ISTQB® Glossary

Standard Glossary of Terms used in Software Testing

Version 4.6.0

Mar 27, 2025

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acceptance criteria   Version 2

The criteria that a component or system must satisfy in order to be accepted by a user, customer, or other authorized entity.

Reference: ISO 24765

acceptance test-driven development   Version 1

A collaboration-based test-first approach that defines acceptance tests in the stakeholders' domain language.

Abbreviation: ATDD

See also: specification by example

acceptance testing   Version 2

A test level that focuses on determining whether to accept the system.

See also: user acceptance testing

anomaly   Version 1

A condition that deviates from expectation.

Reference: After ISO 24765

black-box test technique   Version 3

A test technique based on the specification of a component or system.

Synonyms: black-box test design technique, specification-based test technique

black-box testing   Version 2

Testing based on an analysis of the specification of the component or system.

Synonyms: specification-based testing

boundary value analysis   Version 2

A black-box test technique in which test cases are designed based on boundary values.

Abbreviation: BVA

See also: boundary value

branch coverage   Version 2

The coverage of branches in a control flow graph.

checklist-based testing   Version 3

An experience-based test technique in which test cases are designed to exercise the items of a checklist.

collaboration-based test approach   Version 1

An approach to testing that focuses on defect avoidance by collaborating among stakeholders.

component integration testing   Version 3

The integration testing of components.

Synonyms: module integration testing, unit integration testing

component testing   Version 3

A test level that focuses on individual hardware or software components.

Synonyms: module testing, unit testing

confirmation testing
Version 3

A type of change-related testing performed after fixing a defect to confirm that a failure caused by that defect does not reoccur.

Synonyms: retesting

coverage
Version 3

The degree to which specified coverage items are exercised by a test suite, expressed as a percentage.

Synonyms: test coverage

coverage item
Version 2

An attribute or combination of attributes derived from one or more test conditions by using a test technique.

See also: coverage criteria

debugging
Version 2

The process of finding, analyzing and removing the causes of failures in a component or system.

decision table testing
Version 3

A black-box test technique in which test cases are designed to exercise the combinations of conditions and the resulting actions shown in a decision table.

defect
Version 2

An imperfection or deficiency in a work product where it does not meet its requirements or specifications.

Reference: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: bug, fault

defect management
Version 3

The process of recognizing, recording, classifying, investigating, resolving and disposing of defects.

defect report
Version 2

Documentation of the occurrence, nature, and status of a defect.

Synonyms: bug report

dynamic testing
Version 2

Testing that involves the execution of the test item.

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

See also: static testing

entry criteria
Version 2

The set of conditions for officially starting a defined task.

Reference: Gilb and Graham

See also: exit criteria

equivalence partitioning
Version 3

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are equivalence partitions exercised by one representative member of each partition.

Abbreviation: EP

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: partition testing

error Version 1

A human action that results in a defect.

Reference: ISO 24765

Synonyms: mistake

See also: defect

error guessing Version 2

A test technique in which tests are derived on the basis of the tester's knowledge of past failures, or general knowledge of failure modes.

Reference: ISO 29119-1

exit criteria Version 2

The set of conditions for officially completing a defined task.

Reference: After Gilb and Graham

Synonyms: test completion criteria, completion criteria

See also: entry criteria

experience-based test technique Version 4

A test technique based on the tester's experience, knowledge and intuition.

Synonyms: experience-based test design technique, experience-based technique

exploratory testing Version 3

An approach to testing in which the testers dynamically design and execute tests based on their knowledge, exploration of the test item and the results of previous tests.

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

See also: test charter

failure Version 2

An event in which a component or system does not perform a required function within specified limits.

Reference: After ISO 24765

formal review Version 2

A review that follows a defined process with a formally documented output.

Reference: After ISO 20246

functional testing Version 3

Testing performed to evaluate if a component or system satisfies functional requirements.

Reference: After ISO 24765

informal review Version 3

A type of review that does not follow a defined process and has no formally documented output.

inspection Version 3

A type of formal review that uses defined team roles and measurement to identify defects in a work product, and improve the review process and the software development process.

Reference: After ISO 20246

See also: peer review

integration testing Version 2

A test level that focuses on interactions between components or systems.

maintenance testing   Version 1

Testing the changes to an operational system or the impact of a changed environment to an operational system.

non-functional testing   Version 3

Testing performed to evaluate that a component or system complies with non-functional requirements.

product risk   Version 2

A risk that impacts the quality of a product.

See also: risk

project risk   Version 2

A risk that impacts project success.

See also: risk

quality   Version 3

The degree to which a work product satisfies stated and implied needs of its stakeholders.

Reference: After IREB Glossary

quality assurance   Version 2

Activities focused on providing confidence that quality requirements will be fulfilled.

Abbreviation: QA

Reference: After ISO 24765

See also: quality management

regression testing   Version 3

A type of change-related testing to detect whether defects have been introduced or uncovered in unchanged areas of the software.

review   Version 3

A type of static testing in which a work product or process is evaluated by one or more individuals to detect defects or to provide improvements.

risk   Version 1

A factor that could result in future negative consequences.

See also: product risk, project risk

risk analysis   Version 2

The overall process of risk identification and risk assessment.

risk assessment   Version 2

The process to examine identified risks and determine the risk level.

risk control   Version 1

The overall process of risk mitigation and risk monitoring.

risk identification   Version 2

The process of finding, recognizing and describing risks.

Reference: ISO 31000

risk level   Version 2

The measure of a risk defined by risk impact and risk likelihood.

Synonyms: risk exposure

risk management   Version 3

The process for handling risks.

Reference: After ISO 24765

risk mitigation Version 2

The process through which decisions are reached and protective measures are implemented for reducing or maintaining risks to specified levels.

risk monitoring Version 1

The activity that checks and reports the status of known risks to stakeholders.

risk-based testing Version 2

Testing in which the management, selection, prioritization, and use of testing activities and resources are based on corresponding risk types and risk levels.

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

root cause Version 1

A source of a defect such that if it is removed, the occurrence of the defect type is decreased or removed.

Reference: CMMI

shift left Version 1

A test approach to perform testing and quality assurance activities as early as possible in the software development lifecycle.

See also: shift right

state transition testing Version 3

A black-box test technique in which test cases are designed to exercise elements of a state transition model.

Reference: After ISO 29119-4

Synonyms: finite state testing

statement coverage Version 2

The coverage of executable statements.

static analysis Version 2

The process of evaluating a component or system without executing it, based on its form, structure, content, or documentation.

Reference: After ISO 24765

See also: static testing

static testing Version 4

Testing that does not involve the execution of a test item.

See also: dynamic testing, static analysis, review

system integration testing Version 4

The integration testing of systems.

system testing Version 2

A test level that focuses on verifying that a system as a whole meets specified requirements.

technical review Version 3

A formal review by technical experts that examine the quality of a work product and identify discrepancies from specifications and standards.

Reference: After IEEE 1028

See also: peer review

test analysis Version 2

The activity that identifies test conditions by analyzing the test basis.

test approach — Version 3

The manner of implementing testing tasks.

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test automation — Version 2

The use of software to perform or support test activities.

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test basis — Version 2

The body of knowledge used as the basis for test analysis and test design.

Reference: After TMap

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test case — Version 2

A set of preconditions, inputs, actions (where applicable), expected results and postconditions, developed based on test conditions.

See also: test step

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test completion — Version 2

The activity that makes testware available for later use, leaves test environments in a satisfactory condition and communicates the results of testing to relevant stakeholders.

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test completion report — Version 3

A type of test report produced at completion milestones that provides an evaluation of the corresponding test items against exit criteria.

Synonyms: test summary report

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test condition — Version 3

A testable aspect of a component or system identified as a basis for testing.

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: test situation, test requirement

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test control — Version 2

The activity that develops and applies corrective actions to get a test project on track when it deviates from what was planned.

See also: test management

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test data — Version 3

Data needed for test execution.

Synonyms: test dataset

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test design — Version 3

The activity that derives and specifies test cases from test conditions.

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test execution — Version 2

The activity that runs a test on a component or system producing actual results.

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test implementation — Version 2

The activity that prepares the testware needed for test execution based on test analysis and design.

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test level — Version 2

A specific instantiation of a test process.

Synonyms: test stage

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test monitoring — Version 3

The activity that checks the status of testing activities, identifies any variances from planned or expected, and reports status to stakeholders.

See also: test management

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test object — Version 2

The work product to be tested.

See also: test item

test objective — Version 3

The purpose for testing.

Synonyms: test goal

test plan — Version 2

Documentation describing the test objectives to be achieved and the means and the schedule for achieving them, organized to coordinate testing activities.

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

See also: master test plan, level test plan, test scope

test planning — Version 1

The activity of establishing or updating a test plan.

test procedure — Version 1

A sequence of test cases in execution order and any associated actions that may be required to set up the initial preconditions and any wrap-up activities after execution.

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

test process — Version 2

The set of interrelated activities comprising of test planning, test monitoring, test control, test analysis, test design, test implementation, test execution, and test completion.

test progress report — Version 4

A type of periodic test report that includes the progress of test activities against a baseline, risks, and alternatives requiring a decision.

Synonyms: test status report

test pyramid — Version 1

A graphical model representing the relationship of the amount of testing per level, with more at the bottom than at the top.

test result — Version 1

The consequence/outcome of the execution of a test.

Synonyms: outcome, test outcome, result

test strategy — Version 4

A description of how to perform testing to reach test objectives under given circumstances.

test technique — Version 3

A procedure used to define test conditions, design test cases, and specify test data.

Synonyms: test design technique

test type — Version 2

A group of test activities based on specific test objectives aimed at specific characteristics of a component or system.

Reference: After TMap

testing — Version 3

The process within the software development lifecycle that evaluates the quality of a component or system and related work products.

See also: quality control

testing quadrants   Version 1

A classification model of test types/test levels in four quadrants, relating them to two dimensions of test objectives: supporting the product team versus critiquing the product, and technology-facing versus business-facing.

testware   Version 2

Work products produced during the test process for use in planning, designing, executing, evaluating and reporting on testing.

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

traceability   Version 3

The ability to establish explicit relationships between related work products or items within work products.

Reference: IREB Glossary

validation   Version 2

Confirmation by examination that a work product matches a stakeholder's needs.

Reference: After IREB Glossary

verification   Version 1

Confirmation by examination and through provision of objective evidence that specified requirements have been fulfilled.

Reference: ISO 9000

walkthrough   Version 3

A type of review in which an author leads members of the review through a work product and the members ask questions and make comments about possible issues.

Reference: After ISO 20246

Synonyms: structured walkthrough

See also: peer review

white-box test technique   Version 3

A test technique based on the internal structure of a component or system.

Synonyms: white-box test design technique, structure-based test technique

white-box testing   Version 1

Testing based on an analysis of the internal structure of the component or system.

Synonyms: clear-box testing, code-based testing, glass-box testing, logic-coverage testing, logic-driven testing, structural testing, structure-based testing