

Why build products based on the Hyades platform?

If you are reading this paper, you probably are wondering if you should consider further Hyades. The goal of this document is to provide you some perspective on the major benefits you can get from using Hyades as your product infrastructure.

Whether you have a seasoned product or have a great new idea you which would be on the market tomorrow, Hyades can help you reach your goals. This is not an all or nothing value proposition: You can integrate with Hyades at your own pace to gain incremental benefits over time. If you want to learn your way along this path, you should also read this document.(insert hyperlink).

Broaden the scope of your solutions

Embrace the whole ASQ spectrum

Looking at the ASQ product space, one realizes that the range of products is pretty wide, varying according to users, targeted stage in the lifecycle, verification techniques, etc. Typical examples include functional testing, load testing, unit testing, runtime analysis, static analysis, monitoring, etc. Additionally, each category can be further refined into the targeted technologies (web applications, HTTP, java, .NET, C++, etc.).

Whether you are building one product or several, you probably don't have a complete coverage of the entire spectrum of solutions your customers need to get their job done. Building your products using the Hyades infrastructure brings you a wide range of capabilities made available for free as part of the framework. For instance, Hyades offers simple features for HTTP load testing, manual testing, runtime analysis, log analysis, etc. Your customers can directly use these capabilities at no charge, or decide to acquire add-ons provided by other vendors leveraging Hyades. The Hyades infrastructure will make sure that your features will integrate with other vendor's features providing a complete-integrated solution to your customers.

Let's take the example of company A who sells a GUI testing tool integrated with Hyades. Its customers can leverage the code coverage capability available in Hyades to assess how thorough their testing is. Each test run will be correlated with the code coverage data by virtue of the Hyades platform. As these customers will mature, they may want to use additional capabilities beyond the code coverage available in Hyades, and acquire a solution from company B, and still enjoy the same integration without having to learn anything substantial.

Extend your offering beyond “testing”

Automated Software Quality reach goes far beyond testing and debugging: It is common sense that quality starts with well-defined requirements, and requires good traceability across teams and assets. This ties back to detecting issues as early as possible in the lifecycle and building quality in, instead of finding defects and fixing them.

For many vendors in the ASQ space, this means integrating their products with requirements management, design, or defect tracking products. Hyades and Eclipse are greatly simplifying this integration: Hyades assets are based on a common data model, based on the UML 2.0 Testing Profile standard (insert link to OMG website). Furthermore, this data model is implemented on top of the Eclipse Modeling Framework (EMF) infrastructure, which persists all the data your tools manage into the XMI industry standard (XML Metadata Interchange).

What this means is that any assets produced by tools built on top of Eclipse, or tools leveraging XMI can be easily linked to your assets without requiring daunting efforts. More than fifty companies are already delivering products relying on Eclipse in areas such as configuration management, design, modeling, etc. Additionally, most UML-based products already support XMI.

To make things even easier, Eclipse is broadening the scope of its supported data models, recently adding UML 2.0 to the list. As requirements and defects join this already long list, the traceability might become completely free!

Broaden your market reach

The Eclipse community is pretty wide, and expanding very quickly. From under ten vendors forming eclipse.org in November 2001 (Borland, IBM, MERANT, QNX Software Systems, Rational Software, Red Hat, SuSE, TogetherSoft and Webgain), Eclipse has evolved to become a not-for-profit organization in Feb 2004, including 50 member companies. With more than 10,000 websites referencing www.eclipse.org, eclipse.org is today more popular than the ASQ market leader itself!

Joining the Eclipse community means to you more visibility to a wider audience of users, customers and partners. Eclipse actively maintains a list of companies delivering Eclipse-based solutions, creating a forum for these vendors and customers to find complimentary solutions.

To further increase your benefit in joining this ecosystem, several major vendors have created specific marketing programs to become a certified Eclipse partner. Examples of such programs include the Ready for Websphere Studio certification from IBM, or the SAP certification program from SAP.

Speed up your development

Obviously, the Hyades platform provides many opportunities to speed up your development and focus on the value add you are bringing to your customers. According to the stage you are in building your product, you'll get different benefits.

Re-focus your development on what matters...

You are tired of building and maintaining infrastructure software such as installers, test browser, log viewers, context sensitive help, extensibility frameworks, statistical views, live update software, etc. All these components, nonetheless important, are not the core

value you are bringing to your customers, but represent a significant burden for your development team. Leveraging Hyades will enable you to spend a minimal amount of resources on infrastructure software to re-focus your resources on your core technology, accelerating your ability to deliver new features to your customers.

Additionally, Eclipse provides a wide range of solutions and technologies, which can be easily leveraged to improve your user's experience or add interesting capabilities. Examples of such tools include source code editors, debuggers (Java Development Tools, C/C++ Development Tools), graphical frameworks (Graphical Editor Framework), or GUI Widget editor/viewers (Eclipse Visual Editor).

Depending on the stage you are in, you may want to gradually adopt the Hyades infrastructure and progressively "outsource" some of this component. As you gain a deeper knowledge of the platform, you'll start enjoying other benefits such as the integration with other ASQ domains, or other product development tools.

Build new products faster...

You have a great new product idea, but the amount of infrastructure you need to build first is challenging your ability to deliver this solution in a timely manner. You want to make sure that the architecture you build today will meet the needs of your customers as the product matures in the marketplace.

Hyades can help you by providing you a proven architecture and framework you can rely on. Eclipse and Hyades are loaded with capabilities that will enable your product to get faster to market, and be already integrated with a number of other products in the application development space.

Eclipse and the Hyades platform are unique in offering an open source, royalty-free environment. You can take the software, bundle it with your value add, and simply sell it to your customers without any licensing concerns!

Broaden your support

You want to broaden the platforms your tools are supported on. The Hyades desktop is made available on Windows and Linux, while the agents supporting the execution or data collection are made available on Windows, Linux, zOS, and a variety of Unix versions. This means that you can easily add support to run and/or collect information on a large number of platforms with a limited cost.

Additionally, Hyades is not tied to any programming languages, communication protocol, GUI technology, etc. This means that you can leverage the Hyades data models and gradually expand your support to new user interfaces, protocols, scripting languages, etc. without changing your base infrastructure.

Be in control

In the current economy, you no longer can sell a point product without considering the landscape of solutions in which your customers will be using it. This means that you are building and maintaining specific code to integrate your product with other solutions. As part of this effort, you may have joined one or several partner programs, which give you early access to APIs, inform you when things change, etc.

Just like any partner, you have no control over what gets changed in these interfaces, when these changes occur, etc. This probably forces you to provide service releases to your customers in order to keep current with these products. This obviously represents a burden in terms of development, but also testing! How many combinations of partner products are in use by your customers? Probably too many for you to test all of them.

By using Hyades as your integration strategy, you are solving these issues:

- Your products no longer integrate with a long list of partners, but only with Hyades.
- By joining the Hyades project, you can influence the changes made in the platform, both in terms of content and schedule, so that you can better align these required changes with your business goals.

Whether you are integrating with partner solutions, or you have partners integrating with your solutions, Hyades greatly simplifies the collaboration between you and your partners by providing clear and well defined mechanisms for extensibility and inter-operability. Everybody is in control!

It's up to you now!!!