**Week 4 Learning Activity**

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**06/28/2021**

* **Explain the details of tests logs, incident reporting, defect classification, and incident status.**

Test logs are used for comparing the results from test runs against what the expected outputs should be. In addition, any anomalies are analyzed to see if they are a result of the test or a defect in the code. If the anomalies are not a result of the test, or a previously recorded event (to prevent incident report duplication), then an incident report needs to be generated.

Incident reports, according to Spillner et al., are "In general, a central database is established for each project, in which all incidents and failures discovered during testing (and possibly during operation) are registered and managed." (Spillner, Linz, & Shaefer, 2014). Incident reports are generated in a standardized format in order to be consistent for easy management and to be able to reproduce the defect for debugging. Incident reports are weighted by prioritization, so the more critical ones are handled first.

Defect Classification is used to determine the severity of defects and when the corrections need to be made. The severity lets one know, through five levels, if the defect is system crashing or is something a small as typos or a wrong visual format. The prioritization lets one know if it needs correcting immediately, can wait for the next release, when the system is due for a regular revision, or no planned correction has been made.

The incident status is used for tracking incident reports. Only the tester may set the incident status to "Closed" and only after corrections have been completed and the tests have been re-run and passed.

* **Describe how they contribute to effective test management.**

Tests logs, incident reporting, defect classification, and incident status contributes to effective test management by keeping all stakeholders involved, up to date on the status of the project. They ensure that critical issues are resolved first.

**References**

Spillner, A., Linz, T., & Schaefer, H. (2014). Software testing foundations: A study guide for the certified tester exam (4th ed.). Rocky Nook.