

Standard Glossary of Terms used in Software Testing

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acceptance criteria

Ref: ISO 24765

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

acceptance testing

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

accessibility

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system can be used by people with the widest range of characteristics and capabilities to achieve a specified goal in a specified context of use.

accessibility testing

Ref: Gerrard

Testing to determine the ease by which users with disabilities can use a component or system.

actor

Ref: After IREB

A person, component or system in the context of a subject under consideration that interacts with that subject.

actual result

Synonyms: actual outcome

The behavior produced/observed when a component or system is tested.

ad hoc review

Ref: After ISO 20246

A review technique performed informally without a structured process.

alpha testing

A type of acceptance testing performed in the developer's test environment by roles outside the development organization.

anomaly

Ref: IEEE 1044

Any condition that deviates from expectation based on requirements specifications, design documents, user documents, standards, etc., or from someone's perception or experience. Anomalies may be found during, but not limited to, reviewing, testing, analysis, compilation, or use of software products or applicable documentation.

audit

Ref: After IEEE 1028

An independent examination of a work product or process performed by a third party to assess whether it complies with specifications, standards, contractual agreements, or other criteria.

availability

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system is operational and accessible when required for use.

behavior

The response of a component or system to a set of input values and preconditions.

beta testing

A type of acceptance testing performed at an external site to the developer's test environment by roles outside the development organization.

black-box test technique

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

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

boundary value

A minimum or maximum value of an ordered equivalence partition.

boundary value analysis

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

burndown chart

A publicly displayed chart that depicts the outstanding effort versus time in an iteration. It shows the status and trend of completing the tasks of the iteration. The X-axis typically represents days in the sprint, while the Y-axis is the remaining effort (usually either in ideal engineering hours or story points).

change-related testing

A type of testing initiated by modification to a component or system.

checklist-based review

Ref: ISO 20246

A review technique guided by a list of questions or required attributes.

checklist-based testing

An experience-based test technique whereby the experienced tester uses a high-level list of items to be noted, checked, or remembered, or a set of rules or criteria against which a product has to be verified.

code coverage

The coverage of code.

coding standard

Ref: ISO 24765

A standard that describes the characteristics of a design or a design description of data or program components.

commercial off-the-shelf (COTS)

Synonyms: off-the-shelf software

A type of product developed in an identical format for a large number of customers in the general market.

compatibility

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system can exchange information with other components or systems, and/or perform its required functions while sharing the same hardware or software environment.

complexity

See Also: cyclomatic complexity

The degree to which a component or system has a design and/or internal structure that is difficult to understand, maintain and verify.

compliance

Ref: IREB Glossary

Adherence of a work product to standards, conventions or regulations in laws and similar prescriptions.

component

Synonyms: module, unit

A part of a system that can be tested in isolation.

component integration testing

Synonyms: link testing

Testing in which the test items are interfaces and interactions between integrated components.

component testing

Synonyms: module testing, unit testing

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

Computer Aided Software Engineering (CASE)

The computing-based processes, techniques and tools used to design and implement a component or system.

concurrency

The simultaneous execution of multiple independent threads by a component or system.

condition

Synonyms: branch condition

A logical expression that can be evaluated as True or False.

configuration

Ref: IREB

A set of logically coherent and individually identifiable work products in at most one version per work product.

configuration item

Ref: ISO 24765

An aggregation of work products that is designated for configuration management and treated as a single entity in the configuration management process.

configuration management

A discipline applying technical and administrative direction and surveillance to identify and document the functional and physical characteristics of a configuration item, control changes to those characteristics, record and report change processing and implementation status, and verify that it complies with specified requirements.

configuration management tool

A tool that provides support for the identification and control of configuration items, their status over changes and versions, and the release of baselines consisting of configuration items.

confirmation testing

Synonyms: re-testing

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

continuous integration

An automated software development procedure that merges, integrates and tests all changes as soon as they are committed.

contractual acceptance testing

A type of acceptance testing performed to verify whether a system satisfies its contractual requirements.

control flow

The sequence in which operations are performed by a business process, component or system.

cost of quality

The total costs incurred on quality activities and issues and often split into prevention costs, appraisal costs, internal failure costs and external failure costs.

coverage

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: test coverage

The degree to which specified coverage items have been determined or have been exercised by a test suite expressed as a percentage.

coverage item

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

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

coverage tool

Synonyms: coverage measurement tool

A tool that provides objective measures of what structural elements, e.g., statements, branches have been exercised by a test suite.

data flow

Ref: Beizer

The sequence of possible changes to the state of data objects.

data-driven testing

A scripting technique that uses data files to contain the test data and expected results needed to execute the test scripts.

debugging

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

decision

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

A type of statement in which a choice between two or more possible outcomes controls which set of actions will result.

decision coverage

The coverage of decision outcomes.

decision outcome

The result of a decision that determines the next statement to be executed.

decision table

Ref: ISO 24765

Synonyms: cause-effect decision table

A table used to show sets of conditions and the actions resulting from them.

decision table testing

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.

decision testing

A white-box test technique in which test cases are designed to execute decision outcomes.

defect

Ref: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: bug, fault

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

defect density

Ref: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: fault density

The number of defects per unit size of a work product.

defect management

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

defect report

See Also: incident report

Synonyms: bug report

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

driver

Synonyms: test driver

A temporary component or tool that replaces another component and controls or calls a test item in isolation.

dynamic analysis

Ref: After ISO 24765

The process of evaluating a component or system based on its behavior during execution.

dynamic testing

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

Testing that involves the execution of the test item.

effectiveness

Ref: ISO 9241 **See Also:** efficiency

Extent to which correct and complete goals are achieved.

efficiency

Ref: IREB Glossary

The degree to which resources are expended in relation to results achieved.

entry criteria

Ref: Gilb and Graham **See Also:** exit criteria

Synonyms: definition of ready

The set of conditions for officially starting a defined task.

epic

Ref: Agile Alliance

A large user story that cannot be delivered as defined within a single iteration or is large enough that it can be split into smaller user stories.

equivalence partition

Synonyms: equivalence class

A subset of the value domain of a variable within a component or system in which all values are expected to be treated the same based on the specification.

equivalence partitioning

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: partition testing

A black-box test technique in which test cases are designed to exercise equivalence partitions by using one representative member of each partition.

error

Ref: ISO 24765

Synonyms: mistake

A human action that produces an incorrect result.

error guessing

Ref: ISO 29119-1

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.

executable statement

A source code statement that, when translated into object code, can be executed in a procedural manner.

exhaustive testing

Synonyms: complete testing

A test approach in which the test suite comprises all combinations of input values and preconditions.

exit criteria

Ref: After Gilb and Graham

Synonyms: completion criteria, test completion criteria, definition of done

The set of conditions for officially completing a defined task.

expected result

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: expected outcome, predicted outcome

The observable predicted behavior of a test item under specified conditions based on its test basis.

experience-based test technique

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

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

experience-based testing

Testing based on the tester's experience, knowledge and intuition.

exploratory testing

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

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

Extreme Programming (XP)

See Also: Agile software development

A software engineering methodology used within Agile software development whereby core practices are programming in pairs, doing extensive code review, unit testing of all code, and simplicity and clarity in code.

failed

The status of a test result in which the actual result does not match the expected result.

failure

Ref: After ISO 24765

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

failure rate

Ref: ISO 24765

The ratio of the number of failures of a given category to a given unit of measure.

feature

Ref: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: software feature

A distinguishing characteristic of a component or system that provides value for stakeholders.

finding

A result of an evaluation that identifies some important issue, problem, or opportunity.

formal review

Ref: ISO 20246

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

functional integration

See Also: integration testing

An integration approach that combines the components or systems for the purpose of getting a basic functionality working early.

functional requirement

Ref: ISO 24765

A requirement that specifies a function that a component or system must be able to perform.

functional suitability

Ref: After ISO 25010

Synonyms: functionality

The degree to which a component or system provides functions that meet stated and implied needs when used under specified conditions.

functional testing

Ref: After ISO 24765

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

high-level test case

Synonyms: abstract test case, logical test case

A test case with abstract preconditions, input data, expected results, postconditions, and actions (where applicable).

impact analysis

Ref: After ISO 24765

The identification of all work products affected by a change, including an estimate of the resources needed to accomplish the change.

incident report

Ref: ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: deviation report, software test incident report, test incident report

Documentation of the occurrence, nature, and status of an incident.

incremental development model

Ref: After PMBOK

A type of software development lifecycle model in which the component or system is developed through a series of increments.

independence of testing

Ref: After DO-178C

Separation of responsibilities, which encourages the accomplishment of objective testing.

informal review

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

input

Ref: ISO 24765

Data received by a component or system from an external source.

inspection

Ref: After ISO 20246

A type of formal review to identify issues in a work product, which provides measurement to improve the review process and the software development process.

installation guide

Supplied instructions on any suitable media, which guides the installer through the installation process. This may be a manual guide, step-by-step procedure, installation wizard, or any other similar process description.

integration

The process of combining components or systems into larger assemblies.

integration testing

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

integrity

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system allows only authorized access and modification to a component, a system or data.

interoperability

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which two or more components or systems can exchange information and use the information that has been exchanged.

interoperability testing

Testing to determine the interoperability of a software product.

iterative development model

A type of software development lifecycle model in which the component or system is developed through a series of repeated cycles.

keyword-driven testing

Synonyms: action word-driven testing

A scripting technique in which test scripts contain high-level keywords and supporting files that contain low-level scripts that implement those keywords.

load testing

Ref: After ISO 29119-1 **See Also:** performance testing, stress testing

A type of performance testing conducted to evaluate the behavior of a component or system under varying loads, usually between anticipated conditions of low, typical, and peak usage.

low-level test case

See Also: high-level test case

Synonyms: concrete test case

A test case with concrete values for preconditions, input data, expected results and postconditions and detailed description of actions (where applicable).

maintainability

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system can be modified by the intended maintainers.

maintenance

Ref: After ISO 24765

The process of modifying a component or system after delivery to correct defects, improve quality characteristics, or adapt to a changed environment.

maintenance testing

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

master test plan

See Also: test plan

A test plan that is used to coordinate multiple test levels or test types.

maturity

Ref: ISO 25010

(1) The capability of an organization with respect to the effectiveness and efficiency of its processes and work practices. (2) The degree to which a component or system meets needs for reliability under normal operation.

measure

Ref: After ISO 25040

The number or category assigned to an attribute of an entity by making a measurement.

measurement

Ref: After ISO 24765

The process of assigning a number or category to an entity to describe an attribute of that entity.

memory leak

A memory access failure due to a defect in a program's dynamic store allocation logic that causes it to fail to release memory after it has finished using it.

metric

A measurement scale and the method used for measurement.

milestone

A point in time in a project at which defined (intermediate) deliverables and results should be ready.

model-based testing (MBT)

Testing based on or involving models.

moderator

Synonyms: facilitator

(1) The person responsible for running review meetings. (2) The person who conducts a usability test session.

modularity

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a system is composed of discrete components such that a change to one component has minimal impact on other components.

non-functional testing

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

operational acceptance testing

Synonyms: production acceptance testing

A type of acceptance testing performed to determine if operations and/or systems administration staff can accept a system.

operational environment

The intended environment for a component or system to be used in production.

output

Ref: After ISO 24765

Data transmitted by a component or system to an external destination.

passed

The status of a test result in which the actual result matches the expected result.

path

Synonyms: control flow path

A sequence of consecutive edges in a directed graph.

peer review

Ref: After ISO 20246

A review performed by others with the same abilities to create the work product.

performance efficiency

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system uses time, resources and capacity when accomplishing its designated functions.

performance indicator

Ref: After ISO 33001

Synonyms: key performance indicator

A metric that supports the judgment of process performance.

performance testing

Testing to determine the performance efficiency of a component or system.

performance testing tool

A test tool that generates load for a designated test item and that measures and records its performance during test execution.

perspective-based reading

Synonyms: perspective-based reviewing

A review technique in which a work product is evaluated from the perspective of different stakeholders with the purpose to derive other work products.

planning poker

Ref: Mountain Goat Software

A consensus-based estimation technique, mostly used to estimate effort or relative size of user stories in Agile software development. It is a variation of the Wideband Delphi method using a deck of cards with values representing the units in which the team estimates.

portability

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system can be transferred from one hardware, software or other operational or usage environment to another.

postcondition

The expected state of a test item and its environment at the end of test case execution.

precondition

The required state of a test item and its environment prior to test case execution.

priority

The level of (business) importance assigned to an item, e.g., defect.

probe effect

An unintended change in behavior of a component or system caused by measuring it.

problem

Ref: ISO 24765

An unknown underlying cause of one or more incidents.

process

Ref: ISO 12207

A set of interrelated activities, which transform inputs into outputs.

process improvement

Ref: CMMI

A program of activities designed to improve the performance and maturity of the organization's processes, and the result of such a program.

process model

A framework in which processes of the same nature are classified into an overall model.

product risk

See Also: risk

A risk impacting the quality of a product.

project

Ref: ISO 9000

A project is a unique set of coordinated and controlled activities with start and finish dates undertaken to achieve an objective conforming to specific requirements, including the constraints of time, cost and resources.

project risk

See Also: risk

A risk that impacts project success.

protocol

Ref: ISO 24765

A set of conventions that govern the interaction of processes, devices, and other components within a system.

quality

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system satisfies the stated and implied needs of its various stakeholders.

quality assurance (QA)

Ref: After ISO 24765 **See Also:** quality management

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

quality characteristic

Ref: ISO 24765

Synonyms: software product characteristic, software quality characteristic, quality attribute

A category of quality attributes that bears on work product quality.

quality control (QC)

Ref: after ISO 24765 **See Also:** testing

A set of activities designed to evaluate the quality of a component or system.

quality management

Ref: After ISO 24765

Coordinated activities to direct and control an organization with regard to quality that include establishing a quality policy and quality objectives, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, and quality improvement.

quality risk

See Also: quality characteristic, product risk

A product risk related to a quality characteristic.

Rational Unified Process (RUP)

A proprietary adaptable iterative software development process framework consisting of four project lifecycle phases: inception, elaboration, construction and transition.

regression

A degradation in the quality of a component or system due to a change.

regression testing

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

regulatory acceptance testing

A type of acceptance testing performed to verify whether a system conforms to relevant laws, policies and regulations.

reliability

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system performs specified functions under specified conditions for a specified period of time.

reliability growth model

A model that shows the growth in reliability over time of a component or system as a result of the defect removal.

requirement

Ref: ISO 24765

A provision that contains criteria to be fulfilled.

requirements management tool

A tool that supports the recording of requirements, requirements attributes and annotation, and facilitates traceability through layers of requirements and requirements change management.

retrospective meeting

Synonyms: post-project meeting

A meeting at the end of a project during which the project team members evaluate the project and learn lessons that can be applied to the next project.

reusability

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a work product can be used in more than one system, or in building other work products.

review

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.

reviewer

Ref: After ISO 20246

Synonyms: checker, inspector

A participant in a review who identifies issues in the work product.

risk

A factor that could result in future negative consequences.

risk analysis

The overall process of risk identification and risk assessment.

risk level

Synonyms: risk exposure

The qualitative or quantitative measure of a risk defined by impact and likelihood.

risk management

Ref: After ISO 24765

The process for handling risks.

risk mitigation

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

risk-based testing

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

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

robustness

Ref: ISO 24765

The degree to which a component or system can function correctly in the presence of invalid inputs or stressful environmental conditions.

role-based reviewing

A review technique in which a work product is evaluated from the perspective of different stakeholders.

root cause

Ref: CMMI

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

root cause analysis

Synonyms: causal analysis

An analysis technique aimed at identifying the root causes of defects. By directing corrective measures at root causes, it is hoped that the likelihood of defect recurrence will be minimized.

scenario-based review

A review technique in which a work product is evaluated to determine its ability to address specific scenarios.

scribe

Ref: After IEEE 1028

Synonyms: recorder

A person who records information during the review meetings.

scrum

See Also: Agile software development

An iterative incremental framework for managing projects commonly used with Agile software development.

security

Ref: After ISO 25010

Synonyms: information security

The degree to which a component or system protects information and data so that persons or other components or systems have the degree of access appropriate to their types and levels of authorization.

security testing

Testing to determine the security of the software product.

sequential development model

A type of software development lifecycle model in which a complete system is developed in a linear way of several discrete and successive phases with no overlap between them.

service virtualization

A technique to enable virtual delivery of services which are deployed, accessed and managed remotely.

session-based testing

An approach in which test activities are planned as test sessions.

severity

The degree of impact that a defect has on the development or operation of a component or system.

simulation

Ref: ISO 2382

The representation of selected behavioral characteristics of one physical or abstract system by another system.

simulator

Ref: ISO 24765

A device, computer program or system used during testing, which behaves or operates like a given system when provided with a set of controlled inputs.

software

Ref: ISO 24765

Computer programs, procedures, and possibly associated documentation and data pertaining to the operation of a computer system.

software development lifecycle (SDLC)

Synonyms: lifecycle model

The activities performed at each stage in software development, and how they relate to one another logically and chronologically.

software lifecycle

The period of time that begins when a software product is conceived and ends when the software is no longer available for use. The software lifecycle typically includes a concept phase, requirements phase, design phase, implementation phase, test phase, installation and checkout phase, operation and maintenance phase, and sometimes, retirement phase. Note these phases may overlap or be performed iteratively.

specification

Ref: After ISO 24765

Documentation that provides a detailed description of a component or system for the purpose of developing and testing it.

standard

Ref: After CMMI

Formal, possibly mandatory, set of requirements developed and used to prescribe consistent approaches to the way of working or to provide guidelines (e.g., ISO/IEC standards, IEEE standards, and organizational standards).

state transition diagram

Ref: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: state diagram

A diagram that depicts the states that a component or system can assume, and shows the events or circumstances that cause and/or result from a change from one state to another.

state transition testing

Synonyms: finite state testing

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

statement

Synonyms: source statement

An entity in a programming language, which is typically the smallest indivisible unit of execution.

statement coverage

The coverage of executable statements.

statement testing

A white-box test technique in which test cases are designed to execute statements.

static analysis

Ref: After ISO 24765

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

static testing

Testing a work product without the work product code being executed.

structural coverage

Coverage measures based on the internal structure of a component or system.

stub

Ref: After ISO 24765

A skeletal or special-purpose implementation of a software component, used to develop or test a component that calls or is otherwise dependent on it. It replaces a called component.

system

Ref: After ISO 24765

A coherent, delimited set of elements that, by coordinated action, achieve a purpose.

system integration testing

A test level that focuses on interactions between systems.

system testing

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

system under test (SUT)

A type of test object that is a system.

technical review

A type of formal review by a team of technically-qualified personnel that examines the quality of a work product and identifies discrepancies from specifications and standards.

test

A set of one or more test cases.

test analysis

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

test approach

The implementation of the test strategy for a specific project.

test automation

The use of software to perform or support test activities.

test basis

Ref: After TMap

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

test case

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

test case specification

Ref: ISO 29119-1 **See Also:** test specification

Documentation of a set of one or more test cases.

test charter

Synonyms: charter

Documentation of the goal or objective for a test session.

test completion

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.

test condition

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: test requirement, test situation

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

test control

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

test cycle

An instance of the test process against a single identifiable version of the test object.

test data

Data needed for test execution.

test data preparation tool

Synonyms: test generator

A type of test tool that enables data to be selected from existing databases or created, generated, manipulated and edited for use in testing.

test design

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

test design tool

A tool that supports the test design activity by generating test inputs (and outputs) from a specification.

test environment

Ref: ISO 24765

Synonyms: test bed, test rig

An environment containing hardware, instrumentation, simulators, software tools, and other support elements needed to conduct a test.

test estimation

An approximation related to various aspects of testing.

test execution

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

test execution schedule

A schedule for the execution of test suites within a test cycle.

test execution tool

A test tool that executes tests against a designated test item and evaluates the outcomes against expected results and postconditions.

test harness

A collection of stubs and drivers needed to execute a test suite

test implementation

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

test infrastructure

The organizational artifacts needed to perform testing, consisting of test environments, test tools, office environment and procedures.

test input

The data received from an external source by the test object during test execution. The external source can be hardware, software or human.

test item

See Also: test object

A part of a test object used in the test process.

test leader

See Also: test manager

Synonyms: lead tester

On large projects, the person who reports to the test manager and is responsible for project management of a particular test level or a particular set of testing activities.

test level

Ref: ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: test stage

A specific instantiation of a test process.

test management

Ref: ISO 29119-1

The planning, scheduling, estimating, monitoring, reporting, control and completion of test activities.

test management tool

A tool that supports test management.

test manager

The person responsible for project management of testing activities, resources, and evaluation of a test object.

test monitoring

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

test object

The work product to be tested.

test objective

The reason or purpose of testing.

test oracle

Ref: After Adrion

Synonyms: oracle

A source to determine an expected result to compare with the actual result of the system under test.

test plan

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

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

test planning

The activity of establishing or updating a test plan.

test policy

Synonyms: organizational test policy

A high-level document describing the principles, approach and major objectives of the organization regarding testing.

test procedure

Ref: ISO 29119-1

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 post execution.

test process

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

test process improvement

Ref: After CMMI

A program of activities undertaken to improve the performance and maturity of the organization's test processes.

test progress report

Synonyms: test status report

A type of test report produced at regular intervals about the progress of test activities against a baseline, risks, and alternatives requiring a decision.

test report

Documentation summarizing test activities and results.

test reporting

Collecting and analyzing data from testing activities and subsequently consolidating the data in a report to inform stakeholders.

test result

Synonyms: outcome, test outcome, result

The consequence/outcome of the execution of a test.

test schedule

A list of activities, tasks or events of the test process, identifying their intended start and finish dates and/or times, and interdependencies.

test script

A sequence of instructions for the execution of a test.

test session

An uninterrupted period of time spent in executing tests.

test strategy

Synonyms: organizational test strategy

Documentation aligned with the test policy that describes the generic requirements for testing and details how to perform testing within an organization.

test suite

Synonyms: test case suite, test set

A set of test scripts or test procedures to be executed in a specific test run.

test summary report

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

test technique

Synonyms: test case design technique, test specification technique, test design technique

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

test tool

Software or hardware that supports one or more test activities.

test type

Ref: After TMap

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

test-first approach

See Also: test-driven development

An approach to software development in which the test cases are designed and implemented before the associated component or system is developed.

testability

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which test conditions can be established for a component or system, and tests can be performed to determine whether those test conditions have been met.

tester

A person who performs testing.

testing

The process consisting of all lifecycle activities, both static and dynamic, concerned with planning, preparation and evaluation of a component or system and related work products to determine that they satisfy specified requirements, to demonstrate that they are fit for purpose and to detect defects.

testware

Ref: After ISO 29119-1

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

traceability

Ref: After ISO 19506

The degree to which a relationship can be established between two or more work products.

unreachable code

Synonyms: dead code

Code that is impossible to execute.

usability

Ref: After ISO 25010

The degree to which a component or system can be used by specified users to achieve specified goals in a specified context of use.

usability testing

Ref: After ISO 25010

Testing to evaluate the degree to which the system can be used by specified users with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction in a specified context of use.

use case

Ref: After UML

A set of possible interactions between an external actor and a system that provides a benefit for the actor involved.

use case testing

Synonyms: scenario testing, user scenario testing

A black-box test technique in which test cases are designed to exercise use case behaviors.

user acceptance testing

See Also: acceptance testing

A type of acceptance testing performed to determine if intended users accept the system.

user interface

All components of a system that provide information and controls for the user to accomplish specific tasks with the system.

user story

A user or business requirement consisting of one sentence expressed in the everyday or business language which is capturing the functionality a user needs, the reason behind it, any non-functional criteria, and also including acceptance criteria.

V-model

A sequential development lifecycle model describing a one-for-one relationship between major phases of software development from business requirements specification to delivery, and corresponding test levels from acceptance testing to component testing.

validation

Ref: ISO 9000

Confirmation by examination and through provision of objective evidence that the requirements for a specific intended use or application have been fulfilled.

variable

An element of storage in a computer that is accessible by a software program by referring to it by a name.

verification

Ref: ISO 9000

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

walkthrough

Ref: After ISO 20246

Synonyms: structured walkthrough

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.

white-box test technique

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

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

white-box testing

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

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

Wideband Delphi

An expert-based test estimation technique that aims at making an accurate estimation using the collective wisdom of the team members.
