Impact Study

In association with: Unifits

Mastering the Transition to ISO 20022: Strategies for Compliance and Automated Testing in Financial Services

Finextra | unifits

Contents

01 | Foreword

Birgit Aigner,
Head Marketing & Sales, Unifits

Payments and financial services are on a path to becoming fully digital – a journey that can be complex. Regulatory and industry-led changes present both challenges and opportunities for institutions worldwide. Among the most transformative of developments is the shift toward ISO 20022, a global standard for electronic data interchange between financial institutions. This transition is not merely a technical upgrade but a fundamental shift that impacts every aspect of financial operations; from compliance to customer service.

Being compliant with regulatory changes has always been fundamental to the financial industry, especially in payments, but the frequency and scope of these changes are increasing. The road to compliance, efficiency, and agility remains critical – with testing requirements ratcheting up the pressure and demanding more from key bank staff.

This report underlines the importance of achieving compliance; highlighting how it enables institutions to navigate the intricacies of new regulations – such as ISO 20022 – while maintaining operational resilience and the all-important competitive edge. Our exploration covers the historical evolution of testing, the tangible benefits of automation, and the emerging trends and regulations shaping the payments' future. With insightful case studies and expert commentary, we underline the need to bridge the gap between business and IT and emphasise the demand for a collaborative approach to testing.

With insightful case studies and expert commentary, we underline the need to bridge the gap between business and IT and emphasise the demand for a collaborative approach to testing.

By adopting newer technologies, financial institutions can not only streamline their operations but free up staff to unlock opportunities for innovation and growth. This study provides a comprehensive guide for institutions seeking to future-proof their systems and strategies in an ever-evolving regulatory environment.

We extend our gratitude to the experts and practitioners who have contributed the following insights. Their expertise reflects the significance of proactive and adaptive approaches to testing, when it comes to sustainable success in the financial services sector.

02 | Introduction

With a regulatory storm incoming, the need for testing solutions – whether they be generic or tailored – is greater than ever before. As the financial services industry undergoes a vast amount change, particularly around the introduction of new rails on the ISO 20022 framework, these tests are proving vital for international banks and other institutions in the chain.

Yet, for this sector change is not a binary phase; it is almost always underway. To tackle this challenge in a sustainable way, automation is key – giving institutions the confidence to weather the storm of regulation with ease.

With the ISO 20022 standard now a prerequisite, organisations must convince their business leaders that the migration mandated for November is not just an IT project – it is fundamental to company-wide strategy.

But the business must not only understand the impact of new regulations and standards, but it must also recognise the invaluable insights that can be derived from compliance. Indeed, if a bank is to avoid leaving its limited stock of ISO experts overworked in the near-future, capacity should be freed up through the implementation of automated testing protocols.

Third-party or offshore outsourcing strategies are not always successful either – often resulting in an even greater disconnect between the business and technical teams, with stark ramifications for compliance and data-driven customer insights.

Working with a technology provider to automate testing might be the key to help banks stay agile in the face of a shifting payments landscape, as well as future-proof their architecture for whatever regulations come over the horizon.

With the ISO 20022 standard now a prerequisite, organisations must convince their business leaders that the migration mandated for November is not just an IT project – it is fundamental to company-wide strategy.

03 | The impact of testing

Countless new payments rails have been brought to markets across the globe, creating a somewhat fragmented model. It's an awful lot of change; demanding a lot of adaptation on the part of institutions.

In Europe and America there are real-time gross settlement (RTGS), high-value and real-time payment systems – each with numerous schemes within them. In Europe, for example, there is the TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS), NPC Instant Credit Transfer, Switzerland SIC5; not to mention mass and retail payments, including NPC Credit Transfer, EBA STEP2 and SCL SEPA-Clearer German Bundesbank.

Irrespective of the scheme, as of November 2024, every rail – past and present – will be migrated to Swift's common language, ISO 20022: the next standard for exchanging electronic messages between financial organisations. This global harmonisation of financial transactions is for banks and clearing houses one of the most complex initiatives in recent memory. Failure to meet the challenge could mean a loss of the competitive edge, as other organisations start to provide increasingly sophisticated and personalised services to end-users.

Inside the institution, decision makers would be forgiven for feeling disenchanted. Faced with a lack of resources or departmental know-how, increased complexity and regulatory deadline overlap, a compressed time-to-market, and little in the way of validation offerings from the payment schemes, pressure to test is ratcheting up.

Increased demands on product owners in the ISO 20022 era

Unfortunately, the burden lands on the business side of financial firms – particularly product owners. This is because the role requires the delegate to work with clients to explain and support on new ISO 20022 payment methods. However, a product owner is also in demand by account executives. Pre-ISO 20022, any new rails were tested by technical staff, since they were mostly file format changes. This placed little demand on the product owners internally. In the ISO 20022 world, however, new rails and opportunities are business-led, and therefore demand considerable capacity from business and product owners, who must explain to the testing community – not just file format changes but also – the inherent business rules and check the test responses.

While this is new to both segments, it is especially reliant on the business side, to explain and check any new rules. The burden is only exacerbated if the testing community is outsourced or siloed from the business. Cumulatively, this means that the product team – which is required to closely support its clients – is stretched and must spend a considerable amount of time internally focused, as opposed to creating new opportunities externally.

The popular solution, of outsourcing the project to a third party or offshore entity, can create even deeper silos yet; with business executives communicating only to the business, and technology executives communicating with themselves. Evidently, contemporary testing procedure is an organisation-wide issue and should be handled with congruency.

The best recourse is testing support – the holy grail of ISO compliance. For a financial entity, the perfect scenario is end-to-end clearing simulations that are compatible with all modern rails, so that any movements on the payments landscape can be shouldered with ease.

In the ISO 20022 world, however, new rails and opportunities are business-led, and therefore demand considerable capacity from business and product owners.

In an interview with Finextra, Victor Neff, senior manager, Accenture, echoed that the sector is “facing significant regulatory changes.” He added that “these changes are expected to extend to other regions in the coming years, placing considerable pressure on banks. The demand for skilled experts, including business analysts and testers, has increased. Consequently, providing an out-of-the-box testing solution for the payments sector is essential for agile project delivery, which has become the predominant project methodology. This ensures that banks can quickly adapt to regulatory changes and maintain compliance efficiently.”

Industry experts highlight the importance of testing solutions

Christian Bruck, partner, financial services, BearingPoint, agreed: “Testing solutions are essential in today’s regulatory and business environments due to several factors. Organisations need testing solutions to adapt quickly to rapidly evolving regulations without disrupting operations. Managing standards like ISO20022 is challenging, and testing solutions ensure compliance. They offer resource-efficient implementation, easing the burden on staff and enhancing documentation capabilities.”

Bruck went on to emphasise the importance of cross-departmental collaboration when tackling the issue: “Building a bridge between IT and the business department is one of our core tasks in supporting such projects. As a management consultancy, we are involved in many payment implementation projects. Given the current complexity and far-reaching effects of implementations on the entire process chain with their mutual interactions, the connection between business and IT is an essential component of successful project delivery.”

When it comes to the testing, not all processes are the same. Broadly speaking, there are two kinds: generic IT testing and industry-specific testing:

1

GENERIC IT TESTING

The generic testing process happens within IT departments. The solution comes with the benefit for being able to launch quickly, because there is no need to introduce a project in script; all domain knowledge sits with the department.

2

INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC TESTING

The more an organisation has regulatory or specialised requirements, the more it may benefit from an industry-specific approach.

In one sense, testing for various payments rails is a generic solution, in that it will be based on ISO. The difference comes in taking an industry-specific view, by using historic data.

The process for a given sector is tailored by testing all the processes and message types in a jurisdiction that have migrated from legacy formats and processes to ISO; be it MEPS+ in Singapore, TIPS in Europe, or High Value Clearing System (HVCS) in Australia. Ultimately, ISO 20022 is the common language, with various flavours to consider and maintain.

"Our organisation strives to bridge the gap between IT and business units by emphasising the benefits of industry-specific test automation solutions – especially for functional system testing, user acceptance testing and end-to-end testing," said Neff. "While the business side often sees the value in such solutions, the IT department may prefer custom-built approaches or established test automation frameworks. Both approaches require integrating payment logic, which has long-term implications, as scheme updates need continuous incorporation. This is also acceptable, as long as all involved parties understand the benefits and drawback of custom-built solutions for payment test automation."

Bruck added that “advanced testing solutions streamline the testing process for faster issue detection and resolution. Such solutions handle increased workloads and replicate successful test strategies across systems and departments. Testing solutions provide clear evidence of compliance, facilitating external audits. Thorough testing also helps avoid regulatory breaches, preventing costly fines and legal issues; they simplify comprehensive system testing, ensuring seamless component interaction.”

04 | Past vs present: The evolution of testing

Whichever way it is sliced, for those firms interested in fulfilled, accurate and safe transactions – for consumers and partners alike – rigorous testing has always been necessary. How this testing takes shape on the ground is where the innovation comes in.

In-house testing, on a project-by-project basis can work, though it is resource intensive, prone to error, and slow to market. Despite the cons, large swathes of the payments sector continue to work this way – using fragmented and incumbent structures to test for each scheme, solution, or regulation that lands. This tangles banks' project managers and IT teams in a never-ending loop of regulatory interpretation, technological updates, testing, and renovation.

Tactics like this see big budgets thrown at the latest payment scheme that is kicked into play, only for capital to be required all over again when that scheme is eventually cast aside and updated.

In the case of management and technology consultancy, BearingPoint, their clients were historically undertaking payments testing using proprietary methods, and Excel, which required extensive specialised knowledge. Bruck commented that this "method was error-prone due to reliance on VBA and lacked automated evaluation capabilities, resulting in high manual effort and dependency on expert resources. Often, there was limited transparency regarding test progress, depth, and scope, making it sometimes challenging to track and manage testing activities effectively."

Predicting side effects and system interactions is difficult in this scenario and can lead to overlooked potential risks. “Preparing decision-making documents for management took substantial time and required reliable evaluations,” Bruck added. “Testing was limited to connected systems, which not only increased costs but caused gaps if systems were unavailable. Previous methods offered less replicability, impacting comprehensive testing and market readiness before go-live.”

The shift toward testing automation

The cutting-edge approach to this legacy challenge is automation. By utilising automation, testing is already underway – with no further budget required – when a new mandate lands. This enables organisations to easily circumvent many of the resource-heavy tasks associated with manual testing.

“Automation enhances efficiency and accuracy, enabling quick adaptation to change and reliable results,” agreed Bruck. “These solutions give effortless generation of detailed and accurate reports for internal and external assessments.” What is more, combining test automation and tailored solutions enhances benefits, allowing “end-to-end testing and niche-specific result interpretation. Automated tools facilitate seamless end-to-end processes across the test landscape.”

To benefit from this, a modern clearing simulation must be available around-the-clock, which can be updated as needed by the vendor, as opposed to the institution. “Using simulated systems makes comprehensive testing more straightforward and effective without disrupting live operations,” stressed Bruck.

Such strategies can make in-house testing teams ten times more efficient than the incumbent process, as well as expedite time-to-market for new services. The cost benefits here are clear and can be passed on to end-users.

Indeed, automation as a strategy is increasingly critical. Once upon a time, all regulatory changes were handled in the dark regions of a bank's IT department, with little impact on the other business floors. Today, rapid payments innovation is pushing the compliance concern up to the entire organisation – especially if that organisation is a large international bank with competitors to rival and customers' demands to satiate. Of course, not all employees have the capacity to test without pause 24/7, year-round. Automation steps in to relieve the organisation of this operational burden.

Bruck believes that "the change within the projects away from the classic waterfall approach to hybrid agile methods and a collaboration between IT and business, for instance DevOps, offers a lot of success for implementation." This results in cross-team communication that "encourages the results of error analyses. It also brings up further development potential and problem awareness on both sides. This leads to smooth application development, which can be tested and put into operation without much effort using test and automation tools."

The strategic role of technology and compliance

Clearly, technology and compliance are an inherent part of financial institutions' strategy today. And with all the insights that can be reaped, it is for good reason.

Partnering with a technology provider for testing solutions offers numerous advantages over traditional methods, especially through the implementation of tailored and automated approaches. "Technology providers can optimise test setups, bringing significant benefits," notes Bruck. "They cater to specific environments like payment transactions with fixed logic and generic systems for data delivery without explicit rules. Integration and configuration of test systems into existing IT architectures could make operations easier. Tests incorporate the necessary specialist knowledge and IT expertise, simplifying the testing process."

CASE STUDY: ACCENTURE

The trajectory of Accenture's approach to testing, while sharing similarities with many firms, stands out due to Accenture's commitment to innovation and excellence.

Over the years, there have been different developments in the testing approach, of which test-driven development (TDD) and behaviour-driven development (BDD) have prevailed and are used by Accenture alongside DevOps practices to best support its clients. Accenture's distinct methodology integrates these advanced testing techniques to deliver superior quality and efficiency, ensuring our clients achieve their goals with confidence.

According to Neff, Accenture in many cases previously relied on manual processes for payments testing, as "this was the given condition by most clients and banks." Test data was mainly manually created and injected into various payment systems, such as gateways or customer interfaces. "Outbound payments were captured through e-Banking, and test verification was conducted manually by comparing the expected results with the actual results in the application's user interface," he explained. "Functional testers did not have automated support, such as automatically generated test data. While performance testing had some level of automation, it was not reusable for functional testing due to the repetitive nature of test data without meaningful variations."

Some financial institutions simply rerouted production data into test systems, sometimes cleaning and mapping it to test data. "However," continued Neff, "this approach limits the ability to perform negative test cases and specific error scenarios, as production data is generally valid and does not easily trigger errors."

"The challenge is the scarcity of SWIFT or ISO 20022 experts who can create the data. Consequently, test data was often generated by testers with limited payment knowledge, leading to ineffective testing or incorrect results. In my experience, incorrect payment messages have even caused system crashes, necessitating the reinstallation of main applications in the test environment."

In projects involving Accenture, they too advocated for automation in functional testing (no matter which solution or framework) to leverage functional experts for business analysis, test design, and defect analysis, rather than manual test data creation, noted Neff: "Custom-built solutions were often used to automate functional test cases, though frameworks like Tosca might require significant customisation for payment-related logic."

05 | The benefits of testing automation

As we have already discovered, it is no longer feasible for banks to count on in-house, manual testing. Here are 6 reasons why automation should be part of every institution's approach:

1. Quality improvement

The first and most apparent benefit is the uptick in quality and extent of testing that automation brings. Quality means more accurate tests which – when plugged in – spit out better data, insights, and therefore results.

High-quality solutions are by their very nature repeatable, meaning testing can be run, re-run, and run again, with no limit. Results should be certifiable and consistent – with an in-depth report, to boot. By adopting this strategy, issues can be spotted and resolved rapidly, leaving little room for human error.

The knock-on effect of upscaled testing quality is the mitigation of operational risk. A tight solution is a reliable bulwark against slip-ups during the project's roll-out and go-live phase.

2. Ease of use

A testing solution of superior quality will also mean that processes like onboarding and the running itself, are smooth. Indeed, set up and implementation horizons must be minimal – creating little upset to daily operations of the bank and its staff.

From the first touch in the timeline – onboarding – all the way to test execution and coverage, the process must be streamlined; resulting in a single portal with the capacity to test multiple clearing schemes around the world. Should a scheme be unavailable on the test, adding it should be as simple as a request from the firm and an update from the vendor.

Furthermore, best-in-class simulators will have built-in and thorough domain knowledge, with the ability to turn test environments into a mirror image of production.

A solution with these features will make message validation and schema compliance simply business as usual.

3. Increased efficiency

When testing processes are made simple, new efficiencies are uncovered. In fact, Unifits has found that automated testing solutions increase efficiency by 90%, in the creation of test messages.

On the most basic level, automation means that banks' IT teams can run and fulfil their testing duties in less time. With surplus capacity, more tests may be executed, thus broadening the entire organisation's coverage. Alternatively, staff could be redeployed for other operational imperatives and value-added tasks. Gained efficiency, as such, equals gained scalability.

The other piece to automation is its sheer availability. Unlike a bank's IT team, which is present in the office for 8 hours per day, 5 days per week – only one fifth of all the time that passes in a week – automated testing solutions are never off. This is a sizable benefit when one considers that regulation, customer demand, and the need for compliance, does not sleep.

Generally speaking, therefore, increased in-house efficiency results in less of a reliance on third-party and offshore partners.

4. Smaller capital burden

With greater efficiency comes less demand for technological investment. Indeed, if testing is automated 24/7, budget will not need to be sourced every time a new regulation or payment scheme lands. Money, therefore, is saved in terms of logistics, but also in terms of the headcount that needs to be wielded to deliver each test project.

While capital may be initially required to construct or improve the organisation's automation infrastructure, returns on investment in the long run are stark. Savings are often funnelled back into other strategic projects or customer service functions.

5. Regulatory resilience

All this testing comes together in a package that, ultimately, gives a bank resilience against any number of regulatory storms that threaten the financial services sector. One of the sharpest challenges facing institutions in the payments space today is the validation and creation of schema compliant with ISO 20022 messages. With a sharp testing solution, banks can rest assured that they will cut through the November deadline with ease. This kind of resilience is one that hardly needs iterating, only underlining.

6. Faster time to market

But there is more yet. A best-in-class testing solution promises bonus benefits, stretching far beyond mere compliance and capital savings. By automating processes, other in-bank projects may be fulfilled at speed – enabling organisations to get their services to market faster. This means more personalisation; better products; a superior level of customer satisfaction; and, ultimately, an edge on the competition.

...we need to show banks the benefits of adopting new solutions by demonstrating potential improvements in efficiency and effectiveness...

“Using solutions of a niche payment testing provider can bridge the gap between custom-built solutions and generic testing automation tools,” summarised Neff. “These providers offer comprehensive payment test data and automation solutions, reducing the need for banks to develop these capabilities in-house. This commoditisation of payment testing can save considerable time and resources. An industry testing solution is relatively easy to set up and integrate into the system landscape (taking only 1-3 weeks), whereas a custom-built solution can take several months to develop.”

Neff added that unfortunately, there can also be resistance to change, as banks may be reluctant to alter their existing test data and automation approaches if they have worked adequately in the past. “This is where we need to show banks the benefits of adopting new solutions by demonstrating potential improvements in efficiency and effectiveness, especially for major payment transformations or new features like instant payments,” he said.

Out-of-the-box test cases and payment message generation capabilities, whether for valid transactions or error scenarios, have particular potential, according to Neff. He explained that “their user-friendly interface allows functional testers to configure automations with minimal training.”

While there is a cost associated with such solutions, such as yearly maintenance fees, he added, the benefits include a robust framework that supports automated execution and step-by-step guidance for testers. “The key advantages of payment testing solutions from providers include pre-built test cases, automated payment message generation, and user interfaces tailored for functional testers.”

06 | Trends to watch: New rails and regulations

So, what incoming trends do institutions need to be prepared for? There are several to highlight under each payment system.

Real-time payments

The wave of open banking sweeping the financial sector promises to hand third-party providers improved access to banking data, via Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). With this advance, consumers can expect real-time payments to become more ubiquitous – though unease around security must be settled first. Indeed, regulatory bodies have their work cut out to set up more resilient infrastructures, for the benefit of all stakeholders.

While UK regulators have been sluggish in stepping up to the European Union (EU)'s plan to accelerate instant payments, the United States successfully launched its long-awaited instant payments service in Q3 2023 – enabling Americans to send and receive funds in seconds, around-the-clock. However, some commentators have pointed out that nationwide roll-out could take years.

There have been some marked advances in specific areas of the UK market. In June 2024, for example, payment service provider, Pidgin, partnered with Corelation to enable real-time payments for credit unions across the country. This represents a big step forward for the payments landscape.

In other jurisdictions, however, there have been significant setbacks. The launch of Canada's oft-delayed Real-Time Rail (RTR) payments system is now expected to happen in 2026 – with new tech partners IBM and CGI brought in to support the process.

High Value Payments

On the High Value Payments (HVP) side, Swift continues to use its High Value Payments Systems Plus (HVPS+) scheme to drive consistent market practices, promote the correct use of standards, support straight-through processing (STP) and improve end-user outcomes. This is improving interoperability between market infrastructures, such as the Australian Payments Network (HVCS), Payments Canada (LYNX), the Bank of England (CHAPS), Payments New Zealand (HVCS), Banca d'Italia (T2), the Peoples Bank of China (PBoC), the Bank of Japan (BOJ-NET), SIX Group (SIC), China National Clearing Center (CNCC), South African Reserve Bank (SAMOS), Deutsche Bundesbank (T2), Sverige Riksbank (RIX), EBA CLEARING (EURO1), The Clearing House (CHIPS), European Central Bank (T2), and the Federal Reserve (Fedwire).

The Bank of England successfully migrated its high-value payments system, Clearing House Automated Payment System (CHAPS), to ISO 20022 in June 2023. Just a few months before that, Canada's high-value payment system, Lynx, migrated too: another major milestone in modernisation efforts.

Globally, however, there are still areas where work needs to be done.

Mass and retail payments

In the retail space, EU consumers and merchants are, as ever, on the hunt for greater ease and value, against a rather insecure economic backdrop. In turn, policymakers are seeking to reinforce consumer protection and choice, by pushing instant payments via open banking arrangements, digital identification measures, anti-fraud protocols and stablecoin frameworks. Such initiatives are expected to coalesce in the next few years, as PSPs attempt to manage increasing calls for alternative payment methods and distribution channels, be it digital wallets, connected devices, biometrics, and tokenisaiton.

The regulatory pipeline

All of these payment trends – across retail, real-time, and HVPs – are crystallising into legislator directives. Here is a glossary of some key regulations that are either underway or on the horizon for PSPs:

- Central Bank Digital Currencies: In Q2 2023, the EC published a proposal for a possible digital euro, in order to "ensure that any future digital euro would give people and businesses an additional choice to pay digitally using a widely accepted, cheap, secure and resilient form of public money anywhere in the euro area." This regulation remains in the design phase, so that a digital euro may be released in a timely fashion, if required.

- Directive on Consumer Credit (CCD): This is a proposal regarding the protection of consumers, when it comes over-indebtedness from Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) schemes. To prepare for enforcement, PSPs should identify concerned functions, conduct impact assessments, prioritise and plan developments, monitor compliance consistently, and assess budgets and capabilities.

- EU AI Act: The EU's initiative to regulate artificial intelligence is in force as of this year. PSPs must understand the requirements and implications of this industrial revolution on citizens and users of payments services.

- Instant payments' ubiquity: In Q4 2022, the European Council (EC) published a proposal regarding instant payments, seeking to renovate both the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) directive and the Cross-Border Payments Regulation (CBPR). With the final act's publication in the Official Journal, PSPs are expected to offer year-round instant payments, perform IBAN checks, and conduct sanctions screening.

- ISO 20022: The overarching development in the payments space is Swift's ISO 20022, which asks financial institutions to be compliant with the new XML messaging standard by November 2025.

- Markets in crypto assets: As of 30th of December 2024, the EU's Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) regulation will come into force. Crypto-Asset Service Providers (CASPs) should expect to be directed on issues around authorisation, supervision and operation, crypto-holder and consumer protection, as well as environmental impacts.

- Open Finance Framework: This brand-new initiative, working in parallel with PDS3, looks to broaden open banking to an open finance setup. Payment Service Providers (PSPs) are expected to start allowing customer data to be shared and re-used by other financial service providers for better services.

- PSD3: The second Payment Service Directive (PSD2)'s revision has just been published. Its detail is to merge with the Electronic Money Directive (EMD2), clarify concepts – such as payment accounts, definitions and exclusions – and to take another look at the list of payment services.

No perfect approach

"The sector is being transformed by real-time payment systems, like RT1, TIPS and FPS; open banking through initiatives like PSD2/PSD3/PSR; mobile payment solutions, digital wallets and initiatives like Request-to-Pay; as well as brand new technologies like as digital currencies and blockchain platforms," summarised Bruck.

"The migration is far more than just an IT project; it represents a new language that both business and IT departments must understand and adopt," added Neff. "This migration has revealed the limitations of many banks' legacy systems. Successful implementation of ISO 20022 often requires not only changes to payment systems but also to booking systems and output management systems. Effective testing of these comprehensive changes necessitates accurate and automatically generated test data." Indeed, the collaboration between business and IT departments is crucial for ensuring that ISO compliance is integrated into the overall business strategy, "rather than being viewed as a standalone IT task. This holistic approach helps in aligning technological changes with business objectives, ensuring a smooth transition and minimising disruptions."

With an increasingly complex payments puzzle to piece together; it is high time for firms to consider cutting-edge testing solutions – giving end-users confidence, through a robust and reliable payments service.

Yet, as Neff put it, there is “no perfect approach.” During a project, the unique focus area and scope must be factored in – whether it is performance testing, end-to-end testing, or system testing. Factors such as the software vendor a bank uses, or budget and risk appetite, also play a crucial role. This context provides valuable information for selecting the right automation approach for a payment initiative.

Typically, concludes Neff, a good mix is classical custom-built solutions, “leveraging as much as possible from a payment industry-specific test automation solution.”

07 | About

Finextra Research

This report is published by Finextra Research.

Finextra Research is the world's leading specialist financial technology news and information source. It offers more than 130,000 fintech news, features and TV content items to some 800,000 monthly visitors to www.finextra.com.

Finextra covers all aspects of financial technology innovation involving banks, institutions and vendor organisations within the wholesale and retail banking, payments and cards sectors worldwide. Finextra's unique member community consists of over 40,000 fintech professionals and 200,000 social followers working inside banks and financial institutions, specialist fintechs, consulting organisations and technology providers.

The Finextra community actively participates in contributing opinions, ideas and comments on the evolution of fintech.

For more information:

Visit **www.finextra.com** and become a member,
follow **@finextra** or reach us via **contact@finextra.com**.

Unifits: Your Global Partner for ISO 20022 Compliance

Unifits stands as the trusted global partner for ISO 20022 compliance in the financial industry. With the Unifits Test Engine, financial institutions can leverage out-of-the-box clearing simulations to automate transaction testing, significantly enhancing quality and efficiency. This innovative solution is kept evergreen by the dedicated Unifits team, comprising software specialists and financial industry experts, allowing financial institutions to prioritise customer satisfaction and business growth, free from the complexities of managing test cases, test data, and compliance concerns.

Learn more at: **www.unifits.com**

For more information

Finextra Research
77 Shaftesbury Avenue
London,
W1D 5DU
United Kingdom

Telephone
+44 (0)20 3100 3670

Email
contact@finextra.com

Follow
@finextra

Web
www.finextra.com

Finextra® | unifits