## **Top 10 RPA System Features every customer should look for**

RA system level features customers should look for when comparing systems from leading robotic automation providers. The review doesn’t cover “table stakes” features that are common to any reputable RA system. Examples of such table stakes features include: training resources, role-based access & single sign-on; auditing; centralized deployment; analytic dashboards; CSV report exports and robotic scheduling. That said, let’s go.

### **Architecture**

**Hosting Options**: Is the RA system designed to give a customer deployment options across Cloud, virtual machines and terminal services? The Cloud deployment option is particularly attractive to some customers for its flexibility and scalability, along with customary thin client advantages. Those customers should determine if the RA provider offers a cloud service that scales automatically.

**Virtual & Enterprise Applications Compatibility**: All reputable RA system providers will utilize object-based adaptors for presentation layer technologies (e.g. .Net (WinForms, WPF), Browsers (IE, FireFox, Chrome, Flash, Silverlight, applets), Java (AWT, Swing, SWT), Mainframe/green screen emulators, etc.). 

A customer should go beyond that minimum and look for a provider whose architecture provides a proven integration track record with: Citrix (including Xen) & other virtualization technologies; enterprise applications such as SAP (GUI & Web); Oracle; Siebel, PeopleSoft, Salesforce.com, FIS and BMC Remedy.

### **Security & Governance**

**Release Environments**: Will the RA System provide staging and production environments for QA and compliance with the customer’s existing release methodology and compliance policies – including rollback workflows? These environments should be governed by role-based release actions. For example: 1) a developer (business or IT) publishes a workflow to a staging server; 2) a tester runs test scripts in the staging environment; 2) successful results cause the workflow to be published on the production server; 3) all activities, profiled by timestamps and actors, are logged and stored.

**Centralized Repository for Version Control, Execution Logs and Credentials**: Are robots published to a central, secured, database repository which services as book-of-record for version and rollback management? Does this repository receive log reports of detailed execution steps from all deployed robots? Are credentials stored in this secured repository and available to deployed robots via encrypted channels?

**UI Security:** Does the RA system allow you to lock a client computer while running a robot? Does the auto-login feature configure so that login is maintained only for the duration of robotic execution? Are all channels between deployed robotics, UI automation, linked applications and system servers protected by high level encryption and SSL protocols?

### **Performance**

**Rapid Development Support**: Does the RA system provide a large library of re-usable business components based on object and process hierarchies? Is the customer able to reduce development time by building its own library of reusable process templates, based upon prior robotic design work?

**Large Group Deployment**: Is the RA system capable of automatically deploying of robots in groups of dozens or hundreds? Will this feature include agentless configuration, proactively eliminating runtime updates and central server synchronization issues by insuring client configuration and robot deployment coincide.

**Rules-Based Exception Handling**: Does the system support deployments with rules-based exception handling? This feature is designed to handle exceptions in an intelligent, proactive, manner. For example, if a robot reports an application exception, the following sequence is triggered: 1) the server re-assigns the same transaction to another robot for retry and removes the first robot from production; 2) if the retry is successful, the reassignment is maintained and a level 2 alert is raised to report exception and resolution; 3) if the retry is unsuccessful, the second server is unassigned and a level 1 alert is raised to report exception and failed resolution.

**Highly Elastic Scalability:** Is the RA system capable of dynamically up-scaling and down-scaling hundreds of robots in simultaneous operation? At a minimum, it should provide a web-based, centralized management console with features for monitoring and control, on-demand robot start/stop and robot add/remove.

**Work Queues**: Does the RA system have the ability for deployed robots to pull transaction data into their process flows from work queues populated from users or other robotic processes? These work queues should be stored on the server and available to all deployed robots.

Can selenium be used for RPA?

**Selenium** is a Web Application Testing tool whereas Robotic Process automation technology is **used** to automate repeated tasks which involve web and desktop applications. ... However, **RPA** tools **can** automate Web as well as Desktop Applications but it is NOT recommended to **use RPA** in a testing environment .

**Can Selenium be used for robotic process automation?**