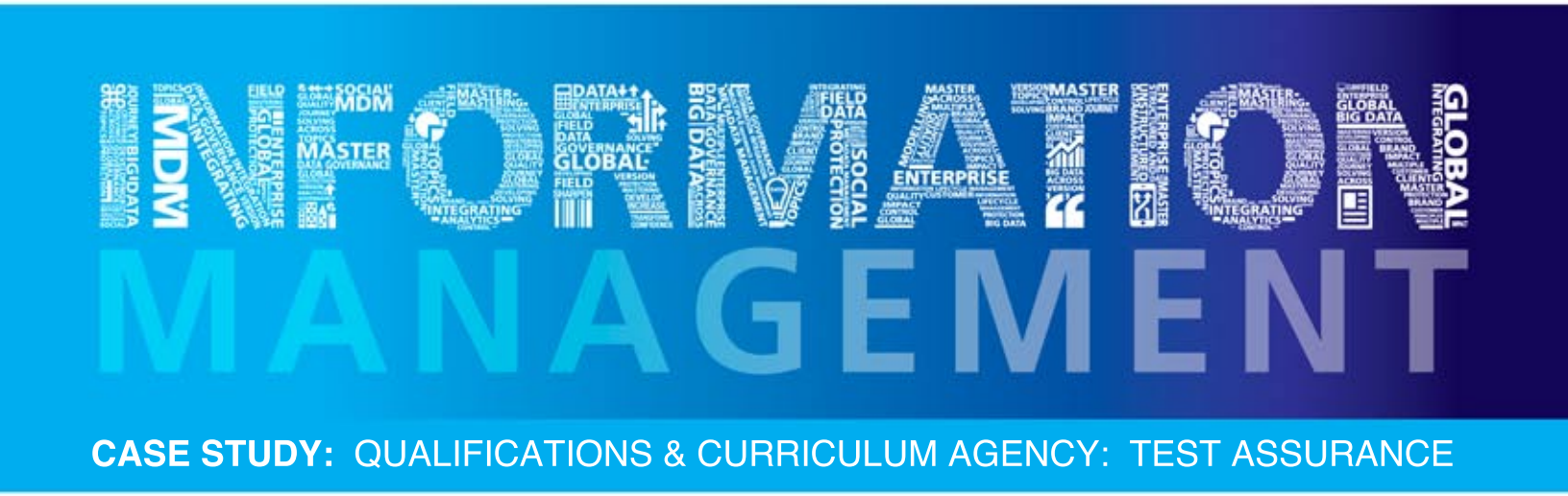
entity trusted information innovation

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency



CASE STUDY: QUALIFICATIONS & CURRICULUM AGENCY: TEST ASSURANCE

BACKGROUND

The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) has been at the heart of England's education system with responsibility to develop the curriculum, improve and deliver assessments, and review and reform qualifications.

BUSINESS PLAN / OBJECTIVES

To assess whether any further action could be taken to underpin the security of operating the 2009 National Curriculum Test (NCT) cycle in relation to a set of key system components. This included production of assurance criteria, target system assessment, risk mitigation, and participation in 2010 procurement activity. Entity were contracted to ensure that the new systems being developed for the 2009 test cycle were robust, secure and would achieve the outputs required from them.

BENEFITS

Entity completed the initial work package to budget within the 5-week timeframe. All recommendations were accepted and taken forward into future NCT cycles. Entity was retained to assist in assuring the procurement of systems for the NCT 2010 cycle.

ENTITY SOLUTION

- **Test Assurance:** Entity's team worked closely with the individual project managers within QCDA responsible for the various systems requiring assurance, together with the system suppliers.
- **Formalising standards:** Entity drew on its cumulative experience of undertaking test assurance work to produce a set of formal standards in the form of assurance checklists.

"May I take this opportunity to thank you (and indeed all members of the team) for the effort and highlevel of professionalism you have put into to the assurance work. It has been a pleasure to work with you and I hope that the opportunity to do so again arises at some time in the future."

Ian Skidmore, Systems Assurance Project Manager, QCDA