

Compliance-Aware Self-Healing Worksoft ERP Automation

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ABSTRACT

This new business environment is presently in the process of radical change, which has been triggered by the need to modernize the primary digital infrastructures. It is believed that a large proportion of the worldwide business organizations are already moving to more modern Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, namely, SAP S/4HANA, and that the deadline is usually set at 2027. This shift is not only described as a technical upgrade but a complete rethinking of the way business is conducted. In this regard, the manual software testing and script-based automation software methodologies have become unsuitable in terms of achieving scalability, as well as their vulnerability to dynamic environments. This term paper gives a comprehensive discussion of the study topic compliance-aware self-healing automation, with a particular reference to the Worksoft Certify platform. The model-based testing architecture is considered in comparison with the script-based paradigms, and the application of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) to propose self-healing object recognition is reviewed. Moreover, aspect of the strict requirements of the regulatory systems like the FDA 21 CFR Part 11 are discussed in an attempt to establish how automated audit trails and system validation (IQ/OQ/PQ) is preserved in the era of autonomous algorithm adaptation. A market analysis is made in comparison with the ability of Worksoft and the other two competitors, Tricentis Tosca and UiPath, which is backed by substantial quantitative data on the Return on Investment (ROI), the rate of defect detection, and operational efficiency indicators that are anticipated to be performed by the year 2025.

Keywords: Worksoft, detection, efficiency, architecture

1. The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Modernization Imperative

ERP systems are very important to the stability of the global economy. With organizations facing the intricacies of the digital transformation, the need to have strong software testing infrastructure has become central. The forces behind this change are to a big extent necessitated by the decommissioning of old systems and the uptake of cloud-native systems (Afaneh et al., 2015).

1.1 The S/4HANA Migration Wave and Operational Risk

One of the largest digital transformation projects is considered to be the migration of SAP ECC to SAP S/4HANA, which is implemented by enterprises at the moment. Studies have shown that an estimated 73 percent of the world SAP customer base, which is a representation of over 35,000 organizations, have pledged to do this migration before 2027. The requirement is highlighted by the fact that the mainstream support of the old ECC is soon coming to a close.

Yet, this immigration is full of business peril. The transition is said to result in a complete re-organization of the data model and the business processes. The complexity is measured based on the projected performance enhancements and the reduction in the footprint of data, which will need stringent validation to keep the integrity of data intact throughout the transition.

Table 1: Projected Performance Metrics Post-S/4HANA Migration (2025)

Performance Metric	Improvement Factor/Percentage	Context
Complex Analytics Query Performance	1,800x faster	Real-time decision-making capabilities
Standard Transactional Processing	15–20x faster	Improvement in daily operational throughput
Storage Requirements Reduction	75–90% reduction	Due to columnar data storage and compression
Transaction Volume Support	2.5x higher	Scalability for high-volume enterprise environments
Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)	37% reduction	Calculated over a 5-year post-implementation period
Period-End Reporting	157–1,843x faster	Critical for financial close efficiency

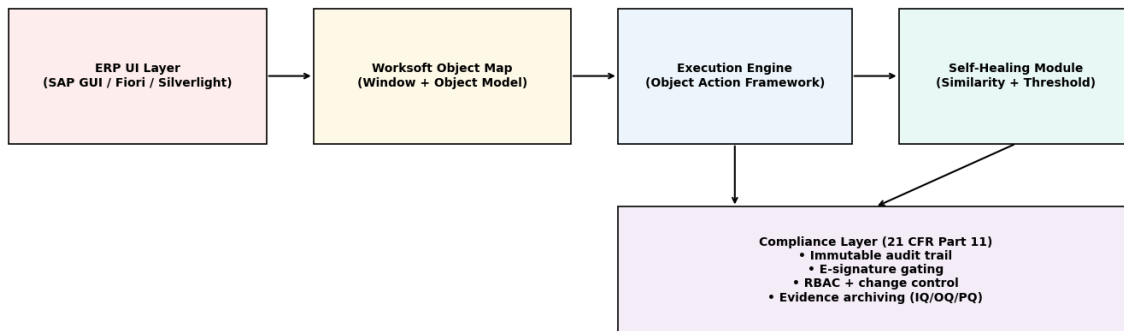
The loss incurred in case of failure in such environments is high. Application or business process downtime is estimated to cause the business to incur a cost of about 300000 per hour on average and 540000 per hour at the higher end of the spectrum. Moreover, the average data breach of a critical enterprise was noted to cost an average of \$4.88 million worldwide, and financial industry suffered cost up to 6.08 million. These systems are, therefore, not to be evaluated through a discretionary approach but rather an important risk mitigation activity.

1.2 The Obsolescence of Manual and Script-Based Testing

In the past, ERP testing was done manually or through script-based automation tools (e.g. Selenium, UFT). These strategies are currently considered as models of diminishing returns. The time to test features with existing functions is exponentially growing with the increasing functionality, which is known as the Regression Spiral. It is observed that manual testing usually requires weeks of work to complete large release cycles, and exposes business organisations to the risk of major bugs being introduced into the production cycle, which is known as defect leakage (Afaneh et al., 2015).

Conversely, the current automation approaches are founded on the principle of the so-called Connective Automation, i.e., the process, where business process discovery, documentation and testing are interconnected throughout the lifecycle. The task is to eliminate the brittle quality of scripts that cannot survive changes in the UI with robust model-based specifications that can survive changes.

Figure 1: Compliance-Aware Self-Healing Worksoft ERP Automation Architecture



2. Theoretical Framework of Compliance-Aware Automation

In the case of industries with stringent government standards, e.g. pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical equipment, automation cannot merely meet functionality needs, but also needs to maintain data integrity and sustainability in legal audit (Afaneh et al., 2015). The main regulation to these requirements in the United States is FDA 21 CFR Part 11 that determines the provisions in which the electronic records and electronic signatures are deemed to be trustworthy, reliable, and equal to the records in paper.

2.1 FDA 21 CFR Part 11 and Data Integrity

The 21 CFR Part 11 is binding on any system that is engaged in the creation, modification, maintenance, archiving, retrieving, or distributing records that are required by the FDA. The regulation contains particular technical controls which should be granted in the automation platform.

Table 2: Key 21 CFR Part 11 Requirements and Automated Implementation

Regulatory Requirement	Description	Automation Implementation (Worksoft Certify)
Audit Trails	Secure, computer-generated, time-stamped audit trails that independently record the date and time of operator entries and actions that create, modify, or delete electronic records.	Automated logging of every step execution, including user ID, timestamp, and machine ID. Logs are immutable and archived for inspection.
Electronic Signatures	Signatures must be unique to one individual, strictly controlled, and permanently linked to their respective records.	Integration with credential management systems to require re-authentication for critical approvals or test result finalization.
System Validation	Validation to ensure accuracy, reliability, consistent intended performance, and the ability to discern invalid or altered records.	Support for the "V-Model" of validation: IQ, OQ, and PQ, ensuring the software is installed, operates, and performs according to specifications.

Regulatory Requirement	Description	Automation Implementation (Worksoft Certify)
Operational Controls	Limiting system access to authorized individuals.	Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) preventing unauthorized modification of test assets or execution configurations.

2.2 The Validation Lifecycle: IQ, OQ, and PQ

Software testing in controlled settings is done by means of developed protocol involving Installation Qualification (IQ), Operational Qualification (OQ), and Performance Qualification (PQ).

- **IQ:** The software must also be correctly installed as per the specifications of the vendor, which is to be documented. This involves ensuring that the specifications of the servers are in line with the requirement and that the required components are available.
- **Operational Qualification (OQ):** The software is tested to show that the software functions as desired over its expected operating conditions. In the case of test automation software, this would entail ensuring that the tool can identify objects in a correct manner, carry out tests, and capture the results in normal conditions (Al-Ali et al., 2017).
- **Performance Qualification (PQ):** The software will operate under the unique circumstances of the user setting as specified in the contract. This is usually done by performing a few tests of the key business processes to demonstrate that the system is a true reflection of the production environment.

It is pointed out that compliance lies in the hands of the organization that implements it and not the software vendor. A vendor cannot certify the compliance; he can just offer the technical aspects (e.g. audit trails, version control) that allow the organization to become compliant (Al-Ali et al., 2017).

3. Worksoft Certify: Architecture and Technical Specifications

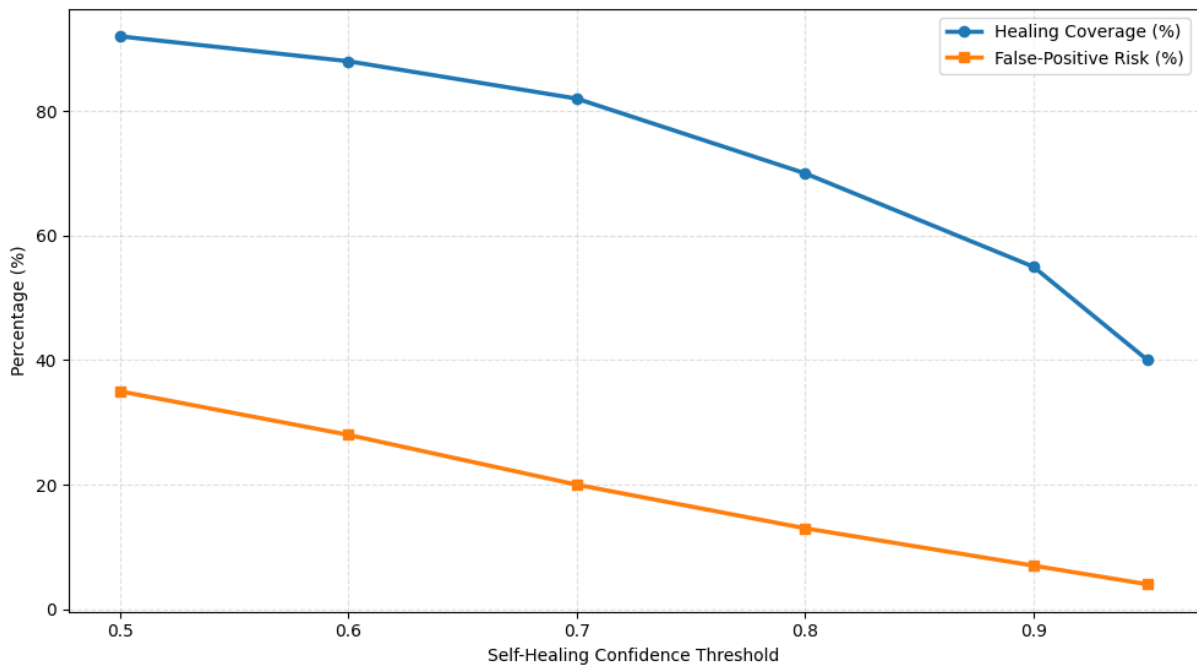
Worksoft Certify unique feature is the so-called codeless architecture that does not tie the definition of a test (the business logic) with the interaction with the application (the object recognition). This division is attained by a model-based implementation that is contrasted to the object-repository or the script-based implementations of legacy tools.

3.1 Model-Based Automation vs. Scripting

The tested application is represented in a model-based architecture in a list of Windows and Objects. A window is a screen in the application (ex: an SAP T-Code screen or a Web Page) and objects are the interactive objects (buttons, fields, and tables) on the window.

Test processes are built by organising actions against these objects (e.g. "Input Text" into "Username Field"). Importantly, the technical aspects of the method by which the system recognizes the "Username Field" are represented in the object definition as opposed to the test step. In case the technical identifier of the field is changed (e.g. the underlying HTML ID is changed to user_id_new) it is only updated once in the object map (Al Hadid, 2011). Thousands of test steps that were pointing to that object are automatically updated. The architecture offers substantial overhead to maintenance which is indicated to be one of the leading causes of failure in automation projects.

Figure 2: Tradeoff Between Healing Coverage and Mis-Healing Risk



3.2 The Object Action Framework

Worksoft makes use of a proprietary Object Action Framework, which standardizes interactions in various technologies (Alhosban et al., 2013). Regardless of whether this is SAP GUI, a web-based HTML5 application, a PDF document or a Mainframe terminal, the user will be able to work with it using the same logic (Click, Input, Verify).

Table 3: Technology Support and Object Recognition Capabilities

Technology	Recognition Method	Specific Challenges Addressed
SAP GUI	SAP Scripting API / Accessibility API	Handles dynamic session IDs and complex table structures common in ECC.
SAP Fiori / HTML5	DOM-based attributes (XPath, CSS) + Visual Anchors	Addresses the dynamic nature of Fiori tiles and responsive web design elements.
Silverlight	Silverlight Automation Peer	Managing "windowless" controls and asynchronous data loading in legacy web apps.
PDF	Text parsing / Optical Character Recognition (OCR)	Validation of generated invoices and regulatory documents for content accuracy.
Mainframe	Terminal Emulation (HLLAPI)	Interacting with green-screen interfaces that remain critical in banking and insurance.

3.3 Dynamic Object Identification in Fiori and Silverlight

Special care should be paid to such technologies as SAP Fiori and Microsoft Silverlight, which have some peculiarities with regard to automation.

- SAP Fiori: Fiori application is a dynamic application; the ID of an element tends to change each time the page is loaded (Alhosban et al., 2021). The Worksoft Certify makes use of soft attributes and relative positioning. As a case in point, the tool may find an input field by searching the label Customer Name to its left of the input field. This Visual Model Text Anchor model enables tests to survive updates to Fiori in which the underlying IDs are recreated.
- Silverlight: Silverlight is a depreciated technology, but it is still used in old stacks on enterprises. Automation needs dedicated "Silverlight Automation Actions" which may be connected to the Silverlight runtime to unveil object properties which would otherwise be hidden by the standard web inspection tools (Alhosban et al., 2021).

4. Mechanisms of AI-Driven Self-Healing

The implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the engine of test automation is the upcoming phase in the test automation. Self-Healing is the term used to describe the mechanism whereby the system may sense when one of its test steps has broken (e.g. a button has moved or renamed) and calculate autonomously which object to communicate with, therefore enabling the test to proceed (Boukhebouze et al., 2009).

4.1 Heuristics and Confidence Thresholds

A set of heuristics that is used to analyze the Document Object Model (DOM) and visual properties of the application in real-time is what powers Worksoft self-healing mechanism. When a specified object cannot be found through the use of its primary attributes, the AI overviews the screen searching for candidate objects, similar in nature (e.g., of the same type, similar text, near other objects known to it).

A Confidence Threshold, which is a configurable parameter, controls the decision-making process whereby the value must be between 0 and 1 (default is 0.7).

- Threshold = 0.9: The AI is conservative (Boukhebouze et al., 2013). It will repair the step only in case it finds an object that is nearly identical to the lost object.
- Threshold = less than 0.5: The AI is aggressive. It can also seek to engage with objects with a very low correlation to the original, and this will result in a higher probability of false positives (pressing the wrong button).

Self-Healing Set-ups: Self-healing is set through the Use of Application Presets in the Certify Web Interface Options. The administrators can switch the Self-Healing Enabled flag to True and set the Self-Healing Confidence Threshold. This configuration may be applied at the global level or limits it to certain technology interfaces (i.e., allowing it to dynamic web apps but not allowing it in the case of stable legacy apps).

4.2 The "Human-in-the-Loop" Governance Model

Self-healing autonomously is a dilemma in compliance-heavy environments: in this case, does the test change itself, and does this invalidate the validation status? Worksoft deals with it using a Human-in-the-Loop governance model.

On occurrence of a self-healing event:

1. Action: The AI recognizes the alternative object and takes the step to avoid the failure of the test run (avoiding a false negative).
2. Logging: The occasion is recorded under the result history with a flag that points out that the Self-Healing was turned on (Boukhebouze et al., 2013). The original object attributes and those of the object used are registered in the log.

3. Review: There is no automatic update of the test definition in the central repository. Rather, the logic of the healing is limited to the run at hand. The self-healing log has to be reviewed by an administrator or a test architect. In case the AI was right in its decision, the administrator is allowed to approve the change and it is reflected in the master object map.

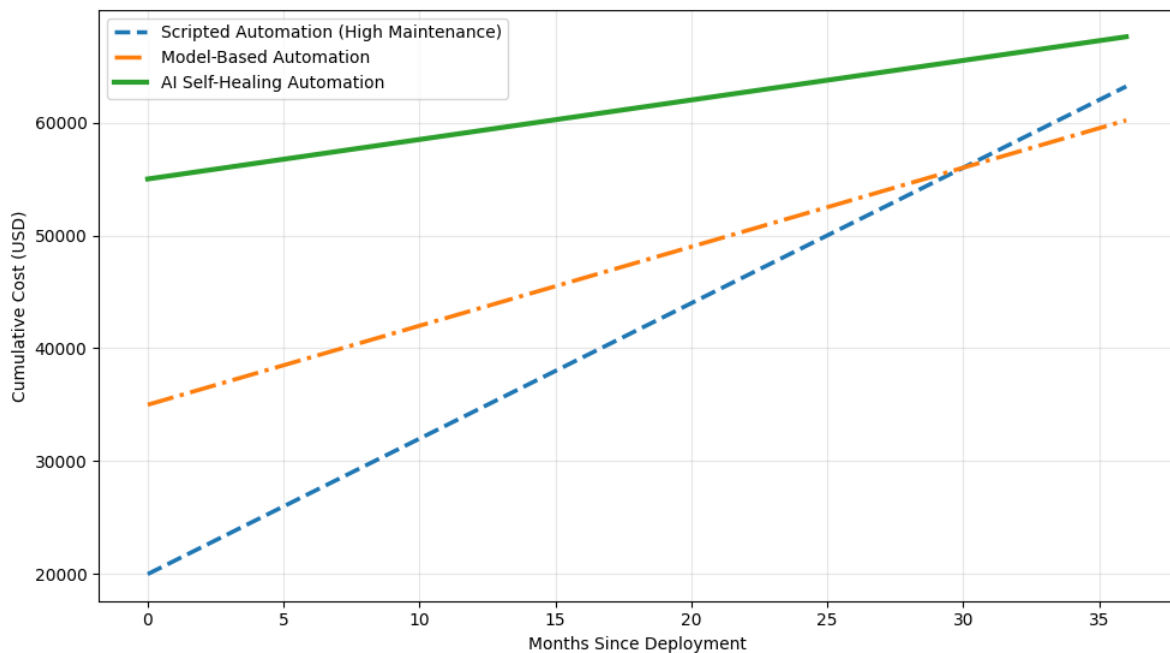
This will make sure that no permanent alterations are done to the tested scripts without any human intervention, meeting the change control criteria of 21 CFR Part 11.

4.3 Comparison with Vision AI and Computer Vision

The process of comparing the approach of Worksoft to its main rivals, namely Tricentis and UiPath, is instructive.

- Tricentis Tosca (Vision AI): Tricentis uses a deep learning-powered "Vision AI" which scans controls in a way that is based on their visual representation (e.g. it is aware of what a shopping cart icon looks like) and not the underlying code. This can be especially strong when it is applied to applications that are operated in virtualized environments (Citrix) where the access to the code is restricted (Boukhebouze et al., 2013).
- UiPath (Computer Vision): UiPath has its own Computer Vision neural network that enables it to use a Computer Vision system to detect elements on the screen. It has extensive applications in Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to process unstructured data and Citrix settings. Recently, UiPath initiated another feature, the Healing Agent that is capable of automatically correcting UI errors in automation.

Figure 3: 3-Year TCO Crossover Across Automation Paradigms



Although the two competitors have powerful AI, Worksoft is configured specifically to the complex, object-intensive nature of ERP business processes with logical anchors over simply visual to maintain high fidelity in complex data entry forms (Kędziora & Penttinen, 2021).

5. SAP S/4HANA Migration and Impact Analysis

The major cause of adoption of these technologies is the migration to S/4HANA. Worksoft offers dedicated features to overcome the risks of such a transition.

5.1 Automated Business Process Discovery

In the narrow sense, there is usually no documented knowledge of the existing business processes in organizations before migration. Worksoft Business Capture enables the non-technical user to capture his daily activities in the old ECC system. These logs are automatically transformed into documentation of processes and automated test resources. This Process Mining ability is used to be sure that the test suite is based on real user behavior and not on hypothetical workflows.

5.2 Change Impact Analysis

Change Impact Analysis is an important aspect of S/4HANA strategy. On presenting a transport (a package of code changes) to be deployed, one needs to understand the processes of the business that will be impacted (Mendling et al., 2018). Worksoft Certify Impact (and collaborations with tools such as Tricentis LiveCompare) examines the code changes and determines the actual blast radius of the change.

The system suggests a specific set of tests that captures the affected objects instead of running a complete set of regression, which can take days to complete. This Risk-Based Testing model has the ability to decrease the necessary scope of the testing by 85 percent or more, enabling the cycles to be severely shortened.

5.3 Integration with SAP Solution Manager (SolMan)

In the case of SAP-focused enterprises, SAP Solution Manager is the truth. Worksoft Certify is fully integrated with SolMan which enables quality to be viewed as a whole picture.

Integration Workflow:

1. **Test Configuration:** SolMan creates a test configuration and chooses the external test tool, which is Worksoft Certify (Mendling et al., 2018).
2. **Start:** It is possible to start the Certify Process Editor via the SolMan interface.
3. **Execution:** Tests may be run out of SolMan in both, Normal (unattended) and Debug (interactive) modes.
4. **Outputs** Certify returns the detailed execution logs and pass/fail status to SolMan, on completion. The SolMan test result object has a PDF report attached to it consisting of screen captures and audit trails.

The integration is essential towards the audit preparedness because it is important to make sure that all the evidence of the tests is located in the controlled SAP environment.

6. Quantitative Analysis: ROI and Economic Benchmarks (2024–2025)

The implementation of compliance conscious and self-healing automation is supported by the economic data that is difficult to ignore (Mendling et al., 2018). Payoffs in the form of savings on manual labor, shortening release cycles, and avoiding expensive production failures are what give the Return on Investment (ROI).

6.1 Cost Savings and Efficiency Gains

The aggregated data on IDC studies and industry standards have shown that organizations that make the use of intelligent test automation have a 548 percent ROI within five years (Meyer et al., 2024). The initial investment usually breaks even in 7 months, but where the velocity is high (e.g. the Oracle Cloud updates frequently), it can break even in 2-3 months.

Table 4: Key ROI Levers and 2025 Benchmarks

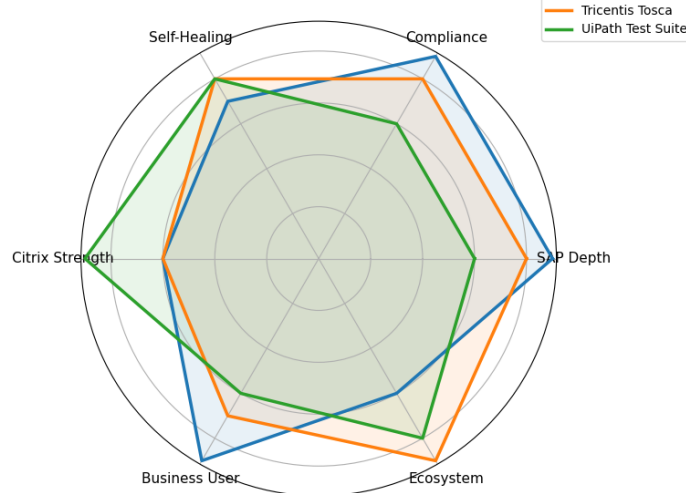
ROI Lever	Benchmark Target	Explanation
Regression Cycle Time	80–90% Reduction	Automation enables parallel execution, reducing weeks of testing to days.
Direct Testing Costs	30–70% Reduction	Reduction in contractor spend and manual tester headcount.
Maintenance Effort	40–80% Reduction	Attributed to model-based design and AI self-healing.
Defect Detection	40–60% Improvement	Higher test coverage leads to earlier detection of bugs (Shift-Left).
Defect Leakage	< 5%	Target for critical defects escaping to production.

6.2 The Cost of Quality

The cost of Quality model contends that the higher the cost of repairing a defect, the later it is detected and the higher the cost. An error in the requirements stage may cost \$100, an error in production may cost 10-1000 or even more.

- Production Incident Cost: A severe ERP failure will result in lost revenue and productivity ranging between 300,000 and 540,000 on an hourly basis.
- Data Breach Cost: In case a flaw causes a vulnerability to security, the average fee is 4.88 million (Meyer et al., 2024).
- Audit Failure: Failure to comply with 21 CFR Part 11 may result in FDA Warning Letters, fines, and reputational losses, the expenditure on which is hard to put a limit on, but far outweighing the value of automation software.

Figure 4: Comparative Capability Profile of ERP Automation Platforms



6.3 Case Studies in ROI

Empirical evidence of benefits of this is seen in real-life applications:

- Shiseido (SAP S/4HANA): The company was able to automate regression testing of a global rollout, which saved him 85% of the testing time and reduced defect risk by 99%.
- Gap Inc. (Oracle Cloud): The automation enabled the retailer to roll out a significant migration in 3 months instead of six, saving the retailer on the direct testing expenses by \$900,000 (Perumallapalli, 2024).
- Boingo wireless: The company eliminated the 2.5-week Oracle Cloud quarterly update testing period and reduced this to 3 days, which returned 80 percent ROI within four months.

7. Comparative Market Analysis

Enterprise test automation is a competitive market, and the main competitors of Worksoft are Tricentis Tosca and UiPath.

7.1 Worksoft Certify vs. Tricentis Tosca

Tricentis Tosca is a con-test market leader that has wide market focus on all types of technologies continuous testing. It has a comparable model-driven strategy and focuses on its "Vision AI."

- Strengths: A rich protocol support (160 plus technologies), powerful API testing and has the biggest share in the overall QA market (14.1% mindshare versus 3.3% by Worksoft).
- Weaknesses: It can be viewed as costly and complicated to license. It is a specialist, but has a broader heritage than Worksoft, which is strong in SAP (Perumallapalli, 2024).

Worksoft Certify is positioned as the specialist for complex, SAP-centric business processes.

- Strengths: Unsurpassed SAP automation (ECC, S/4HANA, Fiori, SuccessFactors). The platform known as the Connective Automation, combines Process Discovery with testing. Greater emphasis on the non-technical business user.
- Weaknesses: Lack of mindshare within the general developer community than Tosca or open-source tools. It is reported that the complex logic (loops/conditions) has a steep learning curve.

7.2 Worksoft Certify vs. UiPath

UiPath is a company that came into the scene of testing industry as a result of the Robotic Process Automation (RPA) industry.

- Strengths: Agentic AI and Computer Vision are top of the market in automated unstructured or undefined processes (Perumallapalli, 2024). Good "self-healing" through the Healing Agent.
- Weaknesses: In the past, it specialized in automating production processes as opposed to product testing software. Although the UiPath Test Suite is expanding, it does not have the decades of specialized QA governance functions of Worksoft or Tosca on tested environments.

Table 5: Feature Comparison Matrix

Feature	Worksoft Certify	Tricentis Tosca	UiPath Test Suite
Primary Focus	SAP/ERP Business Process Assurance	Enterprise Continuous Testing	RPA & Business Automation
Automation Paradigm	Model-Based (Object Action Framework)	Model-Based (Tosca Commander)	Flowchart/Sequence (RPA-based)
AI Capability	Heuristic Self-Healing	Vision AI (Deep Learning)	Computer Vision / AI Center
SAP Integration	Native / Solution Manager Certified	LiveCompare / SolMan Certified	SAP API / Heatmap Analysis
Target User	Business Analyst / SME	QA Engineer / SDET	RPA Developer / Citizen Developer
Compliance Support	High (21 CFR Pt 11, Audit Trails)	High (Audit Mgmt)	Moderate (Orchestrator Logs)

8. Implementation Strategies and Best Practices

To implement compliance-aware automation successfully, it is necessary to approach it strategically, not just in terms of selecting a tool.

8.1 Center of Excellence (CoE) Establishment

It has been indicated that the key success factor is the creation of an Automation Center of Excellence (CoE). A CoE standardizes the governance, controls the object repository, and compliance with regulatory standards (Raghunath, 2024). CIOs constructing CoEs indicate that they have sustainable cost-reductions and are confident about QA procedures on a board level.

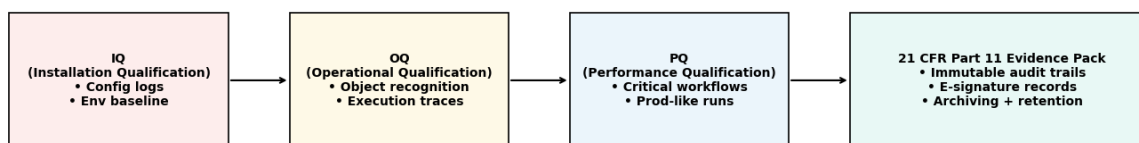
8.2 The 80/20 Rule of Automation

It is recommended that organizations adhere to the 80/20 rule in which case 20 percent of test cases that comprise 80 percent of business risk and execution volume should be automated (e.g., Regression and Smoke tests). Ad-hoc, usability and exploratory testing should be left manual so as to exploit the human intuition. Trying to automate everything is considered a trap that will result in suites that become unsustainable.

8.3 Strategic Validation Strategy

Risk-Based Validation is the strategy that should be adopted in regulated settings. Organizations can use Impact Analysis tools instead of re-validating the entire regression suite in response to every slight change; these tools are able to find the subset of tests that is affected by the changed code. These tests are the only ones that must be run and checked against the compliance and the validation load is eased further (Raghunath, 2024).

Figure 5: Automated Validation Evidence Pipeline (IQ/OQ/PQ) under 21 CFR Part 11



9. Conclusion

To conclude, the combination of artificial intelligence driven capabilities for self-healing with compliance regulations represents a new chapter in the world of ERP testing automation. The risks associated with manual testing for organizations preparing for SAP S/4HANA migration by 2027 have reached a level where they can no longer be tolerated, including downtime due to operations or inability to comply with regulations.

Worksoft Certify's Model-Based Architecture (MBA) provides a robust remedy for the "brittleness" of legacy automation tools while its "Human-In-The-Loop" framework helps ensure that the use of artificial intelligence will not impair the audited records necessary under FDA 21 CFR Part 11. Even though alternatives such as Tricentis Tosca and UiPath have tremendous capabilities for applying AI technologies, they are not as specialized as Worksoft's solution for the SAP ecosystem or focused upon providing business process assurance, which gives Worksoft an advantage over other vendors to help organizations build confidence as they address the challenges of digital transformation.

The data supports that investing in automation is not simply an expense; there is a strong business benefit to be gained through this investment—saving between 40% to 70% in testing costs and significantly shortening time to innovate. By 2028, the use of automation in quality engineering is expected to grow dramatically to include autonomous agents and predictive analytics as standard elements in the quality engineering environment.

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