

TESTING APPLICATIONS 'FIT FOR PURPOSE' TESTING ENVIRONMENT WITH INE FOR WINDOWS



The Greater London Authority (GLA) is an organisation that focuses citywide within London and works in areas that include housing, planning, climate change, waste, health, culture and nearly all aspects that impact the lives of those working and living within the boroughs and city of London.

IT has become an essential part of nearly all organisations today, enabling them to quickly and efficiently work on the needs of clients and customers, but technology moves fast and Brian Arnold, a specialist Systems Integration Engineer for the GLA wanted to make sure that all their applications would work wherever necessary to enable a good experience for their end users.

The GLA's testing division has a policy of running performance tests on all their web applications. In addition it also had numerous other network systems / applications (Legacy Client/Server, Citrix, and VoIP) that potentially needed testing. For some time, limited bandwidth throttling had been achieved using Open Source technology and in-house programming. However, it was recognised that bandwidth is only one aspect of a network profile.

Brian "To understand the impact on our end users, we made the decision that we that needed to test our applications and systems in controlled and repeatable conditions. These applications also needed to work in a variety of different network environments (WAN, Wi-Fi, 3G, etc.). So, investigating the possibility of implementing a network emulation product was the way forward".

Brian became aware of iTrinegy through a visit to TestExpo' Winter 2010, a specialist software testing event where the company was exhibiting and presenting. Having already researched network emulation technology prior to the event it was fortuitous that he attended the presentation by iTrinegy that referenced how this type of product could be deployed to achieve the performance testing Brian was aiming to achieve. A subsequent visit to the iTrinegy stand confirmed that the company's network emulator software, INE for Windows, was a potential solution for him.

Brian "Installing INE for Windows was very straightforward following download from iTrinegy's website. The License Key was easily inputted and I found the product to be intuitive and probably could have easily managed to get it working without the help of the excellent manual."

Having previously measured and profiled the GLA's existing network, Brian used INE for Windows to replicate the network characteristics – bandwidth, delay, loss etc- of the network. This enabled Brian to emulate the different network environment profiles for end-user experience and performance testing. Brian "Having started by investigating the performance of one our core applications, a contact directory, across the internal Wi-Fi (a 802.11n network accessible throughout City Hall for Hot-Desking and meeting room use by mobile devices) I was able to see how the application was performing.

Brian was initially concerned that INE for Windows might interfere with the operation of other testing tools installed on his machine, especially low-level tools such as "Wireshark". However, Brian reports that happily, there have not been any issues here.

Looking to the future Brian comments "After only one involvement I am confident in the use of INE for Windows and will utilise it when required in future testing engagements. It has become a valuable part of my testing toolkit and I am very happy with my decision to choose it for my Network Emulation requirements."

In summary "I have found INE for Windows to be easy to install, configure, and use, delivering Network Emulation in a straightforward and discreet manner" said Brian.