CS1632:
Test Plans and TM

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Test Plans

What is a Test Plan?

- Test Plan: A document laying out a plan for testing a software system

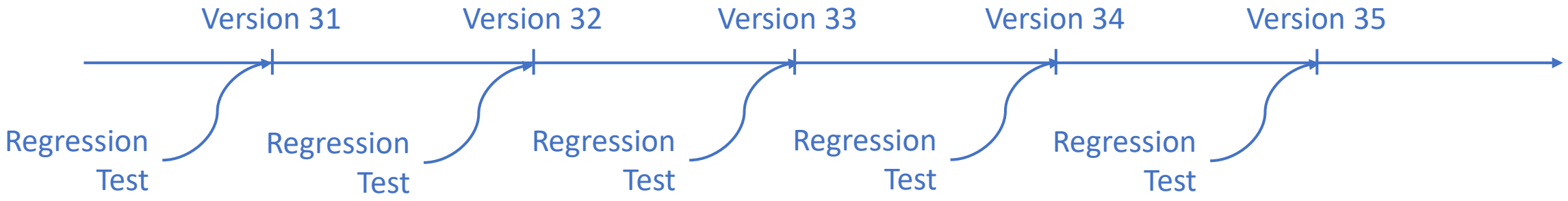
- Why do we need a **plan**?
  - Goal of testing is to minimize risk of defects given a time/cost budget
  - Careful planning can maximize test coverage with a limited number of tests

- Why do we need to **document** the plan?
  - Allows project managers to estimate test coverage and manage risk
  - Allows quality engineers to reliably repeat the same tests over and over again
  - **Repeatability** of tests is particularly important for *regression tests*

Regression Tests prevent SW from regressing

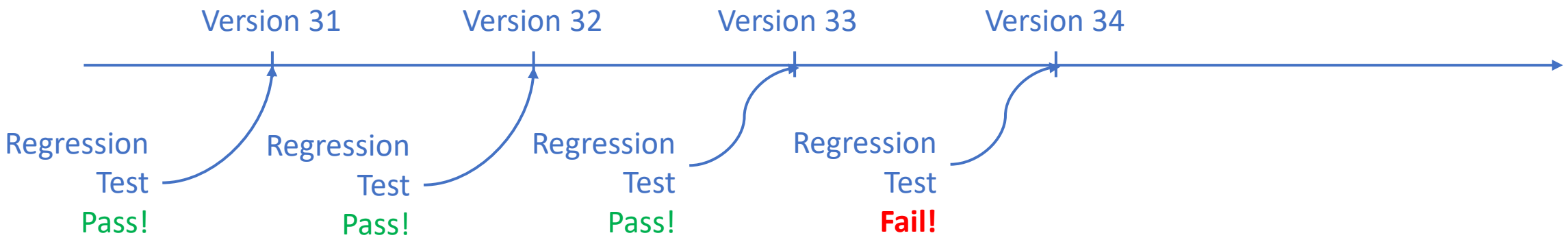
- *Regression*: A failure of a previously working feature
  - Can be caused by (seemingly) unrelated enhancements or defect fixes
  - Why? Because code fixes often have non-local effects
  - Regression test must test modified feature but also all other features

- For timely regression detection, regression test is run on each code update



Repeatable tests can pinpoint defective version

- Suppose a regression test fails on a code update:



- We can pinpoint where the defect crept in, at Version 34.
- Why? Because we are confident that we are repeating the same tests!
- Now, if we ran different tests each time, would we know?

How formal should the plan be documented?

- As formal or informal as necessary!
- Think about what you are testing
  - How critical is the software that you are testing?
  - How many times is the test plan going to be used?

What are you testing?

- Throw-away script?
- Development tool?
- Internal website?
- Enterprise software?
- Commercial software?
- Operating system?
- Avionics software?

Testing is context-dependent

- How you test
- How much you test
- What tools you use
- What documentation you provide

- ...All vary based on software context.

Test Cases

Test Plans and Test Cases

- A test plan consists of a list of related test cases that are run together

- *Test case*: Smallest unit of a test plan that tests an individual behavior
  - You can think of one input value as one test case
  - Describes what is to be tested and what steps to perform
  - Describes expected behavior after the steps are performed

Test Case main body consists of …

- *Preconditions*: State of the system before testing. E.g.,
  - Packages X and Y are installed on the system
  - Configuration file X contains entry Y
  - Database has table X set up populated with Y entry
- *Execution Steps*: Steps to perform test
- *Postconditions*: **Expected** state of the system after testing. E.g.,
  - Database entry Y is no longer present in table X
  - Output X is displayed on to the console
  - Variable X is set to value Y

Test Case header identifies and describes it

- *Identifier*: A way to identify the test case
  - Could be numerical, e.g. TC-452
  - Or a descriptive label, e.g. INVALID-PASSWORD-THREE-TIMES-TEST

- *Test Case*: A short description of what is being tested

In full, a test case contains the following items

- Identifier
- Test Case
- Preconditions
- Execution Steps
- Postconditions

See IEEE 829, "Standard for Software Test Documentation", at resources/IEEE829.pdf

Example Test Case

- Identifier: SORT-ASCENDING-FOUR-INTEGERS-TEST
- Test Case: When SORT_ASCENDING flag is set, calling sort([9,3,4,2]) returns a new sorted array [2,3,4,9].
- Preconditions: SORT_ASCENDING global variable is set to true.
- Execution Steps:
  1. Set test_array = [9,3,4,2].
  2. Call sort(test_array).
- Postconditions: Return value of sort(test_array) is array [2,3,4,9].

Test Run – Actual execution

- *Test run*: Actual execution of a test case / test plan / test suite
  - Subsets of test cases may be chosen to run or the entire test suite
  - All depends on the type of code modification and the testing context

- The purpose of a test run is to obtain *observed behavior*
  - Passes or fails after comparing *observed behavior* with *postcondition*

Status after Test Run

- Possible Statuses
  - PASSED: Completed with expected result
  - FAILED: Completed but unexpected result
  - PAUSED: Test paused in middle of execution
  - RUNNING: Test in the middle of execution
  - BLOCKED: Did not complete because precondition not fulfilled
  - ERROR: Problem with running test itself

- During test run, tester manually (or automatically) executes each test case and sets the status for each
- A FAILED status signals a defect that needs to be reported.

Creating Good Test Cases

Creating Good Test Cases

- A good test case is…

1. Repeatable
   - Results are consistent regardless of who / when / where test case is run

2. Independent
   - Is not dependent on the execution of previous test cases

A Good Test Case is Repeatable

- Preconditions + Execution Steps always result in same behavior
- What happens when a test case is not repeatable?
  - Defect found by test may not manifest when developer tries to debug it
  - Defects are not found until much later requiring rollback of multiple versions
- What causes a test case to be not repeatable?
  - Incomplete preconditions (OS state, DB state, filesystem state, memory state)
    - E.g. OS environment variable that impacts test case is not specified
    - E.g. A configuration file that impacts test case is not specified
  - Imprecise execution steps
    - E.g. “Open new browser window” → Multiple ways: Ctrl+N, Menu, Icon double click

A Good Test Case is Independent

- Test case shouldn’t depend on the execution of a previous test case
  - E.g. Should not depend on database entries inserted by previous test case
  - Test cases may be run selectively, meaning previous case may not have run
  - Test cases may execute out of order, causing previous case to execute later (Often, test cases are run in parallel to save testing time)
  - A test failure may prevent a previous test case from running

- If a test case is repeatable, it is independent by definition

Example Test Case with Many Preconditions

- Identifier: ADD-ONE-WIDGET-TO-CART-TEST
- Test Case: When shopping cart is empty, when I add one widget to the cart, the number of widgets in the cart becomes one.
- Preconditions:
  - Microsoft Windows (version 10) is running on the machine.
  - Chrome browser (version 100) is running on the machine.
  - The URL https://my.ecommerce.site is open on Chrome browser.
  - Shopping cart is empty.
- Execution Steps:
  1. Select first widget from the list of widgets by clicking on the checkbox.
  2. Click “Add to Cart“ button.
- Postconditions: Shopping cart displays one widget.

Example Test Case with Less Preconditions

- Identifier: ADD-ONE-WIDGET-TO-CART-TEST
- Test Case: When shopping cart is empty, when I add one widget to the cart, the number of widgets in the cart becomes one.
- Preconditions:
  - The machine has a newly formatted hard drive.
- Execution Steps:
  1. Install and launch Windows 10 on the machine.
  2. Install and launch Chrome browser (version 100).
  3. Enter URL https://my.ecommerce.site on Chrome browser search box.
  4. Click on the search button on Chrome browser.
  5. Select first widget from the list of widgets by clicking on the checkbox.
  6. Click “Add to Cart“ button.
- Postconditions: Shopping cart displays one widget.

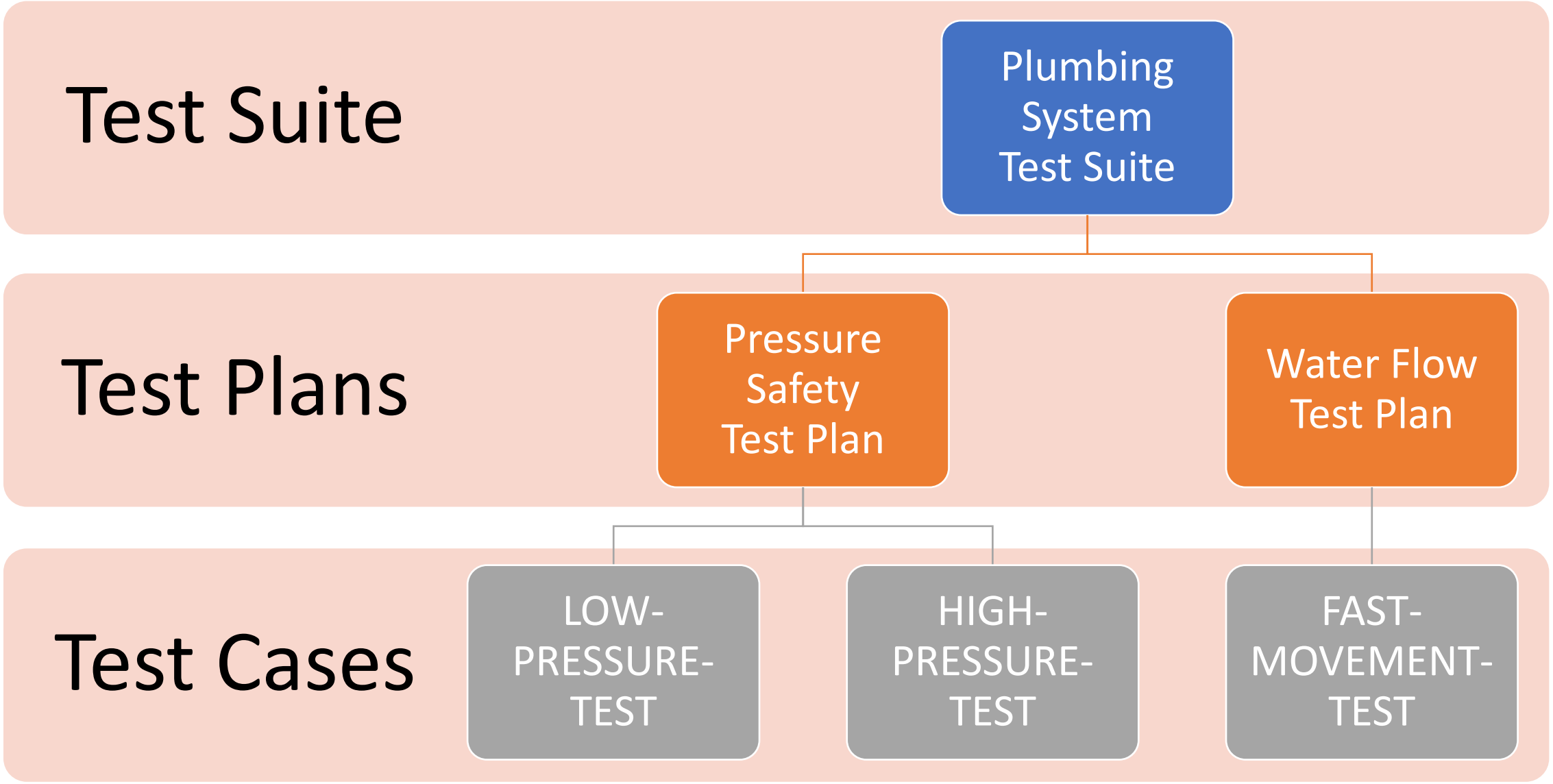
Where is the Sweet Spot?

- Documenting preconditions as preconditions
  - If conditions already satisfied, no need to perform – potentially saves time (e.g., if Windows is already installed, no need to install again)
  - Does not enforce same steps to reach condition – potentially less repeatable (e.g., Windows may have been installed with different options)

- Documenting preconditions as initial execution steps
  - Enforces same steps resulting in a more uniform condition – more repeatable (e.g., installing Windows from scratch results in a more uniform environment)
  - Sometimes performed even when redundant – potentially wastes time

Testing Hierarchy

A group of test plans make up a *test suite*…



Creating a test suite from requirements

- Take top-down approach to create hierarchy of test plans and cases.

1. Subdivide system into features or subsystems
2. For each feature, create a test plan with varied inputs + preconditions
3. For each input + precondition, create a test case

- Test base / edge / corner cases for each feature to maximize coverage.

Traceability Matrix

Traceability: Ability to trace requirements to test cases (and vice versa)

- Forward Traceability
  - Ability to trace **requirement → test cases**
  - Given a requirement, allows listing of all test cases that test it
  - Ensures there are no requirements with insufficient test coverage
- Backward Traceability
  - Ability to trace **test case → requirements**
  - Given a test case, allows listing of all requirements that are tested
  - Ensures there are no test cases that are not testing any requirements
    → "Orphaned" test cases need to be removed, along with the implementation
- Ensures requirements, and only requirements, are implemented

Traceability Matrix ensures traceability

- **Traceability Matrix**:
  Table describing relationship between requirements and test cases

- Why is it a “matrix”?
  - One test case may test multiple requirements
  - One requirement may be tested by multiple test cases
  - It’s a many-to-many relationship, hence the matrix

Good Forward Traceability Matrix Example

REQ1: TEST_CASE_1, TEST_CASE_2
REQ2: TEST_CASE_1, TEST_CASE_3
REQ3: TEST_CASE_1
REQ4: TEST_CASE_2
REQ5: TEST_CASE_4

- Mapping requirements → test cases
- All requirements have at least one test case testing that requirement
- All requirements have **some** test coverage

Bad Forward Traceability Matrix Example

REQ1: TEST_CASE_1, TEST_CASE_2

REQ2:

REQ3: TEST_CASE_1

REQ4: TEST_CASE_2

REQ5: TEST_CASE_4

- *No test case is testing requirement 2!*
- *Add test cases for requirement 2!*

Good Backward Traceability Matrix Example

TEST_CASE_1: REQ1, REQ2, REQ3

TEST_CASE_2: REQ1, REQ4

TEST_CASE_3: REQ2

TEST_CASE_4: REQ5

- Mapping test cases → requirements
- All test cases have at least one requirement it is testing

Bad Backward Traceability Matrix Example

TEST_CASE_1: REQ1, REQ2, REQ3

TEST_CASE_2: REQ1, REQ4

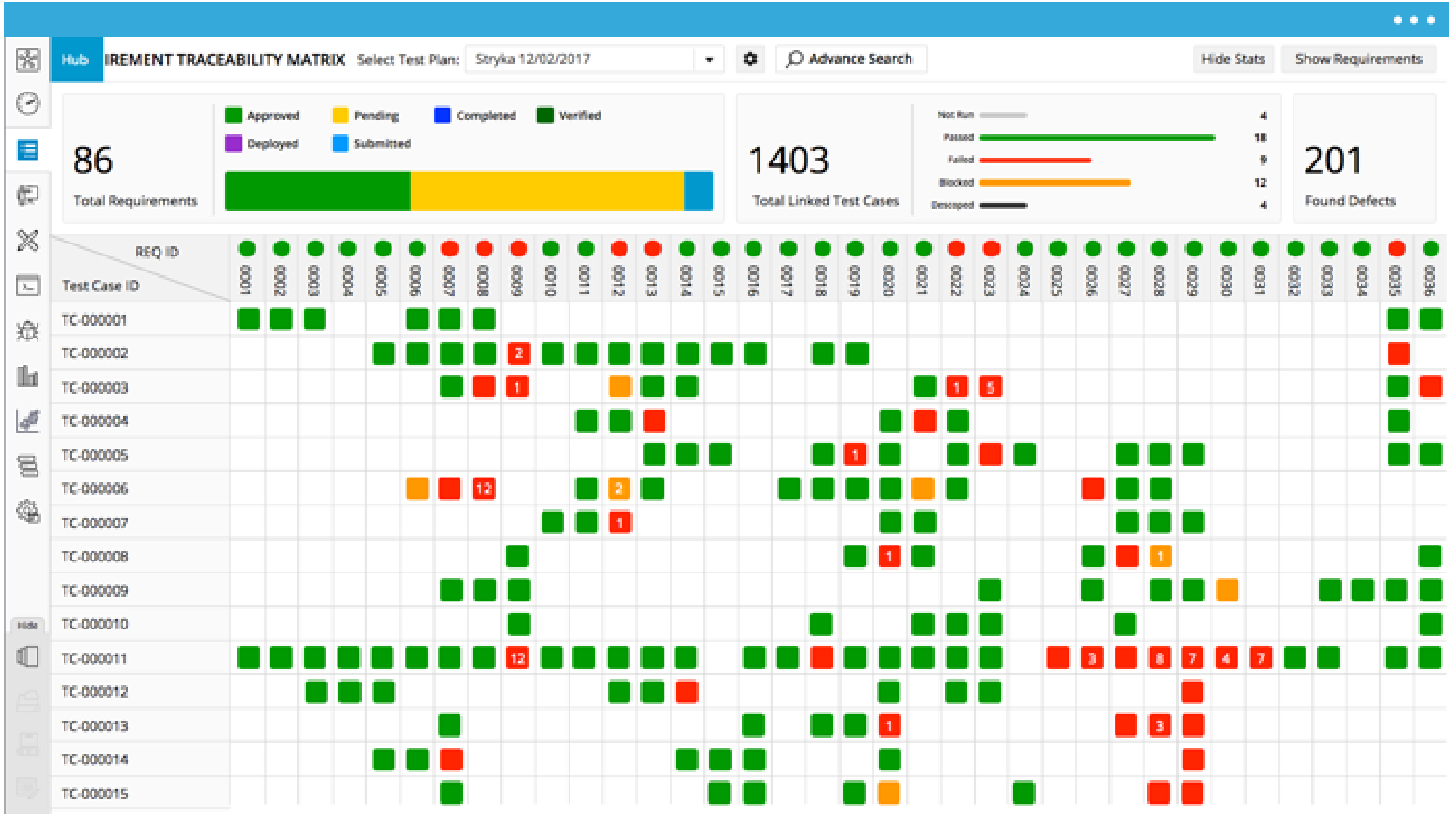
TEST_CASE_3: REQ2

TEST_CASE_4: REQ5

TEST_CASE_5:

- *Test case 5 not checking any requirement*
- *Remove test case 5 along with the implementation code!*

A Bi-Directional Traceability Matrix



Reference:
reportportal.io

Now Please Read Textbook Chapters 6 and 8

- In particular, read Chapter 8 carefully since that's mostly what you will be doing for our first in-class exercise next week.

- If you are interested in further reading:

  IEEE Standard for Software Test Documentation (IEEE 829-2008)

- Can be found in resources/IEEE829.pdf in course repository