

Standard Glossary of Terms used in Software Testing

Version 3.2

Foundation Terms

International Software Testing Qualifications Board

commercial off-the-shelf (COTS)

A type of product developed in an identical format for a large number of customers in the general market.

compliance

Adherence of a work product to standards, conventions or regulations in laws and similar prescriptions.

debugging

The process of finding, analyzing and removing the causes of failures in a component or system.

defect

An imperfection or deficiency in a work product where it does not meet its requirements or specifications.

error

A human action that produces an incorrect result.

failure

An event in which a component or system does not perform a required function within specified limits.

metric

A measurement scale and the method used for measurement.

priority

The level of (business) importance assigned to an item, e.g., defect.

quality

The degree to which a component or system satisfies the stated and implied needs of its various stakeholders.

requirement

A provision that contains criteria to be fulfilled.

risk

A factor that could result in future negative consequences.

risk level

The qualitative or quantitative measure of a risk defined by impact and likelihood.

risk management

The process for handling risks.

security

The degree to which a component or system protects information and data so that persons or other components or systems have the degree of access appropriate to their types and levels of authorization.

software development lifecycle

The activities performed at each stage in software development, and how they relate to one another logically and chronologically.

standard

Formal, possibly mandatory, set of requirements developed and used to prescribe consistent approaches to the way of working or to provide guidelines (e.g., ISO/IEC standards, IEEE standards, and organizational standards).

tester

A person who performs testing.