tests in various browsers on various operating systems so that you can see how your application performs for more of your client base.

Pros

- Provides easy scalability for your already written automated tests.
- You can see the results of those test runs using any browser on any device.

Cons

- No test management functionality.
- They don’t save your tests and allow you to replay them later.
- No manual test creation or management.

Sample applications in this category

- Sauce Labs

Automated and Manual Test Runners and Managers

The third category of cloud-based testing tools is the “Jack of all trades” of the group. Automated and manual test runners and managers allow you to create, run, and manage both automated and manual tests in the cloud.

Tools in this category encompass all of the features of the other two categories combined and also enable you to create and manage automated tests in the cloud as well. Since your automated tests are stored in the cloud, you can schedule them to run whenever you’d like and have the results emailed to you. You can even view your automated results and your manual results in the same application and generate reports that include both.
Pros

- Encompasses all of the features of the other two categories combined
- Allows users to create and manage their automated tests from any browser on any device.
- Can schedule automated tests to run automatically and send results via email.
- Typically have nothing to install and no infrastructure to setup.

Cons

- Can import Selenium tests, but can’t import other types of tests yet.

Sample applications in this category

- Tellurium

About Us

**About Tellurium**

Tellurium ([www.te52.com](http://www.te52.com)) is an innovative cloud-based solution for test management and for manual and automated testing of web applications. Its built-in collaboration tools allow teams of any size to test more efficiently, thoroughly, and affordably using any OS or device — anytime, anywhere. With its patent pending “Plain English” scripting language, support for multiple testing methodologies, collaborative design, and advanced reporting capabilities, Tellurium helps users across industries ensure website functionality and quality throughout the development lifecycle.

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