



## AUSTAR automates testing with MiriATE® for faster time-to-market

### Overview

A new high definition (HD) TV service is a big investment for any operator. And a successful launch is crucial to the level of return on this investment. Every week an HD service is delayed represents another week of valuable revenue lost. Launching a poor quality service can be as damaging as launching late. The trick is to get a high quality service to market, quickly. That is exactly what AUSTAR was able to do with its new MyStar HD service, with help from the MiriATE system.

#### Key Benefits Realised

- HD service launched on time
- High confidence in launch, based on exhaustive testing
- 40% of tests automated
- Team freed up to focus on high value test analysis

### Manual testing constraints

AUSTAR is always looking for ways to improve the quality of every service launch, especially one as significant as the MyStar HD. The MyStar HD set-top box and related HD service was a far more complicated device to launch than a simple zapper box. A key element to a successful launch was to conduct extensive tests on the HD set-top boxes.

"MiriATE has allowed us to automate acceptance and regression testing of our set-top boxes and services. This has significantly increased the volume and quality of testing, improved operational efficiency and assisted in the timely delivery of better quality services to our customers."

Dean Walters, CTO

Testing takes significant time and money when done manually. AUSTAR needed a way to automate a large proportion of the testing. On reviewing the options available on the market, AUSTAR chose the MiriATE test system from Miriforce.

"Pure manual regression testing previously required an entire team of resources dedicated for many weeks. Reducing test cycle duration is critical for reducing time-to-market. It is important to identify any showstopper problems as soon as possible. The current level of MiriATE automation has reduced test cycle durations by as much as 40%."

Matt Holz, Test Team Lead

With an increasing number of vendors contributing application components to the set-top box AUSTAR recognised it had a major challenge in delivering a robust service to its customers. Manual testing would ensure service quality but, used alone, it would be expensive and would have a major impact on time-to-market for new services.

MiriATE is a proven automated test system for set-top boxes and the services consumed through them – providing true 'black box' testing. MiriATE is able to automatically interpret the devices' video and audio output, while controlling the device inputs and environment. MiriATE performs and observes tests in the same way as a human – but faster, more reliably, consistently and without getting bored or tired.

THE RESULTS? ⇒



**Improve reliability**  
**Reduce time to market**



## THE RESULTS

By freeing up testing team's time to focus on complex test scenarios, and investigating and fixing faults found by MiriATE, AUSTAR has been able to:

- Improve launch service quality: through increased testing volume and easier fault analysis via test repeatability
- Perform a more robust test analysis: by using MiriATE extensively for performance and stress testing, as well as for accelerated life testing (not practical via a manual approach alone).
- Get to market faster: by reducing the overall test cycle time

"MiriATE now executes the majority of our basic tests. This allows the test team to add even more value, as they can focus on complex test scenarios and the analysis and investigation of faults identified by MiriATE test results."

**Matt Holz, Test Team Lead**

### ***Hundreds of tests automated***

Since MiriATE system delivery AUSTAR has automated 40% of its tests. To ensure an efficient approach and quicker ROI, tests were scripted so that they could be automated quickly. These were frequently used tests, particularly in stress and endurance testing, such as complex scenarios around PVR recording, PVR playback and extensive channel change tests.

MiriATE also enabled AUSTAR to run unusual 'corner case' tests which might not be viable manually, such as rebooting all STB variants repeatedly for 4 days to verify consistent execution of the free-to-air channel scan on start up.

### ***Moving forwards***

AUSTAR is always looking to drive change in its supply chain, by getting vendors more involved in

the testing process. This enables this innovative operator to shorten development cycles by better co-ordination with suppliers. This is planned to include allocating vendors' time on the MiriATE system. Incremental vendor releases and a thorough test process will allow AUSTAR to maintain quality while meeting an aggressive quarterly release schedule.

AUSTAR has purchased a second 32-box MiriATE system, which has been installed at AUSTAR's office on the Gold Coast. The new system can be accessed remotely from the Sydney office and is planned to have 50% of the boxes dedicated to Soak, Endurance, Performance and Stress Testing, with the remainder dedicated to Functional Testing.

This additional testing capacity will also allow an increased focus on SI testing. This will give AUSTAR the ability to deliver a higher return on its investment in all its services across all platforms to all of its customers

#### **About Mirifice**

The Mirifice products include MiriMON, the award-winning system for real-time monitoring of live Digital TV networks, and MiriATE, a powerful system for testing set-top boxes, and the services accessed through them.

[www.mirifice.com](http://www.mirifice.com)

#### **About AUSTAR United Communications**

AUSTAR (AUN) is a leading provider of subscription television services in regional and rural Australia, with more than 720,000 customers enjoying digital television, internet and mobile telephony services.

[www.AUSTARunited.com.au](http://www.AUSTARunited.com.au)

