Top Rated
Performance Testing Tools

Spotlight on Reviews of
Micro Focus LoadRunner,
Performance Center
and StormRunner Load

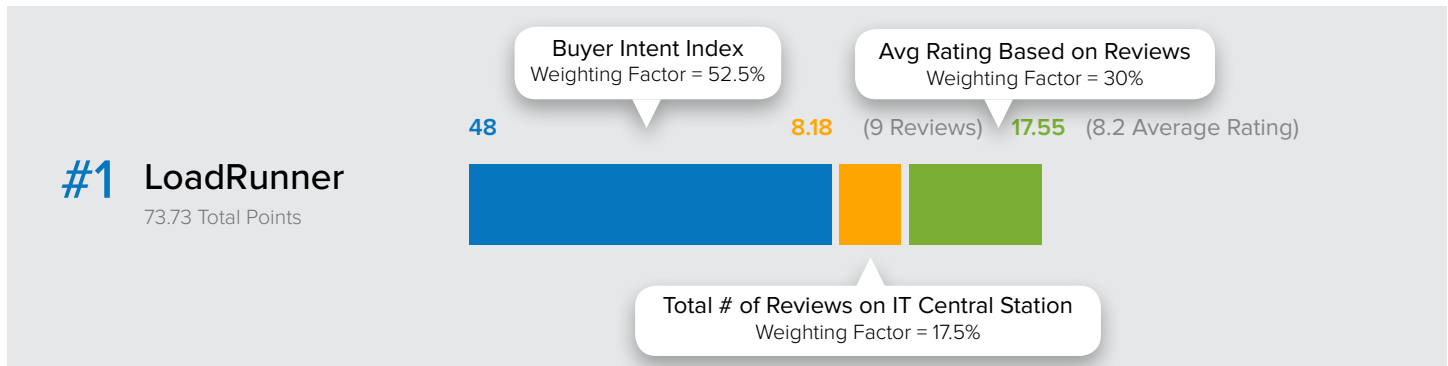# 2018

Based on product reviews, crowdsourced rankings,
and buyer intent data as of July 1, 2018.

IT Central Station
Unbiased reviews from the tech community

IDG

About This Report

Guide to Rankings

Buyer Intent Index
Weighting Factor = 52.5%

Avg Rating Based on Reviews
Weighting Factor = 30%

#1 LoadRunner
73.73 Total Points

48   8.18   (9 Reviews)   17.55   (8.2 Average Rating)

Total # of Reviews on IT Central Station
Weighting Factor = 17.5%

To learn more about IT Central Station rankings, visit http://www.itcentralstation.com

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Top Rated Performance Testing Tools

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating

Access all reviews at https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/performance-testing-tools

#1 LoadRunner
73.73 Total Points

48   8.18 (9 Reviews)   17.55 (8.2 Average Rating)

#2 Performance Center
64.49 Total Points

17.43   20.00 (22 Reviews)   27.05 (8.5 Average Rating)

#3 StormRunner Load
54.49 Total Points

29.71   8.18 (9 Reviews)   16.60 (7.8 Average Rating)

#4 Neotys NeoLoad
50.1 Total Points

22.95   8.18 (9 Reviews)   18.97 (8.9 Average Rating)

#5 BlazeMeter
48.83 Total Points

13.18   9.09 (10 Reviews)   26.56 (8.3 Average Rating)

LoadRunner

It Has Helped Us Identify Performance Issues Well In Advance

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

reviewer433794

Lead Solution Architect at a consumer goods company with 10,001+ employees

Valuable Features

LoadRunner is one of the most versatile performance testing tools. One thing I really like about LoadRunner is its breadth of coverage. The number of protocols that it supports, and especially, for example, when it talks about SAP GUI-based performance testing. I could not think about any other tool other than LoadRunner. I've also seen LoadRunner evolve over a period of time, in the sense that it addresses new technologies. I would say it's still a very strong product and there's a lot of new products out there.

Improvements to My Organization

Think about the performance testing as a part of the whole of your testing lifecycle. It's our go-to product and that's the only product which we use within the organization right now. Not every project goes through performance testing, but any project that has performance testing is a component of the test lifecycle. It has our de facto standard.

When you think about deploying these applications to production, and our organization being a global company, we have a user footprint across the globe. LoadRunner, along with HPE Envy Network Virtualization: It's a combination where we, not only run business processes in volumes, but also similar to these network conditions, helps us identify some performance issues well in advance. It's one of those risk verifications that we do.

Room for Improvement

One thing I was desiring a few years ago, before StormRunner came in, I was hoping HPE would come out with some of the new tools that are cloud-based, SAS-based performance testing solutions. With StormRunner coming out, it has probably filled that gap.

You should be able to use LoadRunner as a single platform. You should be able to have browser based access. You should be able to run enterprise tests. HPE addressed a little bit of this by taking over the license for the controller and tying it to the load generators. But in an ideal world, just make it a single platform, everything should be like Performance Center.

Use of Solution

I've been using LoadRunner as a performance engineer since 2002. That makes it about 15 years now.

Stability Issues

It's such a mature product. It's been out there for a very long time. It has come a long way. It's extremely stable in the sense that I can approach the technical support, as an example. It is because we ran into some challenges with program scripting or something, but generally not because of the application crashing. I'd list my experience with LoadRunner as it being a very stable product.

Scalability Issues

In my previous experience with previous employers working with some retailers, we had to run some extremely large tests, and even at my current company, we go up to about 3000 content users. I think it's fairly scalable. We run very small tests, obviously, with StormRunner. It's can probably scale to much higher levels, but within our boundaries of demands, it's scaled very well.

Customer Service and Technical Support

We use tech support, but not quite often, just when we really run into some problems. We have a really strong internal team, which so a majority of the issues are internally solved. We are either experimenting or knowledge base in everything. We do reach out to tech support, but it's very rarely done (rare cases).

Service depends upon the issue we face. Sometimes we go off on a tangent. It's an exception, but we go down the wrong path. Then, it's a long winding road to the actual resolution. In many cases, if it's a common issue and it's fairly quick, we get pretty good support. I've actually seen both.

Previous Solutions

In 2002, was the first time I was actually really involved in bringing the tool in. Ever since, I go to new employers, the tool was already there. I help take it to the next level, mature the practice of what not, but again there's only one instance where I really had to bring the tool in, but everywhere else, we already had a tool in place.

Back then, there was no competition. It was the only choice there. After that, whenever I moved companies, the tool was already there. I was involved in the sense of bringing new protocols, new additional licenses, and so on.

Initial Setup

I was involved in the initial setup. It's extremely straightforward. I've probably worked on about six or seven different versions, and it's extremely straightforward and fairly simple to setup.

Pricing, Setup Cost and Licensing

I would still consider LoadRunner as an expensive tool and you get a LoadRunner and the Performance Center.

Other Solutions Considered

Once there was situation before StormRunner was out, where we did venture into a tool call. Here I was working for a retailer. We ventured in tool call with SOASTA. We were looking for a cloud-based performance testing solution, and at that time, HPE was not there. Every time I wanted to make a decision, LoadRunner was our default choice and we had nothing else running in contention.

Other Advice

LoadRunner is still my first choice. There's still no competition to LoadRunner. In the sense, there are tools out there. I know without a doubt, very good tools. But again, LoadRunner to me is more versatile and has more breadth of coverage.

Most important criteria when selecting a vendor:

We look at the product itself. In the sense, the stability of the product, etc.

In terms of the vendor, we look at the thought leadership and the roadmap. That's something we always look into. Just to see, is the vendor a good investment. For example, are they going to stick around for a long time?

We want them to innovate. In the sense, if you think about how quickly the technologies are changing. We want the vendor that we are looking into to focus on innovation.

Disclosure: I am a real user, and this review is based on my own experience and opinions.

Performance Center
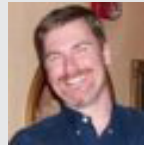
See All Reviews

Enables Testing A Huge Variety Of Applications, Not Just Web-Based Systems But SAP, Oracle, Etc.

★★★★⯪

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Erik P.

Senior Presales Engineer at a tech company with 51-200 employees

Valuable Features

High scalability. Web-based testing. The interface. If you're familiar with the days of using LoadRunner, when you had to have the 32-bit client, using a web-based client is fantastic. You can spin it up relatively quickly despite the fact that it's enterprise software. You can test a huge variety of applications, not just web-based systems, but SAP, Oracle, web services, pretty much anything out in the market place, but it's mobile-based testing.

Improvements to My Organization

In my current organization, I honestly don't know so much. But in my previous organization, when I was doing consulting, we helped huge amounts of customers prepare not to fail under scale. So whether you have a large amount of base driven things like Super Bowl, or a major sale, release of a new product like Samsung S8, iPhone 7, etc. Basically when you get a huge push.

Room for Improvement

Canned reports are always a challenge and a question with customers because customers want to see sexy reports. They want to be able to show something to the CIO. So I think the dashboards are one of the features I'd like to see most.

I think it's more of getting into the world where you've got tableau and dashboarding. I think that reporting needs to be a little bit more fancy, as people expect the sexier reporting. They don't expect just to have, "I ran a test. The test ran for this long." I think the consumer's expectations for what reporting looks like have changed a lot. You do an Excel report or a Word report versus, "No, it needs to be a very pretty dashboard."

The product itself, I think it's pretty good. I can't think of anything off the top of my head.

Stability Issues

It's great. I don't have a problem with stability at all, as long as you have it scaled properly and you have sufficient hardware in place. If you're running it all on a VM, you're going to have a problem, but if you run it with the proper infrastructure, it's a very solid product.

Scalability Issues

The nature of Performance Center is scalable, so you have the application server and then, when you need to have more generators to generate more load, you spin those up pretty quickly. You can use cloud-based generators as well, so that's a huge plus.

Customer Service and Technical Support

It's been a long time since I needed to use tech support. Normally, as a consultant, I am the tech support, so I don't typically have to use tech support. But when I have, I normally am able to get quickly to either R&D-level or a level-two support because it's a real problem with the product, not necessarily just, "I can't figure this out."

Previous Solutions

I help customers with this process all the time. I'm usually advising them on what, why, when, what the feature benefits are.

Unfortunately, as is human nature, customers decide that they need Performance Center because they've had a disaster. Hopefully not a horrible disaster, but they've had some kind of case where they released a product and it didn't scale. They didn't plan for their own success. A classic example is HealthCare.gov. Politics aside, when you've got the entire American population ready to enroll for healthcare and it tanks, it's a very bad experience for everyone. And that's not an uncommon occurrence across the board.

So then they realize, "Oh, well, we better do performance testing," and then they realize they didn't plan for that in the project lifecycle, so now they need to come and talk to Micro Focus about standing that up, or to talk to a partner at Micro

Focus about how to do that for them.

There was a reason, for the longest time, that it had one of the largest market shares of any type of solution in the world, and now that Micro Focus has Silk and the LoadRunner/Performance Center product, they've got that market cornered.

Initial Setup

I have set up many, many instances of Performance Center. Recently, it's much more straightforward. A long time ago it was very complex. But it's pretty straightforward. You set up the application center, you set up your generators, you set up your controllers, database.

Other Advice

When selecting a vendor I would judge them on the criteria that I have myself: they've got to have experience, they've got to have done the testing on the solutions that they've worked on. I think seniority is good too, little gray hairs don't hurt anything.

Regarding advice to others, invest in training. Invest in mentoring. Invest in experienced people that have done the job before. Don't go into it thinking that you're going to open the box, get it out, and it's going to be perfect. It's a complicated tool for a reason. You don't want someone operating on you who says, "Well, I read a book on brain surgery." It's complicated for a reason.

Disclosure: I am a real user, and this review is based on my own experience and opinions.

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Real User Review of
StormRunner Load

The Best Feature Is That We Don't Have To Build And Maintain Infrastructure Anymore

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Aditya K.

Senior Performance Engineer
at a retailer with
1,001-5,000 employees

Valuable Features

StormRunner itself is a pretty good hybrid product of Performance Center. Keeping up with DevOps, thus the best feature of StormRunner is that we don't have to build and maintain infrastructure anymore. Whenever we have to test lab scale applications, and in a scenario where we don't have to test every day, we don't have to build the machines and pay for it. Instead, we can get the infrastructure from on-demand from StormRunner, and its ability to run it anywhere just by opening it in browser is the best part. The evolution of StormRunner starting with supporting LoadRunner along with the open source technologies like JMeter and Selenium. Their unit testing tools are actually very advanced in the region of the product. That's why I would recommend anyone to use StormRunner, even though something is not supported now, eventually it's going to be supported by StormRunner. That's the kind of credibility that's needed for any customer when it comes to relying on a product or going for a new product.

Improvements to My Organization

The best benefit would be budget. It's a really inexpensive if you are testing your application every spring or every month. Even for less frequent applications that you have to test regularly. You can hook up your infrastructure to StormRunner Cloud and you can get the best of both worlds.

In larger enterprises, we have different departments using Performance Center and StormRunner or Selenium. So, StormRunner can act like an umbrella and plug-in everything, get it executed or done across the world. Since they use both HPE Cloud, AWS, and Microsoft, it uses more access points geographically to test it making it best of the class.

Room for Improvement

More insight into test results and allowances. It might be a tailor-made requirement for me, but I would like to download them offline and do my own customizations on the reports. Right now, we have some standard templates that generates reports. But if I had to do some customizations, include something else and create a report, it's not easy. So, if I can an order to download the raw data I can make custom report. That would be the case with every customer because even though they tested one product it might be part of a big project and they need to have other information included in it along with the report, so feasibly it is good to have.

Also, it's evolving, where there's too many features for me to handle and it's too much on my plate to any make ROI out of it.

There is a steep learning curve for the product, too.

Stability Issues

Over the last couple of years, it's been evolving. We started using more in the last one year and we see it's pretty stable. Adding new features to StormRunner is going to slow down once it has every feature. That has to do with stability and I don't see any drawback in that.

Scalability Issues

We haven't really hit any scalability issues by using StormRunner, but I just now heard that they can support two million users, which is kind of astonishing. The max I have used is 40,000 users, but two million is good, too. It's big step up from 40,000.

At the same time, you don't have to get the infrastructure built and set it up. For example, let's say you had to test it for one million users. You don't have to procure all of the machines you need for the one test you're going to do. You can do it on demand, that's the best thing. Two million is still very much overboard, but it's good to know. It's good to know that there's no limitation nearby.

Customer Service and Technical Support

I'm not a big fan of the tech support to be frank. SaaS tech support (HPE tech support or Micro Focus), there's a gap between the people who access our tickets and the people who know the product. So, there is always a blind exchange of information within Micro Focus and most of the time get frustrated with the kind of ticket updates we get. What happens is the person handling the ticket might not be an expert in the product so we end up redoing everything. Communicating everything about our setup and infrastructure and the customer engagement for each ticket. Therefore, we started involving our technical correspondent

with Micro Focus, but we're told that it's a pretty messy situation over there.

Previous Solutions

I always thought it would be good to have something like this from HPE because we rely a lot on HPE. Then, StormRunner was released and I knew where exactly it was going and what's it would be for us.

Initial Setup

I was involved in the initial setup. It was straightforward and there was a lot of good information available, but I did not need it. I didn't go through any support to set it up. The documentation itself was good.

Other Solutions Considered

The other product we considered was BlazeMeter. We eventually chose StormRunner. I think only those two are pretty much in the market - nothing else.

Other Advice

I like that StormRunner incorporates the idea of accepting and adapting all open sources. It is my understanding that they are planning to continue accepting, supporting, and adapting all open sources.

For someone evaluating StormRunner and similar products, there are two parameters I would tell him to evaluate:

- Is the application under test? Is it customer facing?

- Is how often do you test it?

Most important criteria when selecting a vendor: We are a retail business. The first thing I look for is any customer use case, or case study for the vendor. I look to see if they have proven that they are good resource for any existing retail customers. I look for any kind of case study in those lines before I jump in.

Disclosure: I am a real user, and this review is based on my own experience and opinions.

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