Lecture 4

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What is Testing?

- Testing is the process of evaluating a system or its component(s) with the intent to find whether it satisfies the specified requirements or not. In simple words, testing is executing a system in order to identify any gaps, errors, or missing requirements in contrary to the actual requirements.
- According to ANSI/IEEE 1059 standard, Testing can be defined as - A process of analyzing a software item to detect the differences between existing and required conditions (that is defects/errors/bugs) and to evaluate the features of the software item.

Who does Testing?

- It depends on the process and the associated stakeholders of the project(s). In the IT industry, large companies have a team with responsibilities to evaluate the developed software in context of the given requirements. Moreover, developers also conduct testing which is called **Unit Testing**. In most cases, the following professionals are involved in testing a system within their respective capacities −
- Software Tester
- Software Developer
- Project Lead/Manager
- End User
- Different companies have different designations for people who test the software on the basis of their experience and knowledge such as Software Tester, Software Quality Assurance Engineer, QA Analyst, etc.
- It is not possible to test the software at any time during its cycle. The next two sections state when testing should be started and when to end it during the SDLC.

When to Start Testing?

- An early start to testing reduces the cost and time to rework and produce error-free software that is delivered to the client. However in Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC), testing can be started from the Requirements Gathering phase and continued till the deployment of the software.
- It also depends on the development model that is being used. For example, in the Waterfall model, formal testing is conducted in the testing phase; but in the incremental model, testing is performed at the end of every increment/iteration and the whole application is tested at the end.
- Testing is done in different forms at every phase of SDLC −
- During the requirement gathering phase, the analysis and verification of requirements are also considered as testing.
- Reviewing the design in the design phase with the intent to improve the design is also considered as testing.
- Testing performed by a developer on completion of the code is also categorized as testing.

When to Stop Testing?

- It is difficult to determine when to stop testing, as testing is a never-ending process and no one can claim that a software is 100% tested. The following aspects are to be considered for stopping the testing process −
- Testing Deadlines
- Completion of test case execution
- Completion of functional and code coverage to a certain point
- Bug rate falls below a certain level and no high-priority bugs are identified
- Management decision

Verification & Validation

These two terms are very confusing for most people, who use them interchangeably.
The following table highlights the differences between verification and validation.

Sr.No.	Verification	Validation
1	Verification addresses the concern: "Are you building it right?"	Validation addresses the concern: "Are you building the right thing?"
2	Ensures that the software system meets all the functionality.	Ensures that the functionalities meet the intended behavior.
3	Verification takes place first and includes the checking for documentation, code, etc.	Validation occurs after verification and mainly involves the checking of the overall product.
4	Done by developers.	Done by testers.
5	It has static activities, as it includes collecting reviews, walkthroughs, and inspections to verify a software.	It has dynamic activities, as it includes executing the software against the requirements.
6	It is an objective process and no	It is a subjective process and

Testing, Quality Assurance, and Quality Control

- Most people get confused when it comes to pin down the differences among Quality Assurance, Quality Control, and Testing. Although they are interrelated and to some extent, they can be considered as same activities, but there exist distinguishing points that set them apart. The following table lists the points that differentiate QA, QC, and Testing.

Quality Assurance	Quality Control	Testing
QA includes activities that ensure the implementation of processes, procedures and standards in context to verification of developed software and intended requirements.	It includes activities that ensure the verification of a developed software with respect to documented (or not in some cases) requirements.	It includes activities that ensure the identification of bugs/error/defects in a software.
Focuses on processes and procedures rather than conducting actual testing on the system.	Focuses on actual testing by executing the software with an aim to identify bug/defect through implementation of procedures and process.	Focuses on actual testing.
Process-oriented activities.	Product-oriented activities.	Product-oriented activities.
Preventive activities.	It is a corrective process.	It is a preventive process.

Software Testing - Types of Testing

- Manual Testing
- Manual testing includes testing a software manually, i.e., without using any automated tool or any script. In this type, the tester takes over the role of an end-user and tests the software to identify any unexpected behavior or bug. There are different stages for manual testing such as unit testing, integration testing, system testing, and user acceptance testing.
- Testers use test plans, test cases, or test scenarios to test a software to ensure the completeness of testing. Manual testing also includes exploratory testing, as testers explore the software to identify errors in it.

Automation Testing

- Automation testing, which is also known as Test Automation, is when the tester writes scripts and uses another software to test the product. This process involves automation of a manual process. Automation Testing is used to re-run the test scenarios that were performed manually, quickly, and repeatedly.
- Apart from regression testing, automation testing is also used to test the application from load, performance, and stress point of view. It increases the test coverage, improves accuracy, and saves time and money in comparison to manual testing.

What to Automate?

- It is not possible to automate everything in a software. The areas at which a user can make transactions such as the login form or registration forms, any area where large number of users can access the software simultaneously should be automated.
- Furthermore, all GUI items, connections with databases, field validations, etc. can be efficiently tested by automating the manual process.

When to Automate?

- Test Automation should be used by considering the following aspects of a software –
- Large and critical projects
- Projects that require testing the same areas frequently
- Requirements not changing frequently
- Accessing the application for load and performance with many virtual users
- Stable software with respect to manual testing
- Availability of time

How to Automate?

- Automation is done by using a supportive computer language and an automated software application. There are many tools available that can be used to write automation scripts. Before mentioning the tools, let us identify the process that can be used to automate the testing process −
- Identifying areas within a software for automation
- Selection of appropriate tool for test automation
- Writing test scripts
- Development of test suits
- Execution of scripts
- Create result reports
- Identify any potential bug or performance issues

Software Testing Tools

- The following tools can be used for automation testing −
- HP Quick Test Professional
- Selenium
- IBM Rational Functional Tester
- SilkTest
- TestComplete
- Testing Anywhere
- WinRunner
- LoadRunner
- Visual Studio Test Professional
- WATIR
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