



## Case Study: ABSA Testing - Branch Delivery Platform

### About the Company

Absa Group Limited (Absa), a member of the Barclays Group, is one of South Africa's largest financial services groups offering a complete range of banking, bancassurance and wealth management products and services. Absa's business is conducted primarily in South Africa and on the Africa continent, where it has equity holdings in banks in Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Absa became a subsidiary of Barclays Bank PLC on 27 July 2005, when Barclays acquired a controlling stake in the Absa Group. Barclays is an international financial services group engaged in retail and commercial banking, credit card issuing, investment banking, wealth management and investment management services.

### Project Description

Absa realised the need for powerful and efficient testing services in its IT division in order to:

- Ensure the quality and reliability of its products in a cost effective manner
- Free up key resources to concentrate on core functions
- Minimise the time to market

To achieve the above objectives, Absa initiated to set up a centralized Testing function. Two projects were chosen under this initiative, Branch Delivery Platform (BDP) being one of them.

Branch Delivery Platform Project is being developed to serve the branch users at various Absa branches across South Africa. The system is sheer upgrade of currently in-use FBSS system, but with much more user friendly front end. The objective of Branch Delivery Platform is to present the users with user friendly GUI front end with the existing IMS back end. The first release was successfully rolled out in September 2007.

BDP project is primarily intended to meet the following requirements:

- Provide an enhanced front end to the branch users.
- Provide a platform which can be evolved to cater the needs of branch user

### Business Challenges

- Enable knowledge transfer on use of standard procedures and processes of SDLC, Change Management, Quality Management
- Change the negative perception of people to follow central testing function
- Educate and practise release management



## **Nihilent's Role**

Nihilent's is currently assisting Absa in the following ways:

- Provide Absa with the capability to implement new and enhanced technology based testing solutions.
- Perform an independent assessment of the effectiveness of Absa software testing capability
- Align testing with each phase of the development lifecycle
- Ensure separation of duties and the detection of defects as early as possible
- Assist Absa in conducting various testing

## **Platform and Technologies**

- Front End – Microsoft Dot Net
- Middle Ware – Mainframe
- Backend – IMS DB2

## **Business Benefits Delivered**

- Efficient and effective testing : better quality of the systems deployed
- Appropriate risk management of business
- Successful implementation of Release 1 & 2 of BDP Project
- Availability and Stability of BDP Project