

What is Adhoc Testing? Types with Example

Ad hoc Testing

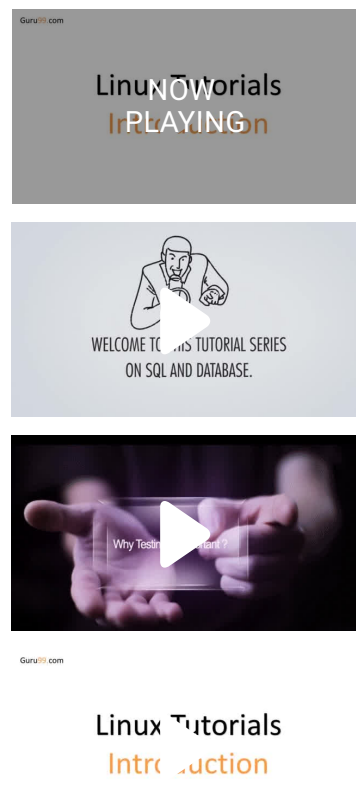
Ad hoc Testing is an informal or unstructured software testing type that aims to break the testing process in order to find possible defects or errors at an early possible stage. Ad hoc testing is done randomly and it is usually an unplanned activity which does not follow any documentation and test design techniques to create test cases.



Ad hoc Testing does not follow any structured way of testing and it is randomly done on any part of application. Main aim of this testing is to find defects by random checking. Adhoc testing can be achieved with the Software testing technique called **Error Guessing**. Error guessing can be done by the people having enough experience on the system to "guess" the most likely source of errors.

This testing requires no documentation/ planning /process to be followed. Since this testing aims at finding defects through random approach, without any documentation, defects will not be mapped to test cases. This means that, sometimes, it is very difficult to reproduce the defects as there are no test steps or requirements mapped to it.

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When execute Adhoc Testing?

Ad hoc testing can be performed when there is limited time to do elaborative testing. Usually adhoc testing is performed after the formal test execution. And if time permits, ad hoc testing can be done on the system. Ad hoc testing will be effective only if the tester is knowledgeable of the System Under Test.

Types of Adhoc testing

There are different types of Adhoc testing and they are listed as below:

Buddy Testing	Two buddies mutually work on identifying defects in the same module. Mostly one buddy will be from development team and another person will be from testing team. Buddy testing helps the testers develop better test cases and development team can also make design changes early. This testing usually happens after Unit Testing completion.
Pair testing	Two testers are assigned modules, share ideas and work on the same machines to find defects. One person can execute the tests and another person can take notes on the findings. Roles of the persons can be a tester and scribe during testing. <i>Comparison Buddy and Pair Testing:</i> Buddy testing is combination of unit and System Testing together with developers and testers but Pair testing is done only with the testers with different knowledge levels. (Experienced and non-experienced to share their ideas and views)
Monkey Testing	Randomly test the product or application without test cases with a goal to break the system.

Best practices of Adhoc testing

Following best practices can ensure effective Adhoc Testing.

Good business knowledge

Testers should have good knowledge of the business and clear understanding of the requirements- Detailed knowledge of the end to end business process will help find defects easily. Experienced testers find more defects as they are better at error guessing.

Test Key Modules

Key business modules should be identified and targeted for ad-hoc testing. Business critical modules should be tested first to gain confidence on the quality of the system.

Record Defects

All defects need to be recorded or written in a notepad. Defects must be assigned to developers for fixing. For each valid defect, corresponding test cases must be written & must be added to planned test cases.

These [Defect](#) findings should be made as lesson learned and these should be reflected in our next system while we are planning for test cases.

Conclusion:

The advantage of Ad-hoc testing is to check for the completeness of testing and find more defects than planned testing. The defect catching test cases are added as additional test cases to the planned test cases.

In Software Engineering, Ad-hoc Testing saves lot of time as it doesn't require elaborate test planning , documentation and [Test Case](#) design.

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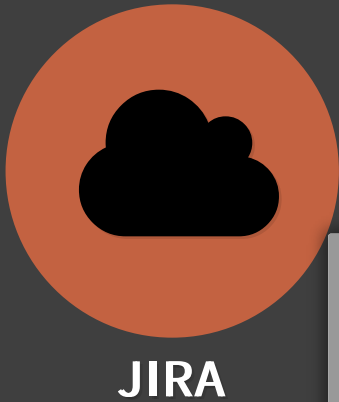
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