

The ROI of Effective Release Management

ORGANIZATIONAL MODEL & FINANCIAL ASSUMPTIONS



Even using a modest and conservative estimate of Plutora's benefits, ROI for Plutora far outweighs the price of the annual subscription.

The best way to demonstrate how an organization can realize the benefit of using Plutora is through a practical example, which is based on our experiences from multiple customer engagements. Using figures and information based on this insight will bring to life the tangible benefits provided by Plutora.

The following return on investment calculations are based on assumptions for an application delivery group responsible for the delivery and release of 20 applications supporting a single business unit.

This medium-sized team represents a unit of organization in a larger enterprise. ROI can be scaled to model larger organizations.

This group consists of:

60

Team members involved in different roles across the SDLC

2

Major releases each month

2

Minor releases each month

Team Composition

The Environment Managers are tasked with keeping production and non-production environments ready for an aggressive release schedule. They must be constantly ready to support the deployment of an emergency fix for production bugs affecting revenue. For the purposes of this ROI analysis, it is assumed the blended daily rate across all job descriptions is \$722 per day per individual.



Test Environment Management Activities and Savings

Major release activities:

Twice per month this team conducts a complex software release.

The code must be prepared for deployment and QA testing resources are required to validate and test the software as it is promoted across several non-production environments.

Minor release activities:

Twice per month, this team works together to complete a minor or emergency release. All QA personnel spend an average of one day per month focused on release preparation.

Release delays:

Delayed releases due to failed project timelines or coordination errors cost an average of one day per month per project member.

Environment outages & conflicts:

Environment unavailability due to configuration errors or environment contention issues cost an average of one day per month per project member.

Project transition:

Activities related to release and project transition, including branching and merging of source code and reconfiguration of testing infrastructure, cost an average of one day per month per project member.

TOTAL MONTHLY COST TO COMPANY	
Team members affected	14
Days cost	14



Release Management Activities and Savings

Release managers focus on the release process and coordinate activities over the course of a month.

The following four activities are responsibilities of a dedicated release management team:

Release Planning:

Release planning is the orchestration of software releases across multiple teams. It involves the development of a single, comprehensive timeline spanning multiple teams and multiple releases.

Reporting & Tracking:

Delivering quality software requires constant attention to reporting of tasks, defects and progress. Release managers spend a significant amount of time creating reports to track progress and obstacles to release execution.

Release Building:

Release building is the process of taking a planned release and assigning tasks and roles to implement this plan.

Release Closure:

Once a release has been executed, a release manager is responsible for closing the release process. Success metrics related to the release process must be measured, and timelines must be updated to reflect the completion of a software release.



PLUTORA SAVINGS | One day per week per release manager

Test Environment Management Activities and Savings

Environment managers are entirely focused on nonproduction environments over the course of the month engaging in the following four activities related to environment management:

Reporting & Tracking Booking:

This involves understanding a project's requirements for testing and integration while Developers are often uncertain about testing requirements. This causes them to book and plan environments, which can occupy days or weeks with a constantly evolving set of requirements.

Environment Contention & Tracking:

Environment Managers often have to deal with project timeline shifts and coordinate the environments required to test that software project. These delays and shifts in project timelines create contention for non-production environments.

Environment Fulfillment:

Once a project's environment requirements are known, an environment manager is responsible for organizing the effort required to fulfill a request for a nonproduction environment. This activity involves the procurement of infrastructure and databases as well as configuration of the final environment.

Environment Reclamation:

When a project is finished with testing, an environment can be reclaimed and repurposed for other projects to use.

* Environment Contentions are not factored into the ROI but are estimated at \$10,000 per instance.



PLUTORA SAVINGS | One day per week per environment manager

Benefits of Using the Plutora Platform

Although the project team consists of 40 developers and 10 QA professionals, we will use the conservative assumption that only members of the QA team are exposed to downtime caused by release and environment issues. From our customer’s experience, Plutora typically saves each QA member 2 days per month, which is usually lost to release delays or outages often caused by environment misconfiguration or scheduling issues.

Using the Plutora Platform, visibility into the release process allows managers to make smarter decisions about releases. They can then address the root cause of delays well before they become disruptive. Plutora prevents such a disruption by providing visibility into possible issues before they develop into problems.

With Plutora, environment managers can understand the demand and the available resources across all environments and all projects. This provides them with the ability to react quickly to environment contention before it becomes disabling for teams.

Plutora minimizes the impact of environment outages and conflicts by giving environment managers and infrastructure engineers a single timeline for shared, non-production environments.

“For me, the biggest benefit of Plutora is that we haven’t had any big production system incidents since we started using it. We used to have a lot of outages. As we are responsible for all the Internet applications, including Finance, HR, our intranet and all the reporting, no outages mean our employees can work without interruption. It is a huge gain.”

Andras Vermes
Quality & Release
Services Manager, eBay

QA Members	10
Days lost to outages/month	20 = 10 per release delay 10 per outage
Daily Rate	\$722 per person
Total Loss per month	\$14,440



PLUTORA SAVINGS | Reduction in lost time: \$14,400 / MO or \$173,280 / YR

Summary of Savings

Detailed Benefits (Monthly)

Cost Avoidance	Before (Days per month per person)	After (Days per month*)	Net Effect (Days saved)	Net Effect (\$ Savings)
Release Delays	1.00	—	1.00	\$7,220
Environment Outages	1.00	—	1.00	\$7,220
Project Transition	—	—	—	\$0
Total	2.00	—	2.00	\$14,440

RM Productivity Benefit	Before (Days per month*)	After (Days per month*)	Net Effect (Days saved)	Net Effect (\$ Savings)
Release Planning	10.00	8.00	2.00	\$1,444
Release Building	10.00	8.00	2.00	\$1,444
Release Report & Tracking	10.00	8.00	2.00	\$1,444
Release Closure	10.00	8.00	2.00	\$1,444
Total	40.00	32.00	8.00	\$5,776

TEM Productivity Benefit	Before (Days per month*)	After (Days per month*)	Net Effect (Days saved)	Net Effect (\$ Savings)
Environment Booking	10.00	8.00	2.00	\$1,444
Environment Fulfillment	10.00	8.00	2.00	\$1,444
Environment Contention	10.00	8.00	2.00	\$1,444
Environment Reclaim	10.00	8.00	2.00	\$1,444
Total	40.00	32.00	8.00	\$5,776

* Environment Contentions are not factored into the ROI but are estimated at \$10,000 per instance.
This hard savings often is enough of a return to pay for Plutora with a 2-3 month payback on its own.

Annual savings and return on investment using Plutora

With the cost savings described in the previous sections, the annual benefit of Plutora is identified to the right:

Net Summary of Benefits (Annual)	
Cost Avoidance	\$173,280
RM Productivity Benefit	\$69,312
TEM Productivity Benefit	\$69,312
Total Value	\$311,904
Software Investment	\$80,000
Return	\$231,904
Return on Investment	290%
Payback Period (Months)	3.08

Conclusion

In many real-world case studies, Plutora has resulted in returns exceeding 600% and more. A typical return is around 400% depending on the depth of using the Platform. Adding in the additional savings from Environment reclamation and reduction in capital spending on servers or Cloud Environments can exponentially increase the ROI to over 1,000%.

This whitepaper stresses the simplicity and ease of how the Plutora Platform provides benefit across the organization. There is tremendous value in leveraging the Plutora Platform to help organizations increase their ability to deliver more releases at a faster pace and with higher quality, providing a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

About Plutora

Plutora, the market leader of value stream management solutions for enterprise IT, improves the speed and quality of software creation by capturing, visualizing and analyzing critical indicators of every aspect of the delivery process. Plutora orchestrates release pipelines across a diverse ecosystem of development methodologies, manages hybrid test environments, correlates data from existing toolchains, and incorporates test metrics gathered at every step. The Plutora Platform ensures organizational alignment of software development with business strategy and provides visibility, analytics and a system of insights into the entire value stream, guiding continuous improvement through the measured outcomes of each effort.

PLUTORA

Learn more: www.plutora.com

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