

## Case Study

Shaw Industries paves the way  
to Agile with eggPlant Functional



World's largest carpet manufacturer cuts testing time by more than 50% through introduction of test automation

### Profile

Shaw Industries is the world's largest carpet manufacturer and leading global floor covering provider. The full-service flooring company generates more than \$4.8 billion in annual sales and has approximately 22,000 employees across the United States. The company is owned by investment giant, Berkshire Hathaway.

Shaw's facilities across the country are supported by an Information Systems team of several hundred IT professionals, who develop and manage the key business systems that are used by the company's staff on a daily basis. Ensuring the quality of these systems is a key function of Shaw's IS group and the company historically tested all these systems manually.

## Agile needs test automation

James Briley is the manager of Shaw's Unit Shop Floor Systems team.

"We work in an Agile environment and development was typically running two-to-three releases ahead of testing, which was not ideal and we wanted to shorten that cycle time," said Briley. "We needed an automated testing tool that was easy enough for non-developers to use so that business users could help ease the testing burden by conducting tests themselves."

While considering the market for solutions, Briley was given a demo of eggPlant Functional that convinced him this was the tool Shaw needed.

eggPlant Functional is TestPlant's functional test automation tool, which uses a patented image-based approach to GUI testing that allows it to interact with any device by looking at the screen, in the same way a user does.

"The moment I was able to use eggPlant to run a test on a web app simultaneously with an IBM mainframe I knew that nothing else we had seen could do this," said Briley. "Coupled with its Turbo Capture capability, which allows business users to record their actual activities as test scripts, and its open database connectivity feature, it was clearly the right tool for us."



## Simplicity is key

eggPlant's user-centric test automation approach also makes it incredibly intuitive to write tests, so anyone can be productive with eggPlant within a few hours.

"The SenseTalk language is a great feature for non-technical users, as it provides them with the ability to write test scripts without having any programming knowledge," said Briley. "I've demonstrated eggPlant to upper management as well as trained over 60 staff myself, which is a testament to how easy to use it is."

Briley's team is using eggPlant to test one of Shaw's shop floor systems, which is a web-based Java application, linked to a mainframe database, and used by the company's staff for a range of tasks including inventory management and control.

Test automation is currently being phased in at a rate of 10 key functions per quarter and, once complete, Briley expects the testing to be fully part of the team's Agile methodology.



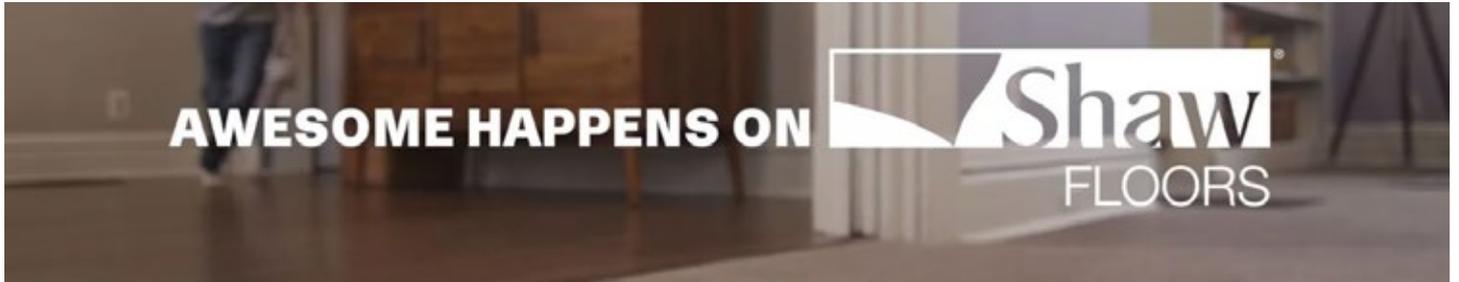
## eggPlant impact

“We are aiming for 100% automation of regression testing within a year and that will help us ensure that testing is running in sync with development, rather than several releases behind,” he said. “Using eggPlant has already benefitted us by ensuring we use a standard system under test across the organization, and by allowing us to test on virtual machines thanks to eggPlant’s remote desktop capabilities.”

Other teams within Shaw’s Information Systems group are also using eggPlant to test their systems, including the Customer Service and Distribution teams. The Distribution

team develops systems relating to functions including shipping and receiving and has been using eggPlant to great effect.

“For one project, every week the Distribution team would have to spend two-to-three days loading data so that the developers would have something to test the following week,” said Briley. “With eggPlant, they have automated that process so they simply press the button in eggPlant on Friday and in 8 hours they have all the data they need. They more than cut the time in half for that project.”



### About TestPlant

TestPlant is an international software business based in London. It has development centers in the USA and the UK with sales and support centers in the USA, the UK, Germany, China and Japan as well as an extensive network of business partners. TestPlant’s products are used in over 40 countries by well over 350 enterprise customers in sectors which include Financial Services, Automotive, Healthcare and Life Sciences, Media and Entertainment, Retail and Defense and Aerospace. The eggPlant range is a set of tools which supports the design, development, test and management of software applications for mainframe, desktop and mobile use in any technology platform environment. The tools are relevant in agile, mobile, web and DevOps deployments. eggPlant use improves and reports on the quality and responsiveness of software systems, reduces time to market and lowers costs by introducing process automation. The eggPlant tools have been granted patents in the USA and in Europe. TestPlant is a Red Herring Global Top 100 company, a Deloitte UK Technology Fast 50 and EMEA 500 business, a member of the Sunday Times Hiscox Tech Track 100 and is the recipient of three Queen’s Awards for Enterprise. The Carlyle Group is a major investor in the company.

UK: +44 20 7002 7888

sales@testplant.com

US: + 1 720-890-0211

www.testplant.com