

AEGON ASSET MANAGEMENT



AEGON is one of the world's leading insurance groups with approximately 28,000 employees worldwide and 40 million customers in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

The United Kingdom is one of AEGON's three main markets, along with the United States and the Netherlands. In the UK, AEGON employs nearly 5,000 staff and manages almost GBP 38 billion in revenue-generating investments. Over the years, AEGON UK has built up a reputation as one of the country's leading providers of pensions, life insurance, investments and financial advice, catering to around two million customers.

AEGON UK operates through a number of different brands – each one targeted at a particular segment of the market. AEGON Asset Management takes an active approach to managing investments, helping retail and institutional clients to maximise available investment opportunities and realise their financial objectives.

One of the many challenges AEGON Asset Management (AAM) faced was a need for an auditable Global Testing Strategy which complied with industry regulations. SDLC Solutions was appointed to work alongside the AAM Test Manager to devise and implement such a strategy while business-as-usual activities continued.

The Project

The Global Testing Strategy was developed to cover the two-tier nature of software development – in-house and third party applications. The strategy also encompassed the use of test tools. Compuware's QACentre suite had previously been purchased and was being used to run overnight batch jobs.

The AAM dealing system was selected to pilot the strategy. Standard testing documentation was established, standard methodologies were introduced and AAM staff were mentored throughout the process. During the project, SDLC Solutions placed key test resources alongside the AEGON Test Analysts and applied the tool to another large development project to achieve testing of large, complex data loads.

After project implementation, scripts were lifted and used as a regression test pack. SDLC Solutions continued providing support throughout the process and developed a further three regression packs for the largest AEGON systems.

A business requirements gathering exercise was also conducted. AAM had to ensure its accounting system was upgraded to meet new Financial Services Authority (FSA) rules. SDLC Solutions was called in to complete the exercise within a tight deadline. This also provided AAM with the opportunity to train Business Analysts in new information gathering techniques.

Julie Harrap, Test Manager, AEGON, comments, "SDLC Solutions was chosen as the service provider for this project due to their flexibility, cost-effectiveness and experience within this field. SDLC has proven to be an approachable and co-operative partner and has provided AEGON with excellent training, mentoring and continued support for each of the test packs produced. All of the consultants are responsive and throughout the project have fully supported our Test Analysts and imparted knowledge wherever possible."

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Julie Harrap, Aegon

Key Benefits

- **Business continuity maintained throughout the strategy and tool implementation.**
- **A true partnership and skills transfer mentality was forged that certainly helped delivery.**
- **The work packages were owned, monitored and delivered on time and within budget.**
- **Using a cost-effective process quality in applications deployed was improved.**

More information:

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