A test strategy answers the “what” questions

A test strategy answers the “what” questions, such as: What are the high-level testing objectives? What types of testing are in the scope? What is not in scope? What are some of the risks and mitigations to those risks? What is the finish line, in other words, what is the clearly defined finish line that determines when testing is finished?

The test plan answers the “how” questions

In contrast, the test plan answers the “how” questions. The answers will support the test strategy. It deals with how the test strategy will be executed from a tactical point of view. Examples include: How will the functional testing occur? How many cycles of testing will there be?

Test Strategy vs Test Plan

Test Plan - A test plan for software project can be defined as a document that defines the scope, objective, approach and emphasis on a software testing effort

Test Strategy - Test strategy is a set of guidelines that explains test design and determines how testing needs to be done

Test Plan - Components of Test plan include- Test plan id, features to be tested, test techniques, testing tasks, features pass or fail criteria, test deliverables, responsibilities, and schedule, etc.

Test Strategy - Components of Test strategy includes- objectives and scope, documentation formats, test processes, team reporting structure, client communication strategy, etc.

Test Plan - Test plan is carried out by a testing manager or lead that describes how to test, when to test, who will test and what to test

Test Strategy - Test plan is carried out by a testing manager or lead that describes how to test, when to test, who will test and what to test

Test Plan - Test plan narrates about the specification

Test Strategy - Test strategy narrates about the general approaches

Test Plan - Test plan can change

Test Strategy - Test strategy cannot be changed

Test Plan - Test planning is done to determine possible issues and dependencies in order to identify the risks.

Test Strategy - It is a long-term plan of action. You can abstract information that is not project specific and put it into test approach

Test Plan - A test plan exists individually

Test Strategy - In smaller project, test strategy is often found as a section of a test plan

Test Plan - It is defined at project level

Test Strategy - It is set at organization level and can be used by multiple projects