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CYCLE REPUBLIC

CYCLE REPUBLIC WEBSITE





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Summary

In the summer of 2017, Halfords was seeking a testing partner to provide dynamic software testing services and test support for its subsidiary group, Cycle Republic.

Edge Testing Solutions (Edge) was already successfully working on a variety of Halfords projects and was a natural choice to provide Cycle Republic with a variety of testing activities and disciplines to support the e-commerce website and delivery of business requirements. Testing services included: test preparation, test execution, test data management, bug fixes and closure of defects, backlog management, User Acceptance testing, Functional testing and Maintenance testing. Additionally, Edge has worked on retail and e-commerce projects which utilise SAP ERP, BI and BW.

Cycle Republic recently implemented and launched Cycle Scheme – the UK's leading provider of tax-free bikes for the Government's cycle to work initiative scheme. Cycle Scheme, a minimum viable product, involved integrating a Test Analyst from Edge Testing Solution's (Edge) Digital Test Hub to work alongside the Cycle Republic web and development team.

Company Background

Cycle Republic is a specialist cycle retail chain, which sells premium branded bikes, clothing, accessories, bike maintenance and services. It is run by experts who share the desire and passion in looking after enthusiast cyclists and people who have an interest in cycling whether it is for work or leisure. Cycle Republic is a subsidiary group owned by the UK's largest retailer, Halfords. Cycle Republic opened in 2014 and has since expanded its presence in terms of retail and e-commerce; launching the Cycle Republic website in the summer of 2016.

Project Overview

Cycle Republic was seeking a testing partner who could provide low cost, on demand testing services to support the retail aspect and e-commerce website of the business. They initially selected the test preparation and test execution for testing the MVP (minimum viable product) Cycle Scheme, which involved front end integration of testing API messages in which tests were derived from various business and technical documentation such as: business use cases, technical and design specifications and the involvement of utilising business and IT subject matter experts.

Approach & Solution

An Edge Test Consultant from the Birmingham Digital Test Hub joined the project team and used Edge's accelerated knowledge transfer approach together with support from the in-house software development team to gain detailed knowledge about the project and

t: 01698 464280

e: contact@edgetesting.co.uk

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product, methodology applied (Agile based) and delivering tasks based on user stories in iterative and incremental phases of the software development life cycle.

Extensive test planning and analysis was performed to coordinate test activities during the software development life cycle; mainly at the User Acceptance Testing UAT level. Fundamental test procedures, test techniques and test practices were implemented throughout the software development life cycle, identifying bugs which could have had an impact on the business and end user, dependant on levels of priority and severity.

Edge was able to provide test support, ensuring that Cycle Republic successfully delivered the Cycle Scheme project within schedule, resulting in the business achieving a high SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) ranking resulting in a growth of online sales, driving customers into purchasing merchandise and checking out with Cycle Scheme as the payment method.

Cycle Republic officially launched Cycle Scheme live in July 2017. Subsequent to the launch the business required an upgrade of the current version of the e-commerce software to the latest available platform upgrade – Magento. This is a leading and powerful e-commerce platform, built on open source technology which enables the Cycle Republic merchandising team to create a unique, limitless, customisable functionality for its customers and engage a rich online shopping ‘end-user’ experience.

To support the introduction of Magento the Edge Test Consultant focused on creating a Jira based regression test suite which was derived from a variety of business and technical specifications containing the overall front and back end test scenarios of the core functionalities of the Cycle Republic website. Other duties included maintaining version and major platform upgrades of the Magento e-commerce software with testing being performed on Desktop, Mobile and Tablet devices.

SAP ECC6 was utilised for end to end testing, where test order scenarios from the front end of the website were placed, ensuring that test orders were able to be processed in line with the various business user stories and test scenarios.

Benefits

- Edge provided efficient and thorough testing services and support, involving a test consultant from the Edge Digital Test Hub to consult and provide solutions whilst effectively engaging with the client and project team
- The test consultant was provided at short notice to support an accelerated project window
- Delivering a professional and measurable service that enabled confidence in quality of the systems and testing delivered
- Client requirements and expectations were achieved by the implementation of a more structured testing approach.

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