PERSPECTIVE



HP QUALITY CENTRE 11 – WHAT'S NEW?



HP is the market share leader in the Worldwide distributed testing market in 2011*. The recently released version of the HP 11 products suite (HP Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) 11.00 and HP QC 11.00) further reinforces HP's market dominance in this space going forward and will ensure that it retains its position as the leader of the pack for the foreseeable future.

HP Quality Center 11 (QC 11) enables traditional users to integrate Business

Process Models with business requirements, provides a rich text editor for maintaining business requirements in MS Word format, and also helps share reports through the web or MS SharePoint portals. For Agile users, QC 11 goes a step further by provisioning for integration of test outputs with user stories and tasks. From a system administrator's perspective, apart from providing tools for better space maintenance and system performance monitoring, QC 11 also mitigates risks during migration by allowing multiple clients to connect to lower (or older) versions alongside QC 11.

Let us take a closer look at HP's QC 11 lineup and the lead features of the enterprise edition with a special focus on the reloaded HP Sprinter feature.

* Source: Gartner, "Market Share: All Software Markets, Worldwide, 2011" 29 March 2012

The HP Quality Centre 11 (QC 11)

The HP QC 11 is currently available in three editions :

Starter	Enterprise	Premium (Also known as the ALM 11)
5-user license	 Includes all features of HP Quality Centre 11 Widely used by companies across industries 	 In addition to enterprise edition features, the premium version comes fully loaded with: Cross-project reporting capability New planning and the tracking module KPIs and scorecard definition ALM mobile application with iPhone integration capability
No additional upgrade costs	No additional costs for upgrade from older versions of enterprise edition to the current new version	 From enterprise edition of older versions to the current new version: Additional cost From premium edition of older versions to the current new version: No additional cost HP QC 10 premium edition users can upgrade to ALM 11 at no extra cost.

Table 1: HP QC 11 editions



What's new in HP QC 11 - Enterprise Edition?

Nearly 80% users of HP QC 10 work with the enterprise edition. Here are some features of HP QC 11 that make it an interesting business case for an upgrade:

 The HP Sprinter module : This module can dramatically improve productivity in manual testing. Sprinter is fully integrated with HP ALM, enabling you to maximize the benefits of both solutions. It provides advanced

Accelerate manual testing with HP Sprinter

HP Sprinter could be your answer to productivity challenges testers encounter during manual testing.

With HP Sprinter you can :

- Simultaneously access your application under test (AUT) and Test Lab/Defects modules without the need to switch between two screens
- Run tests directly on the AUT, view and make edits to various steps involved in testing without the inconvenience of switching between the QC screen and AUT
- Sprinter
 Use its toolkit for screen capture and annotation, screen recording, and capturing system information without having to use MS Excel/Paint as a

functionality and tools to make manual

Project Planning and Tracking module :

integrates test execution management

For most scenarios with established test

delivery processes, this module may not

with test project management. Note:

testing execution more efficient and

This is an advanced module that

be of much value to most users.

effective.

staging area

 Leverage its Automated Data Injection feature to upload pre-defined data sets along with your tests during execution and instruct HP Sprinter to load it into the system under test (after specifying the number of data rows required).
 However, pre-defining data sets might prove cumbersome and may not be feasible for complex projects

- Record and replay with the Macros feature (though the manuals do not explicitly mention this feature)
- Create one test and run it in different environments (IE, Firefox, Safari, etc.) with the Mirror Testing feature. An essential feature for the end user, the current version however offers just a record and replay capability
- Easily start using this (Sprinter) module without having to migrate from HP QC 10

 Sprinter's Mirror Testing feature : This feature enables users to run tests in different browser environments (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, etc.). The record and replay functionality of Sprinter offered in this version makes it a desirable feature that may be developed further in future releases.

Author's View on HP ALM 11

Based on my understanding and evaluation of HP ALM 11 and its features (previous and current versions/editions included), here is my assessment of HP ALM 11 rated against some of the commonly used parameters.

Value for price	Is effort spent in migration justified by the additional features? Enterprise edition users will have something to cheer about in HP ALM 11 owing to the "Zero Cost" upgrade to HP QC11	
Features	 Do the additional features in an upgrade to HP ALM 11 rationalize its cost? The tradeoff in implementing the new features of HP ALM 11 such as Project Planning & Tracking and add- on features as part of the upgrade such as Requirements Management for QC entails increased migration effort and high costs associated with significant change management. (With considerably well-established and fairly advanced SDLC and project management processes in most organizations using HP QC, an upgrade to HP ALM 11 either by organizations or by partners like Infosys will require an exhaustive evaluation of reasons for the upgrade.) 	
Ease of migration	 Ensuring business continuity While customizations to QC 10 or earlier versions need to be manually verified following an upgrade, the upgrade process itself is simple, given that you can now run different versions in parallel Transitioning to new features in HP QC 11 While HP Sprinter can be used without customizations, other widely used features may need medium to high level of customization effort. 	
Performance	Improved levels of performance With the Smart Repository feature enabling an optimized file system, users experience improved performance.	
Integration with other tools	Integration with widely used tools across the SDLC For a successful integration of developer tools with HP ALM 11, associated change management and implementation effort assessment needs to be carried out.	

About the Author

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has more than 12 years of experience in testing across industry verticals and technologies. He specializes in the assessment and implementation of Test Centers of Excellence (TCoE), Test Factory for testing organizations and QA in Program Management for large scale implementations.



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