MuleSoft Engages Cprime Studios for DevOps Transformation and New QA Automation

Case Study
MuleSoft
MuleSoft is a software company headquartered in San Francisco, California, that provides integration software solutions for connecting applications, data, and devices using Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). According to Forrester, MuleSoft users realize a 445 percent ROI within three years while freeing up 90 percent of the time their developers spend on maintaining APIs and integrations. Additionally, the solution has been recognized numerous times as a leader in the Integration Platform as a Service (iPaSS) space.

Overview

MuleSoft was growing quickly and needed to accelerate its time-to-market for each new release. They turned to Cprime Studios to attack the problem with a two-pronged approach.
The Challenge

However, the company was experiencing accelerated growth. Thus, leaders realized their existing development process was no longer keeping pace with the feature release schedule they needed to delight customers and remain competitive in a growing industry.

Their flagship product, the Anypoint Platform, had grown and matured a lot since its introduction in 2006. As a result, the complex system sported numerous interdependencies that were increasingly difficult to track and support. Also, testing the system could sometimes take six to eight weeks for each feature release.

The Solution

While adding headcount to the QA team worked to some extent, it was not sufficient to resolve the situation. They reached out to the experienced team at Cprime to help.

During an initial assessment of the situation, Cprime consultants noted a waterfall-style and highly manual QA process that slowed their otherwise Agile workflow significantly. QA was only beginning their testing once they completed all the coding for any given feature. As a result, feedback from QA might not get back to the developers until code had already been merged and they were on to something new.

Goals going in

The Cprime team devised the following goals for the engagement:

1. Significantly decrease the reliance on manual testing and eliminate manual regression testing.
2. Reorganize the waterfall-style cooperation between developers and testers, allowing them to work on the same features at the same time.
3. Advance the testing performance so that each feature works as expected immediately after merging.
4. Decrease the release cycle time and manage the development process to ensure a predictable time to release.
A two-pronged approach

To accomplish these goals, the Cprime team took a two-pronged approach:

1. Augmenting MuleSoft’s existing development and QA team with an additional thirteen frontend developers, four QA and test automation engineers, and two project managers

2. Develop a more efficient DevOps-based testing process that would speed the time to release and train the MuleSoft team to carry it out.

Team augmentation

By augmenting the development and QA organizations at MuleSoft, experts from Cprime Studios were able to concentrate on solving the problem without MuleSoft’s existing team falling behind on their ongoing schedule. The Cprime team:

- Unified the UI components library
- Implemented UI components across the integrations platform
- Migrated the platform UI from an outdated React framework to a newer and higher-performing Angular framework
- Maintained and supported the more mature parts of the platform
- Developed modules from scratch
- Created a new codebase
- Implemented a new automated QA testing process and trained the MuleSoft team to make the most of it

Automated QA testing

The new automated testing procedure brought QA closer to the developers and encouraged closer collaboration. They would now work on the same feature simultaneously, defining clear acceptance criteria before development began and running acceptance scenarios before each merge, validating each feature’s adequacy against customer requirements and developer feedback. This new approach allowed them to release a new fully-tested and compatible feature every two weeks.
Three layers of testing were introduced:

- Completely automated testing scenarios
- Partly-automated testing cases that have to be verified manually
- Minimal manual testing

Automated reporting was also introduced to ensure everyone on the team stayed on the same page about results and performance. The new process also improved bug documentation and acceptance testing in Jira.
The Results

Since this engagement began, the program has scaled to several in-house teams at MuleSoft. They’ve seen the benefits of a more collaborative, DevOps-focused process:

- Every two weeks, a fully-tested and functional feature is released.
- Time-to-market has accelerated from several months to just two weeks.
- Unit, functional, and regression testing has now reached over 80 percent of the platform code due to the efficiency of automated testing.
- Feedback from the customer has increased significantly, offering developers faster and more meaningful insights into user expectations.
- The team is now incorporating more advanced continuous deployment practices.

About Cprime

Cprime is an industry-leading, full-service global consulting firm with a focus on providing integrated and innovative solutions around digital transformation, product, cloud, and technology. With over 20 years’ experience, we provide strategic and technical expertise to businesses across more than 50 industries. Our team of advisors and technical experts have the know-how to meet organizations where they are to develop actionable solutions and solve business challenges. We also collaborate with our expansive network of partners to design, deploy, and harmonize technology stacks across organizations. Our mission is to empower visionary business leaders and teams to reimagine the future of work to achieve better outcomes.