



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Software Development shakes-off the GFC-blues but cannot escape trouble

Thursday, 16 December 2010 – Optimism has returned to software development projects across Australia and New Zealand, with over 60% of organisations reporting at least as much activity now as pre-GFC.

In the recent 2010 Planit Testing Index, surveying over 200 organisations, 26% of the industry indicated that they have now moved beyond pre-GFC activity levels.

According to Planit Managing Director, Chris Carter, this positive outlook also carries through to spending for software testing in 2011. "49% are going to be spending an increased amount of money on structured testing methodologies, which is encouraging to see," said Carter. "We're also seeing an increase in spend in Software Testing tools and also an increase in spend in training permanent staff.

"On the downside of things, the number one area where spending will reduce will be offshoring. Interestingly, offshoring has grown over the past few years, but more organisations are looking to decrease offshoring in 2011 compared with last year."

But in spite of the general optimism and intentions to continue spending more on testing, project outcomes worsened over the past year, with only 42% of projects being delivered on time, on budget and in line with their original scope, compared with 49% in 2009.

The predominant reason for this outcome is the continued burden of poor and changing project requirements, a key result of the Planit Testing Index over the past four years. In fact, 96% of respondents said that better requirements engineering would have a positive impact on project outcomes, with 63% indicating that this impact would be significant.

Another interesting outcome from the 2010 Planit Testing Index was the immense swing towards Agile/RAD methodologies, with 48% of respondents indicating that they commonly use these in software development projects.

Despite their rapid rise in acceptance, Agile/RAD users were only slightly more likely to report a favourable outcome as compare with those that used no defined corporate methodology at all. This

result could be at least partially attributed to the relative immaturity in the way these methodologies are being implemented, rather than being any fault of the methodologies themselves.

In summing up the year's findings, Carter emphasised the large amount of room for improvement stating that outcomes "could be so much better if only we got requirements definition right". Time will tell if the industry's good intentions to improve testing processes will translate into action and positive project outcomes.

About Planit Software Testing

Specialist software testers. As the leading independent software testing company in Asia Pacific, Planit is unique in its ability to offer a full suite of software testing services to satisfy all our clients' needs. Our goal is to increase client return on technology by adding reliability and performance to the systems that run their business.

Our strength is our people. Our clients benefit from the expertise of Planit's 300+ skilled permanent Software Testers and Business Analysts. Planit's software testing staff are exposed to multiple industries and projects and bring a wealth of knowledge to any project – they are able to use their past experience to add value from day one.

Established in 1997, Planit has offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Wellington and Auckland. Additional information about Planit is available at www.planit.net.au.

About Planit Software Testing Index

The Planit Testing Index is an industry-wide survey carried out by Planit in conjunction with Independent Researchers, collecting vital information about how the industry conducts Software Testing and providing a benchmark for the Australian and New Zealand software testing industry.

The survey examines such key facets as the methodologies employed, attitudes towards testing, project outcomes, budgets and forecasts. This provides an effective benchmark for the software testing industry, detecting areas of strength and weakness while drawing comparisons to previous years and identifying trends for coming years.

The 2010 Index received a record level of participation, with 235 respondents from project, testing and IT management. The results of the Index were presented in a Seminar Series across Australia and New Zealand, closing this past week, presented by Chris Carter to an audience of over 200 senior IT managers.

For video highlights visit <http://www.planit.net.au/about-planit-software-testing/planit-testing-index/>

About Chris Carter

Chris is the region's foremost expert in Software Testing, as well as board member of the ISTQB internationally and ANZTB (the local subsidiary), which he founded.

Chris is the Managing Director and co-founder of Planit Software Testing. His enthusiasm for software testing has been a key driver of Planit's steady growth and reputation for integrity and service quality. Chris has a highly developed ability to make sense of what is happening in IT and often speaks to the media on technology issues.

Media Relations

Blake Young – Marketing

T: 61 2 9464 0627

E: byoung@planit.net.au

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Planit's integrated solutions combine software testing best practices, market leading tools, a wide range of professional services, training and certification to provide: fully managed testing, web/e-commerce testing, strategic outsourcing and development partnering.

Planit proudly offers Software Quality and Testing solutions and training to Australia's top 1000 organisations.