

# Test Desiderata

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SOME PROPERTIES MAKING OUR TESTS MORE VALUABLE

Created by Kent Beck and Kelly Sutton  
Brought to you by Alberte Mozo



## THE ORIGINAL IS BETTER

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In [testdesiderata.com](https://testdesiderata.com) you'll find 5-minute videos describing each property with Kent Beck and Kelly Sutton.



## THIS IS ABOUT TRADE-OFFS

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We'll discuss 12 properties that make our tests better for different reasons.

Some are common sense, others aren't, some may even be controversial.

You won't have them all in all your tests.

# Isolated

Tests should return the same results regardless of the order in which they are run.

## **Composable**

I should be able to test  
different dimensions of  
variability separately and  
combine the results.

# **Deterministic**

If nothing changes, the test result shouldn't change.

**Fast**

Tests should run quickly.

## **Writable**

Tests should be cheap to write relative to the cost of the code being tested.



## **Readable**

Tests should be  
comprehensible for reader,  
invoking the motivation for  
writing this particular test.

## **Behavioral**

Tests should be sensitive to changes in the behavior of the code under test. If the behavior changes, the test result should change.

## **Structure-insensitive**

Tests should not change their result if the structure of the code changes.

**Automated**  
Tests should run without  
human intervention.

NO CODE THIS TIME ^\(\ツ)/^

## **Specific**

If a test fails, the cause of the failure should be obvious.

# Predictive

If the tests all pass, then the code under test should be suitable for production.

NO MORE CODE ONWARDS ( ~ — ∪ — )

**Inspiring**  
Passing the tests should  
inspire confidence.

Isolated	Behavioral
Composable	Structure-insensitive
Deterministic	Automated
Fast	Specific
Readable	Predictive
Writable	Inspiring



**Some properties support each other.** Automating tests makes them faster to run.

**Some properties interfere with each other.** Making tests more predictive of production behavior makes them slower.

**Sometimes (and this is the magic), properties only seem to interfere.** You can use composability to make tests faster and more predictive.

# Thank you!

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AND HAPPY TESTING :)

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