**TEST ENVIRONMENT:**

Once software tests are designed, they need an interface to be executed in. This interface is called the **Test Environment.**

It is created by integrating hardware, software, proper network configurations, and data necessary to run tests. Essentially, the test environment has to replicate the production environment (AKA the actual device and browser the software will be run on).

The test environment (sometimes referred to as a test bed) must be configured according to the needs of the software being tested.

No matter the testing project, the test environment must be set up accurately to ensure that the software operates in the right conditions, thus leading to the emergence of flaws that will occur in the real world.

**TEST BED:**

A test bed refers to a test environment that has been set up with test data. Certain test cases may require the environment to be prepared as per a particular set of data.

**STAGING ENVIRONMENT:**

A staging environment (stage) is a nearly exact replica of a production environment for [software testing](https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/software-testing).

Staging environments are made to test codes, builds, and updates to ensure quality under a production-like environment before application deployment.

The staging environment requires a copy of the same configurations of hardware, servers, databases, and caches. Everything in a staging environment should be as close a copy to the production environment as possible to ensure the software works correctly.