TEST CASES CREATION RULES

Consider this a reminder of what should be obvious, but in the continued rush to *get-it-done* we can sometimes forget it is an essential activity of our job.

Bottom line – Test Cases need to include sufficient detail that anyone with a sufficient level of domain knowledge can follow and execute them.

Stating the obvious – Writing test cases requires basic writing skills, an attention to detail, and a good understanding of the application under test.

A well-written test case should allow any tester with a reasonable level

of  domain knowledge to understand and execute the test.

When writing test cases, it’s important/helpful to put yourself in the user’s shoes, exercise a little empathy, and include all the necessary details. Putting forth the extra effort at this time to write good test cases upfront will save time and effort further down the road. Well written test cases can mean the difference between a well-tested application and a poorly tested application.

Key elements of a well written Test Case:

* **Use a Strong Name (title)**

A good test case starts with a strong title. As a good practice, it’s beneficial to name the test case along the same lines as the component under test. For example, if you’re testing the Long App, include “Long App” in the title of the test case. It might also make sense to include a unique identifier in the title of the test case as well, so the identifier can be referenced instead of a long title

* **Include a Strong Objective (description)**

The description should tell the tester what the objective is of what is going to be tested. A description should be easy to read and immediately communicate the high-level objective of the test.

* **Include Preconditions and Assumptions**

Include any preconditions and/or assumptions that apply to the test that must be met prior to the test being executed.  This information can include which page the user should start the test on, dependencies on the test environment, and any special setup requirements that must be done before running the test.  This information also helps keep the test steps short and concise.

* **Keep the Test Steps Clear and Concise**

Test cases should be simple. The test steps should include the necessary Test Data and information on how to execute the test. Keep this section clear and concise, but don’t leave out any necessary details. Write the test case so that anyone with a reasonable level of domain knowledge can go in and perform the test.

* **Include the Expected Result**

The expected result tells the tester what they should experience as a result of the test steps. This is how the tester determines if the test case is a “Pass” or “Fail”.

* **Make it Reusable**

A good test case is reusable and provides long-term value to the testing team.