

VTEST/3000 ON-LINE TEST HARNESS - USER VIEW

By:

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Glaxo operations UK Limited manufacture Pharmaceuticals at eight factories and have a network of eleven linked-HP 3000's using VIEW, IMAGE and DS. They are rapidly developing a large integrated production planning and inventory control system. They recognized the need for a test harness which:-

Facilitates repetitive testing of real time view programs:-

Tests multi-user database contention:

Provides screen-like hard copy of input and output:

Is streamable in non prime time:

Provides timings.

The package was developed by Wick Hill associates with advice from Glaxo. It reads input from script files held on disc. Results are written to an MPF file (usually a printer). This permits input and standard output to be stored on magnetic media, instead of bulky hard copy.

The programs can be run either as a session from a terminal or streamed as a batch job. It established one or two sessions which can run any programs able to be run from a terminal. The only limitations are that control Y and break cannot be used. The great strength is that programs using View in block mode can be run.

The paper explores the problems of testing and estimating the response time of on-line and real-time programs running in a large distributed network: explains how VTEST works: and illustrates some of the advantages to be gained from the use of the test harness, e.g.:-

Overnight Testing, thus

- Releasing terminals in prime time
- Improving response in prime time
- Improving utilization of a capital asset:

Better program specs, less program amendments:

- Quicker programming:
- Test data keyed-in once, speeds testing after modifications;
- Printed results aid user education