

What is Adhoc Testing?

When a software testing performed without proper planning and documentation, it is said to be Adhoc Testing. Such kind of tests are executed only once unless we uncover the defects.

Adhoc Tests are done after formal testing is performed on the application. Adhoc methods are the least formal type of testing as it is NOT a structured approach. Hence, defects found using this method are hard to replicate as there are no test cases aligned for those scenarios.

Testing is carried out with the knowledge of the tester about the application and the tester tests randomly without following the specifications/requirements. Hence the success of Adhoc testing depends upon the capability of the tester, who carries out the test. The tester has to find defects without any proper planning and documentation, solely based on tester's intuition.

When to Execute Adhoc Testing ?

Adhoc testing can be performed when there is limited time to do exhaustive testing and usually performed after the formal test execution. Adhoc testing will be effective only if the tester has in-depth understanding about the System Under Test.

Forms of Adhoc Testing :

1. **Buddy Testing:** Two buddies, one from development team and one from test team mutually work on identifying defects in the same module. Buddy testing helps the testers develop better test cases while development team can also make design changes early. This kind of testing happens usually after completing the unit testing.
2. **Pair Testing:** Two testers are assigned the same modules and they share ideas and work on the same systems to find defects. One tester executes the tests while another tester records the notes on their findings.
3. **Monkey Testing:** Testing is performed randomly without any test cases in order to break the system.

Various ways to make Adhoc Testing More Effective

1. **Preparation:** By getting the defect details of a similar application, the probability of finding defects in the application is more.
2. **Creating a Rough Idea:** By creating a rough idea in place the tester will have a focussed approach. It is NOT required to document a detailed plan as what to test and how to test.
3. **Divide and Rule:** By testing the application part by part, we will have a better focus and better understanding of the problems if any.
4. **Targeting Critical Functionalities:** A tester should target those areas that are NOT covered while designing test cases.
5. **Using Tools:** Defects can also be brought to the lime light by using profilers, debuggers and even task monitors. Hence being proficient in using these tools one can uncover several defects.
6. **Documenting the findings:** Though testing is performed randomly, it is better to document the tests if time permits and note down the deviations if any. If defects are found, corresponding test cases are created so that it helps the testers to retest the scenario.