



PRINCETON CONSULTANTS

Information Technology and Management Consulting

About OptiTester™ in Action

Brian Donor
Technical Director, Positive Train Control
CSX

“CSX’s goal is to be the safest, most progressive North American railroad. We use many software tools to support Positive Train Control (PTC), the technology-driven safety initiative for the railroad industry. OptiTester™ is a recent, important addition to these tools.

“OptiTester™ has become essentially a one-stop shop for a variety of information to manage the testing activities at CSX. There are many features that help test planning, execution and reporting.

“I have responsibility for managing the PTC testing program at CSX, so my focus is on OptiTester™’s management capabilities. The Release Management Search lets me find any PTC component and see the status of testing. The Test Management Search provides details about key testing activities, both completed and future. I find OptiTester™’s test reporting highly beneficial. CSX uses HP’s Quality Center to manage and conduct testing. OptiTester™ stepped in to provide a more global view of our testing program. Through the overall program view in the dashboard, I can see the status of all testing activities in a single pane.

“Equally important, OptiTester™ has provided us with a management view to ensure that our testers are updating HP Quality Center in a timely fashion. Previously, we relied on manually created reports to show progress. Internal audits revealed that while the testing had been performed, information in HP Quality Center was not updated as frequently as it should have been. We’ve now been able to shift our reporting to the tooling available in OptiTester™, which has motivated testers to update the details in HP Quality Center or they will not be credited with completing the tests. As a result, our overall reporting and data quality have improved.

“It is hard to envision going back and trying to manage the test program for PTC at CSX without OptiTester™.”

Patricia Lonergan
Test Lead, Positive Train Control
CSX

“This tool is a complete portal for analysis, requirements matrices, test reports and so much more that has translated directly into us building better test cases in a significantly smaller timeframe.

“It allows us to rapidly build traceability matrices that include all of the data elements we need for use in our test planning documents. I can’t calculate the many hours of time this has saved us from having to use HP Quality Center and try and extract all of the data for this work in the past. It makes an incredible difference.

“I also wanted to thank you for all of the upgrades that your team has quickly added as we have come more familiar with the tool. It is so nice to be able to pull up any specification and to quickly see at a glance, for any requirement, all of the associated use cases, messages, test cases, etc. and then quickly export that into an Excel spreadsheet.

“I look forward to the future enhancements.”