

SOFTWARE

Sogeti applies process improvement to testing

By Gordon Smith

TWO thirds of companies using testing services experience better production quality, better software quality and a reduction in costs. More organisations are also interested in process improvement within the testing community.

That's according to a testing expert who spoke at a recent 'keep fit' testing seminar in Dublin. Stephen Hyland, test services manager with Sogeti Ireland, said the current business climate was forcing organisations to get maximum business value from their software applications. "Consequently, rapid delivery and greater software quality continue to become more important and the risks of insufficient software quality also become greater," he said.

"Testing is one of the most important activities an organisation can undertake as forewarned is forearmed. Based on this insight, organisations can make informed decisions about whether to take software into operation or identify what measures are needed before that can happen."

Sogeti has developed a model called the Test Process Improvement (TPI). Sogeti claims this is different from other process improvement models in that it is specifically for testing. It allows businesses to implement a step-wise improvement to testing processes and helps to determine the strong and weak points of an organisation's current test process.

TPI then supports the setting up of realistic proposals for the improvement of the test process and Sogeti's TPI consultants work with a company's personnel to identify



Stephen Hyland, Sogeti

areas for improvement.

A survey of Sogeti clients including Nokia, Philips and BMW showed that 66pc believe that TPI leads to better software quality and less failures in production. Also, 81pc believe that TPI enhances control of the test process. Sogeti specialises in testing and quality assurance related activities. Sogeti's testing services include test management, test execution, test automation and managed test services.

Sogeti offers each organisation a

tailor-made test approach for its specific situation that uses the Test Management Approach (TMap) methodology to ensure a structured approach. As well as providing a structure to the test processes, Sogeti also offers test professionals who are all accredited in the ISEB Foundation level of Software Testing from Test and QA Managers to Test and QA Analysts.

"Sogeti's managed test services offering can take the pain of testing away completely by using the right blend of onshore, nearshore and offshore resources and can also boast of a 30pc cost savings in testing for your organisation," added Paul Delaney, sales director with Sogeti Ireland.

Organisations need an understandable, meaningful, easy and usable reference to structure your testing tasks. Sogeti has developed the TMap methodology which is a proven method of structured testing and has been proved to help organisations implement more complex, excellent quality software faster whilst reducing risk and saving time and money.

TMap has four key essentials. The first is that the business drives the testing, from formulating the test assignment through to determining the testing required and the actual test execution. The second is that a complete test life cycle is specified covering the planning, specification, execution and controlling phases of the test assignment. The third is that a complete toolset is defined that covers everything from techniques to infrastructure. The fourth essential is that TMap remains adaptive, being capable of fitting around whatever type of test assignment is required.