Application Testing

Professorship of Open Source Software Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

ADAP B03

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Software Defects

- Software is omnipresent in our daily life
- Bugs and errors in software can have grave consequences



Remember the Mars Climate Orbiter incident from 1999?

Zehntausenden Studenten droht Bafög-Verspätung

AKTUALISIERT AM 24.08.2016 - 16:08



Seit dem ersten August gibt es höhere Bafög-Sätze und Freibeträge. Doch eine gängige Bearbeitungs-Software kennt diese Neuerungen nicht. Deshalb könnten viele Studenten zum Semesterstart erst einmal ganz ohne Geld dastehen.

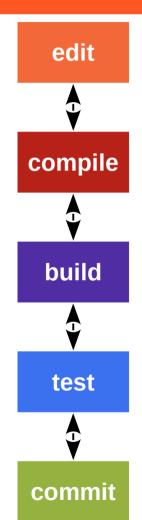
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https://www.faz.net/aktuell/karriere-hochschule/campus/fehler-in-der-software-zehntausendenstudenten-droht-bafoeg-verspaetung-14403 Advanced Design and Programming

Why Testing Anyway?

- Find failures and defects and prevent them reaching the production version
- Check if item under test works as one expects
- Reduce level of risk of inadequate software quality
- Check if requirements have been satisfied
- Gain confidence in the quality of the item under test
- Comply with legal or contractual requirements or standards

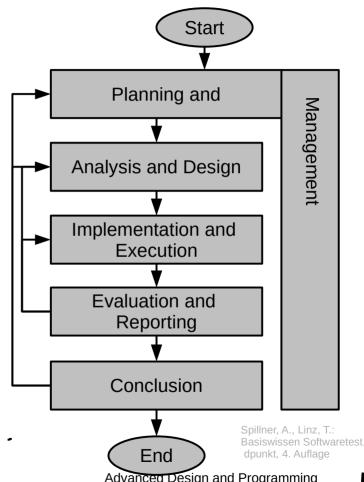
Simple Development Cycle



- Edit = developer implements new feature
 - Iterates over the code until it looks right
- Compile = developer compiles the code
 - Iterates over the code until it compiles (no syntax error)
- **Build** = developer puts classes, build path together
 - Packages application
- **Test** = developer tests the program
 - Keeps going until "behavior looks right" i.e. no bugs
- Commit = developer commits to code repository
 - May trigger a CI pipeline

Testing is a Process

- In larger projects testing needs to be governed by a process
 - Planning and managing the test process
 - Analysing which tests are necessary and designing them
 - Implementing the tests and executing them
 - Evaluation of test results and reporting
 - Learn for the future



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Static vs. Dynamic Testing

Static testing

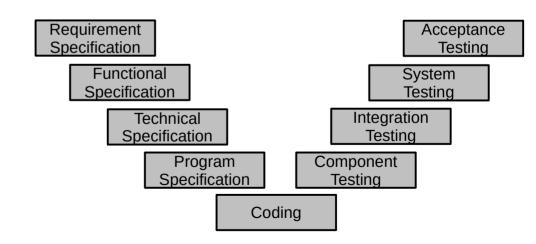
- No execution of the software necessary
- Static code analysis
- Reviews
 - of code
 - of diagrams
 - of documents, e.g. requirement specification

Dynamic Testing

Testing at run-time of a software

Test Levels

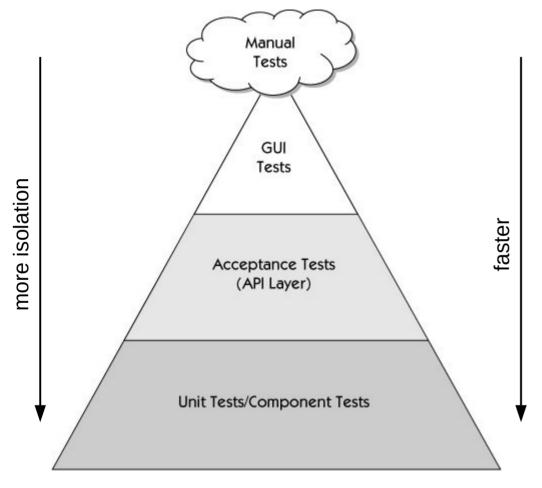
- Components tests (a.k.a. unit tests)
 - Focus on testing one component out of context
- Integration tests
 - Focus on the collaboration of different components
- System tests
 - Focus on the system as a whole
- Acceptance tests
 - Focus on customer and end user experience



Test Types

- Functional testing (a.k.a. Blackbox Testing)
 - Tests against functional requirements
 - Tests the behaviour that is visible to the outside world
- Non-functional testing
 - Tests against non-functional requirements
 - E.g. performance, stress, usability, portability requirements
- Structure-based testing (a.k.a. Whitebox Testing)
 - Tests against internal structure of component or system
 - Goal is to cover all elements of the spectated structure
- Testing related to changes
 - Retests after a bug was fixed to ensure the fix
 - Regression testing after any changes on the software

Test Automation Pyramid



- Try to automate as much as possible
- Manual testing
 - takes time that can be saved by automation
 - is not as reliable as programmed tests
 - tends to be selective, not comprehensive
- But:
 - Human intuition can see problems that computers cannot
 - Some things can't be automated
 - e.g. usability tests

7 Software Testing Principles

1) Testing shows the presence of defects

 "Program testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, but never to show their absence!" – Edsger W. Dijkstra, 1970

2) Exhaustive testing is not possible

E.g. input field for emails: can we test each input?

3) Start testing early

 The earlier we find defects (e.g. in the requirement analysis phasis) the less the costs for fixing them

4) Testing is context-dependent

Safety-critical systems are differently tested than apps!

5) Defect clustering

• Pareto principle: 80% of problems are found in 20% of the modules

6) Pesticide paradoxon

 Just retrying tests has no benefits. Test cases have to be reviewed and revised.

7) Absence of error

 If tests find no defects, there still might be some in the system!

Testing Terminology

Test (Case)

A single test for some particular aspect of the software, succeeds or fails

Test Suite

A set of related tests that cover a particular domain of the software

Test Set-up

The data and preparation necessary to run a test as intended

Test Result

The result of running a test, typically succeeds/fails or error

Test Harness

A software, like JUnit, that is used to run test suites

Thank you! Questions?

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