

Microsoft Dynamics AX Load and Performance Tests

ServiceTracer® for AX Loadtests



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ServiceTracer® for AX Loadtests simulates concurrent user access operations and business process workflows for checking the scalability and response behavior of the Microsoft Dynamics AX application. Load bots run freely definable business processes (workflows) with full client interaction at central and remote locations. Both the application backend (AOS application server and SQL database server SQL) and the network infrastructure, together with any deployed terminal presentation server environments such as Microsoft RDS or Citrix XenApp, can be subjected to high traffic loads. This method safeguards efficient workflows.

Challenge. General benchmarks and reference installations demonstrate the performance of Microsoft Dynamics AX. However, the flexible and simple adaptability of Dynamics AX entails a risk of performance bottlenecks being caused by the modification. For this reason, issues regarding the scalability and performance of the customized Microsoft Dynamics AX solution arise both when implementing a new ERP system, as well as in upgrade and patch situations. And the sizing of servers for the productive environment is frequently an uncertain factor due to the non-linear scaling of the server systems. Concurrent resource access operations can lead to partial overloads and bottlenecks which could not be anticipated when the system was designed.

Overview

- Safeguards efficient business processes
- Support for sizing Dynamics AX environments
- Verification of the scalability
- Increases user acceptance
- Minimizes risks of system launches and version updates
- Automatic regression test after updates and modifications
- Support for performance optimization
- Short initiation and training times
- Support for system acceptance tests

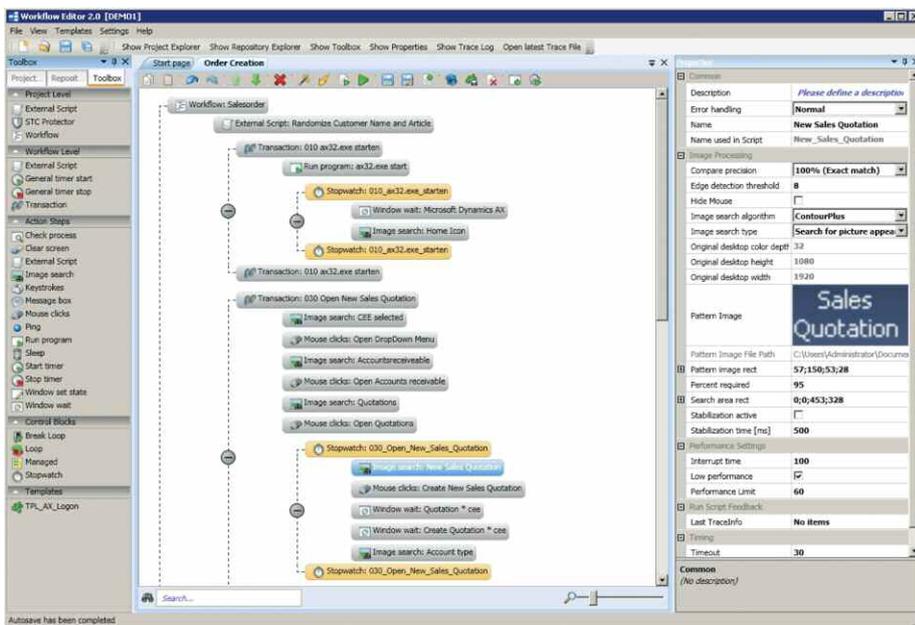
ServiceTracer® for AX Loadtests enables you to run realistic simulations based on your specific business processes. Multiple load bots run through critical workflows in parallel operation and simulate the anticipated volume of concurrent users in a live environment scenario. Positioning the load bots at future deployment sites guarantees an end-to-end simulation, meaning that no infrastructure components such as the local and network WAN infrastructure or terminal presentation servers like Microsoft RDS or Citrix XenApp are overlooked. This gives you the greatest possible reliability and a qualitative criterion for acceptance tests prior to putting your Dynamics AX environment into productive operation or upgrading it.

The difference. ServiceTracer® for AX Loadtests differs substantially from many competitor products, which do not generate a load using true client interaction, but initiate them with programming interfaces on the application servers. This method ignores significant loads generated by the client during normal operation including, for example, the standard filling of grids or selection lists when they are opened. Not only that, but latency times between the client and the application server are frequently not taken into consideration, either. Consequently, the actual response time behavior on the user's display is not measured. None of these limitations apply to ServiceTracer® for AX Loadtests. This means that Dynamics users are not faced with any restrictions regarding the version of Microsoft Dynamics AX they are using, the embedded ActiveX controls or other software components. All Microsoft Dynamics AX-specific operating elements such as date selection, menu bar, info log or report window are fully supported. The operation and launching of wizards, reporting service reports or the Enterprise Portal interface can be comprehensively mapped in workflows.

Highlights

- Supports all AX versions
- Supports all AX functions
- Supports Enterprise Portal and Reporting Services
- Support for Microsoft RDS and Citrix XenApp
- Takes both remote and central locations into consideration
- Simulates all user actions
- Measures the actual response times on the client
- Leasing license is available

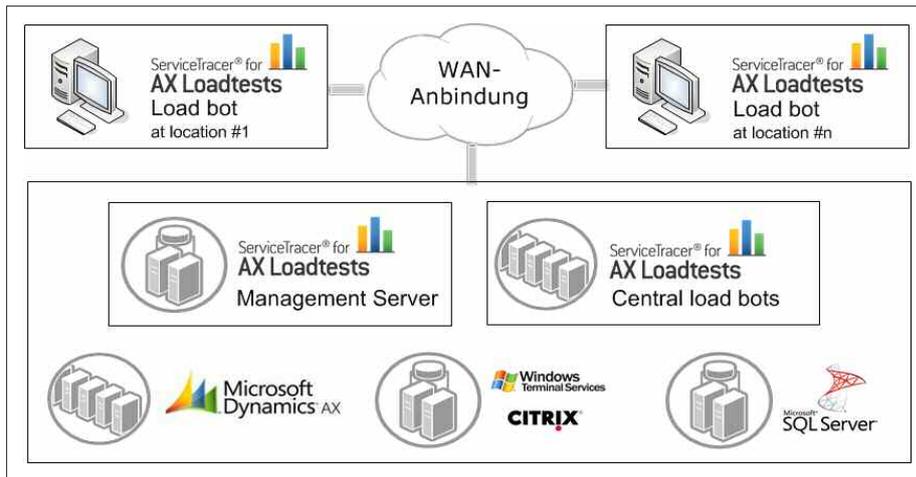
The Workflow Editor. ServiceTracer® features a workflow editor for creating workflows. An intuitive and user-friendly method unique in today's market, in 2010 it was nominated for the IT der Initiative Mittelstand innovation prize awarded to IT solutions for small to medium-sized enterprises. The intuitive user interface and wizard guidance enable new processing routines to be created in a straightforward way as graphic



The Workflow Editor

- Fully graphical workflow editor
- Wizard-supported workflow recording
- Drag & drop for workflow components
- Template management for recurring transaction steps
- Integrated script language for complex transactions Central workflow/project repository
- Undo and redo the preceding operation
- Copy & paste for workflow elements
- Shallow learning curve, even for non-IT experts
- Documentation of workflows as PDF files

workflows. Single transaction steps such as mouse clicks or program starts are symbolized by icons. These (and therefore the transaction steps) are integrated into the new workflow quickly and easily by drag & drop. This means that existing process workflows can be easily modified. The cleanly structured and clear workflow also documents the process routine and is always displayed in graphic form. This is the basic prerequisite for minimum training requirements, including for non-IT employees. In addition, an integrated script language allows even complex specifications to be mapped quickly and simply.



Technology

- MultiTracer method - registered for a patent
- Efficient utilization of the load bots
- No software is installed on the production servers
- Automatic pop-up handling during runtime
- Error messages with screenshots
- Routines for self-healing the load bots

ServiceTracer® for AX Loadtests uses the MultiTracer method, which has been registered for a patent, to open hidden user sessions on Windows systems. This has two important effects: more efficient use of the load bots and enhanced data security. With the MultiTracer, hidden and parallel application measurements can now be run on the graphic user interface (GUI) for the very first time.

Licensing. ServiceTracer® for AX Loadtests is available as an attractive leasing package. The price is determined by the number of load bots and the duration of the licensing period. This allows for economic use of the software just as you need it. The right to use the very latest version of ServiceTracer® also ensures that you have the full range of the solution's functions at your disposal.



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