**Page ID**: **#.# Usability Test - Summative**

# Primary Content

**Title**

Enter the **Title** of the **Method** here (REQUIRED).

**Usability Test - Summative**

**Description -- i.e., What it is:**

Enter the **Description** here (REQUIRED).

A form of validation that is performed late in the design process, when the system or application is significantly developed.

Usability testing is performed iteratively throughout the design and development process. Key goals of testing are to inform design decisions with targeted user data and estimate user performance within a system design.

An evaluation involves developing a test plan, recruiting representative users to participate, conducting test sessions, analyzing results, and disseminating findings. Testing may occur in the field, in a simulated environment, or remotely/virtually.

An essential distinguishing factor of usability testing, compared to other usability inspection methods, is the inclusion of representative end users attempting realistic tasks with the system or a representation of the system.

Usability testing is commonly described as either formative or summative in style. A summative usability test is performed at a late stage when attention turns toward usability and performance metrics. It is typically conducted in field environments where the application or system is intended to be used.

Summative usability tests generally focus more on quantitative measures, such as task success, time on task, use errors, and user satisfaction scores, although qualitative data is often collected during the debrief interview following completion of the tasks.

**Recommended Uses**

Enter the **Recommended Use** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

* To validate the design and assess the system’s fitness for the existing operational environment.

**Limitations**

Enter the **Limitations** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

* The system or application is all but complete at this point; discovering a significant usability problem will likely result in higher cost and delay.
* All user types must be represented in the testing; it may be difficult to recruit sufficient sample of each user type.
* Usability in a laboratory does not guarantee usability in more realistic conditions.
* Can be time and resource intensive to do well.

**Outcomes**

Enter the **Outcomes** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

* A summary of measures for efficiency, effectiveness, and satisfaction. Examples include time spent completing tasks, rates of successful task completion, and the results of a satisfaction questionnaire.
* A report that identifies use errors and calls for assistance along with attributed causes for each.

**Required Skills and Expertise**

Enter the **Required Skills** **and Expertise** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

* Training in experimental design and research methods is highly recommended.
* Testing sessions should be conducted by an experienced facilitator/moderator.

**How to Proceed**

If there are no details, insert TBD.

* **How-To Guide.** Review step-by-step instructions on how to conduct a summative usability test and access tools and instruments to support your evaluation.
* **Schedule a Consult.** Connect with a usability specialist for support on your project.

[BEGIN: How to Do It]

**Introduction**

Enter the **Introduction** here (REQUIRED).

N/A

**Procedure**

Enter the **Steps** here. (Required).

N/A

**Tools**

If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

* N/A

[END: How to Do It]

**Author**

Enter the **REFERENCES** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

* Human Factors Engineering (HFE), Office of Health Informatics, Veterans Health Administration

**Sources**

Enter the **REFERENCES** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

* N/A

**References**

Enter the **REFERENCES** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

* N/A