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