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Difference between Alpha Testing And Beta Testing

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Software Testing

By Lakshay Sharma

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What is Alpha Testing?

Alpha Testing is a type of acceptance testing; performed to identify all possible issues/bugs before releasing the product to everyday users or public. The focus of this testing is to simulate real users by using BlackBox and WhiteBox techniques. The aim is to carry out the tasks that a typical user might perform.

Alpha testing is testing of an application when development is about to complete. Minor design changes can still be made as a result of alpha testing. It is carried out in a lab environment at the developers site. Developers observe the users and note problems. The testers are internal employees of the organization, mainly in-house Software QA and testing teams. This kind of testing is called alpha only because it is done early on, near the end of the development of the software, and before beta testing.

Advantages of Alpha Testing:

- *Provides better view about the reliability of the software at an early stage. Helps simulate real time user behavior and environment. Ability to provide early detection of errors with respect to design and functionality.*
- *Alpha testing provides better insights about the software's reliability and robustness at its early stages. You would even be able to detect many of the serious errors quite easily during the alpha test, because other minor design structures are yet to be integrated.*
- *Alpha test acts as an effective software testing method. This testing ensures that the user will get high quality services in the form of complete functionalities and stability.*
- *The most common requirement is that the software provided to the user should work properly according to the purpose for which it is created. Conducting alpha tests will reveal whether the software has all these necessary features to pass the strict quality standards set by customer*

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PROBLEMS ?

What is Beta Testing?

Beta Testing is the second phase of **Software Testing** in which a sampling of the intended audience tries the product out. Beta Testing of a product is performed by **real users** of the software application in a **real environment**. It allows the real customer an opportunity to provide inputs into the design, functionality, and usability of a product. These inputs are important for the success of the product. Beta testing reduces product failure risks and provides increased quality of the product through customer validation. It is the final test before shipping a product to the customers.

Advantages Beta Testing

- *Opportunity to get your application into the hands of users prior to releasing it to the general public. Beta testers can discover issues with your application that you may have not noticed, such as confusing application flow, and even crashes.*
- *Reduces product failure risk via customer validation.*
- *Improves product quality via customer feedback.*
- *Cost effective compared to similar data gathering methods.*
- *Creates goodwill with customers and increases customer satisfaction.*

Difference between Alpha Testing And Beta Testing



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1. *Alpha Testing is conducted by a team of highly skilled testers at development site whereas Beta Testing is always conducted in Real Time environment by customers or end users at their own site.*
2. *Alpha testing requires lab environment or testing environment, whereas Beta testing doesn't require any lab environment or testing environment.*
3. *Since Alpha Testing is done onsite therefore developers as well as business analyst are involved with the testing team whereas in Beta Testing developers and business analysts are not at all involved.*
4. *Beta testers can be naive or proficient end users of software product but alpha testers are always high skilled professional testers.*
5. *Alpha Testing involves both black box testing as well as white box testing. Beta Testing is always a black box testing or functional testing.*
6. *Alpha Testing is done before the launch of software product into the market whereas Beta Testing is done at the time of software product marketing.*
7. *Alpha Testing is conducted in the presence of developers and in the absence of end users whereas for Beta Testing this is exactly reversed.*
8. *Alpha testing is to ensure the quality of the product before moving to Beta testing Beta testing also concentrates on quality of the product, but gathers users input on the product and ensures that the product is ready for real time users.*
9. *Reliability and security testing are not performed in-depth Alpha Testing Reliability, Security, Robustness are checked during Beta Testing*

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About the author



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I'M LAKSHAY SHARMA AND I'M A TEST AUTOMATION ENGINEER. Have passed 11 years playing with automation in mammoth projects like O2 (UK), Sprint (US), TD Bank (CA), Canadian Tire (CA), NHS (UK) & ASOS(UK). Currently I am working with [BLOOMREACH](#) as SDET. I am passionate about designing Automation Frameworks that are effective and easy to maintain. For automating websites my weapons are QTP and Selenium (WebDriver JAVA & C#). I live in Amsterdam(NL), with my wife and a lovely daughter. Please connect with me at [LinkedIn](#) or follow me on [Instagram](#).

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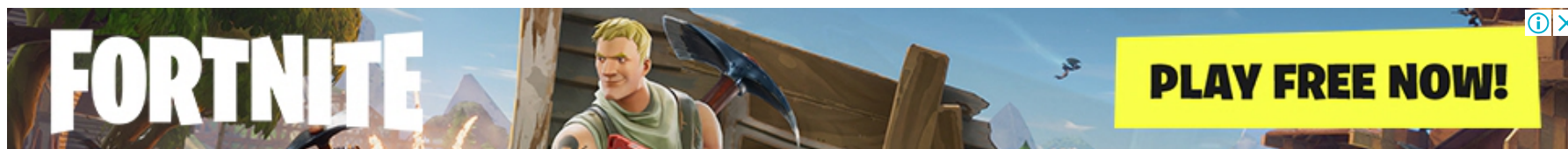
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