

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Test Harness

What is Test Harness?

The Test Harness is a tool specifically designed for the Building Block (BB) ecosystem to validate applications against the BB specifications. It helps ensure that software doesn't just work in isolation but fits within the larger BB environment.

How does the Test Harness differ from other testing tools?

While traditional testing tools focus on individual software performance and bugs, the Test Harness has a main focus on compatibility and compliance. It checks how well software integrates with the BB standards and other applications in the ecosystem.

What do I need to do to add my application to the Test Harness?

To add your application:

- Develop your application following the BB API specifications.
- Implement the well-known `test_entrypoint.sh` script to configure and expose the necessary API endpoints for our tests.
- Create a PR in the BB repository, placing your app in the `example/` directory.

How do I understand the results from the Test Harness?

The results are dispatched to the *Testing Webapp*. This platform visualizes outcomes, detailing areas of compliance and highlighting aspects needing rectification. It's an intuitive way to see how your application measures up to the BB standards.

Do I need to modify my software to fit the Test Harness?

Your application should be compliant with BB requirements. The primary integration point is the `test_entrypoint.sh` script. Beyond that, the Test Harness is designed to evaluate your application's alignment with the BB standards without demanding significant changes.

Is the Test Harness future-proof?

The Test Harness is built with adaptability in mind. As the BB standards and ecosystem evolve, the Test Harness will continue to be updated to ensure it remains a relevant and valuable tool for developers.

What if I encounter issues with the Test Harness?

If you face challenges or have questions about the Test Harness, you're encouraged to reach out to the BB community or check the documentation. There's a strong network of developers and experts always ready to assist.

What business problem does the Test Harness solve?

The Test Harness ensures that software solutions within the BB ecosystem are interoperable and compliant with set standards. This means fewer integration hitches, cost savings on debugging, and faster time-to-market for software products.

How does the Test Harness benefit my software?

By ensuring your software aligns with the BB standards, the Test Harness reduces the risk of compatibility issues, which can be costly and time-consuming.

Will using the Test Harness mean additional development costs?

While there might be an initial learning curve, in the long run, the Test Harness can reduce costs. By catching and addressing integration issues early, you avoid more expensive fixes later in the development cycle and post-launch.

Can our in-house IT team manage the Test Harness, or do we need specialists?

Your in-house IT team, particularly those familiar with development in the BB ecosystem, should be able to navigate the Test Harness. However, initial guidance and documentation are available to ensure smooth onboarding.

What's the learning curve to understand the Test Harness results?

The results from the Test Harness are designed to be intuitive, and the Reporting Webapp visualizes these in a structured format. While technical teams may delve deeper, business teams will get a clear overview of compliance and areas of attention.

What if our software doesn't pass the Test Harness checks?

If your software faces challenges in the Test Harness, it provides actionable feedback. This feedback guides on rectifications to ensure compliance with BB API standards.

Is the Test Harness a one-time solution or an evolving tool?

The Test Harness evolves with the BB ecosystem. As standards and technologies advance, the Test Harness will adapt, ensuring it remains a relevant tool for validating software compatibility.