Release·Manager

Automating the Manufacturing Test Process

Product Description

The Problem

In today's manufacturing test environment complexity is a fact of life. It is not unusual to see test and product engineers managing multiple device programs with different versions, multiple load boards, various probe cards, etc. To complicate things further, test programs are frequently being revised to accommodate production changes or to fix bugs. Actual testing and production are often done off-site making it difficult to ensure that the right program is used to test a particular device.

The Solution

The problem of how to manage variability and change within the manufacturing test process can be solved by adding structure and control. This would facilitate change in an orderly and systematic way. This is why we developed ReleaseManager™. ReleaseManager embodies the essential elements of version control, project management, status reporting and tracking, and release management. It also takes into account the unique requirements of the manufacturing test process.

The ReleaseManager Difference

ReleaseManager is the only product of its type that was designed specifically to meet the challenging and unique requirements of the manufacturing test environment. ReleaseManager combines the elements of Change Management, Version Control, Release Management and Project Control into a single, unified system that exerts control yet remains non-intrusive. It manages the entire manufacturing test process from the way files are transferred from design to test engineering, test program development, release to production and how product engineers initiate and monitor necessary program modifications. It also automates many test or product engineering functions such as email notices or file transfers to save time and ensure consistency.

A powerful feature of ReleaseManager is its integrated change management system. This provides an effective way to initiate and track changes within the process. It ensures that all program change requests are approved, implemented, tracked and released in an organized and efficient way.

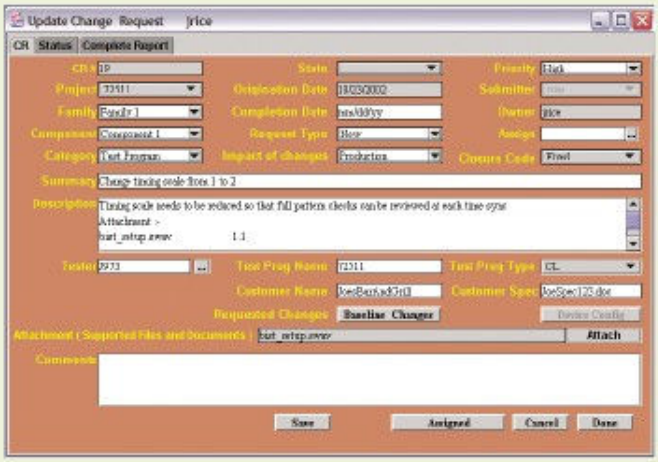
ReleaseManager was also designed to manage multiple, geographically dispersed test and production sites, where test program release and control measures are essential to avoid costly mistakes. It not only allows for collaboration on a project but each release is completely documented to ensure that the test program used in production is the correct one.

Features & Benefits

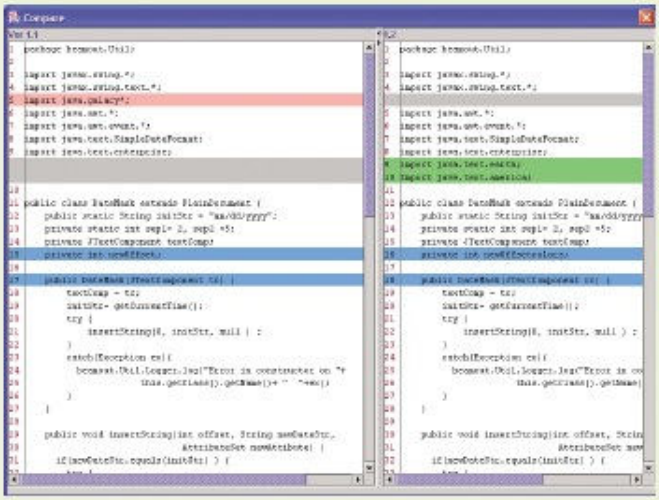
- Project-based version control of text and binary files, and directories
  Provides a backup of previous revisions of files so it is easy to recover from errors or recreate previous versions.
- Change management
  Automates the change process for test programs, test plans, load boards, probe cards, etc., to provide better control, reduce iterations and lower costs.
- Role-based access
  Makes it easy to authorize and control changes to files and releases.
- Defect tracking
  Allows users to easily track the status of changes.
- Automatic email and FTP capability
  Event triggered email and FTP makes it easy to notify team members and send releases.
- Central repository
  Provides a secure area for the storage of all test and product data. Engineers cannot accidentally destroy any critical data.
- Personalized work space
  Test engineers have complete control over their work areas and can continue to work even if the network goes down.
- Branch and automatic merge capability
  Test engineers can fix bugs in previous releases without affecting other development activity.
- Symbolic tags
  Makes it easy to access files and group changes.
- Client-Server architecture
  Allows test and product engineers in multiple, geographically dispersed sites to collaborate.

Simutest

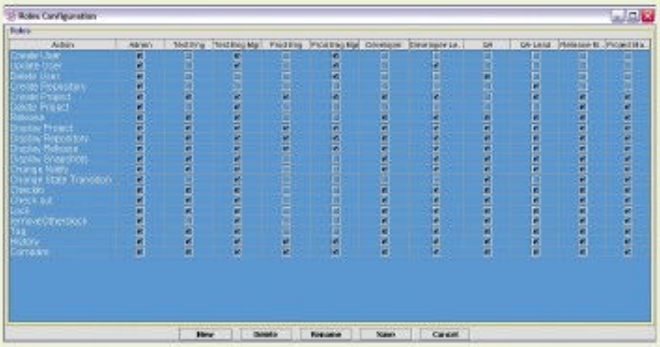
ReleaseManager is a complete data and change management system that was designed to meet the unique requirements of the manufacturing test environment. Key components of the system include Change Management, Version Control, and Release Management.



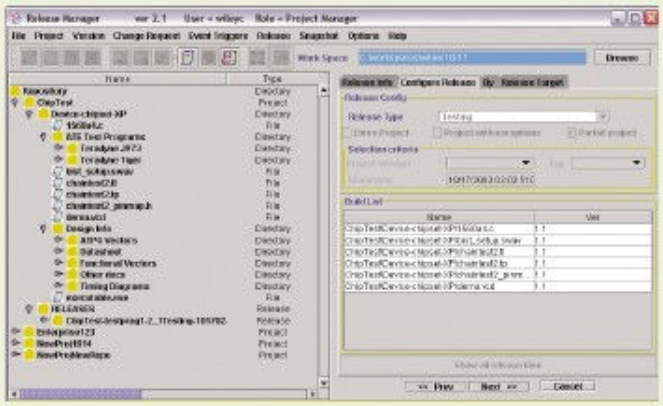
ReleaseManager features a completely electronic form of the Change Request. This makes it easy for design or product engineers to initiate and track change requests. The change request system provides authentication, notification by email, and specification of changes to the test program in a more efficient way, saving time and reducing costly iterations.



ReleaseManager has a powerful version control mechanism for capturing and managing each iteration or version of the files being changed. Source files can be compared to show the differences between versions of the file. The left side is the repository version and the right is the workspace version. Differences are highlighted to detail the changes.



Role-based access is a key feature of ReleaseManager. Access control based on roles ensures that actions can only be performed by authorized roles, i.e., Test Engineer, Product Engineering Manager, etc., and that change requests are approved and implemented. This makes it easier to track and control the various changes.



ReleaseManager automatically builds a release and includes files and directories based on project policy. Releases are stored for immediate access and review. It has automated, email notification and file transfer to save time and ensure consistent reporting of events and milestones.

About Us

Since its founding in 1987, Simutest has grown to become a leading supplier of test automation tools for the electronic manufacturing market. With over 200 customers worldwide Simutest's success is due primarily to its ability to provide innovative solutions to the unique problems associated with the manufacturing test environment. Its mission continues to be to improve the manufacturing test process through the application of automated tools that increase individual productivity and lower manufacturing costs.

Supported Platforms

Solaris, Windows, NT, Linux

Simutest

www.simutest.com

Simutest, Inc.
4800 Great America Parkway,
Suite # 408,
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Tel: (408) 988-4032
Fax: (408) 988-4034

Email: info@simutest.com
Web: www.simutest.com

Copyright © 2002 Simutest, Inc. All rights reserved.