**What is TaskCat?**

TaskCat is an easy-to-use framework that allows partners and users to develop and test cloudformation templates which can be easily imported into the QuickStart platform.

**What is ConjureQS?**

ConjureQS is a Quickstart packager. The packager’s purpose is to structure, pack and compress Cloudformation template and its assets so that it is portable and compatible with the QuickStart platform.

**Tell me more about it: -**

* At its core TaskCat is a python class that helps to deploy your CloudFormation templates in multiple regions. You can use TaskCat by importing it as a python module and creating a TaskCat object. Because it is a generic class that facilitates multi region deployments and testing, it can be integrated into an existing deployment or testing framework with ease. This facilitates partners in developing QuickStarts and enables them to test using the same methodology we use internally.
* TaskCat Class is imported into conjureqs.py which is a python program that allows Cloudformation assets to be structured in a desired manner and packaged so that it is portable. The conjureqs program will produce a single compressed file. This file will contain all the assets needed to run the CloudFormation template. The packager also enforces AWS QuickStart skeleton structures allowing the package to plug and play with the QuickStart CI platform.
* TaskCat will provide a test report for each test and in case of failures it will highlight the reasons of failure by region and resource in a color coded manner which will allow partners to find and correct errors/bugs prior to submission to the Quick Start team.

**How does this help our partners?**

This tool reduces the work a partner needs to do to create and test Cloudformation templates for QuickStart. It enables them to test and iterate with constant feedback without having to engage our team directly. Once all the tests pass through this tool, it will guide them to next step; how to submit it to our platform.

Partners and Customers will spend less time building structures and more time on development and testing Quick Starts. Additionally, the testing component will allow partners to find and correct errors/bugs prior to submission to the Quick Start team. This will streamline the submission process.

**Why do Partners need it?**

Currently the only way for partners to get feedback on their QuickStart development is to engage a PSA and have them audit and test the code. This can often be a blocker/bottleneck. Today converting a CloudFormation into QuickStart requires many manual steps. This can lead to human error and it is inefficient. TaskCat automates a lot of these manual steps thus reducing complexity and provide instant feedback during the early stages of development, leading to a shorter turnaround time to produce a QuickStart.

**How does it help us (QuickStart team)?**

Artifacts generated and submitted by this tool will be guaranteed to have passed all the tests in multiple regions and be in compliance with the QuickStart CI standards. This will eliminate the effort needed to restructure partner developed assets and manually feed them into our Quickstart CI platform. In addition, since the artifacts would have already been tested before submission, chances of failure in our CI will be reduced leading to fewer feedback cycles with Partners.

**What is the effort to maintain TaskCat?**

The additional load will be 8 (extimate) hours per week.

**Is there a success measure for TaskCat?**

Yes, we will measure and report the number of submissions, failures and succeeding Quick Start tests. We will also be able to identify which accounts are getting better at developing Quick Starts using TaskCat. The higher the success rate the more success TaskCat will be deemed to have.

**What TaskCat will not do?**

It is not going to replace any of our existing tools like – Amicorn, Beautycorn, Alchemist etc.