CS 320 Software Test, Automation QA

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* What occurs during the testing stage of the SDLC?

The SDLC is the Software Development Life Cycle. In this cycle the testing is one of the most crucial parts. Without testing the software that is created can be filled with security, functionality, and usability errors. What happens in this testing stage is a series of events. These events are the testing planning, testing monitoring and control, test analysis, test design, test implementation, test execution, and test completion. These events help to make up the process of testing for software. These events do not need to happen in the succession they are written in and can easily be rerun depending on the testing criteria needed to run or upon failing a test. Our main goal is to find defects and failures in the software to catch them before catastrophic failure or costs occur.

* Why is the testing stage vital to a successful SDLC?

In the testing stage of the SDLC we are trying to find errors/defects in the software that could further result in large costs or reliability issues for the customer or company. Without testing involved we have a problem where these defects might not be found and what is released to the customer is a subpar at best product or at worst a software nightmare that is full of bugs, breaches, and operational.

* Are there any exceptions in which the testing stage would occur earlier or later than it typically does in the SDLC? Explain.

For good software development testing should occur as early as possible. The reason for early testing is to correct defects before they become failures. Defects are much easier to fix than failures. In my current job I work in food manufacturing, we package dry mixes for several private label companies. Imagine if a defect was found that the seals on the bags were not properly closing. This defect is easy to fix in house, we would dump the bad seal bags back into the mixer and rerun the product with proper seals. If the defect was not found until it got into the customers hands we would have to make a recall on that product and the customer and us would most likely lose business because of it. The same goes for defects in software and the development of it. The earlier we correct the defects the cheaper the costs and the more reputable our company becomes/maintains.