

Software Quality Engineering: Testing, Quality Assurance, and Quantifiable Improvement

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Chapter 7. Testing Activities, Management, and Automation

- Major Testing Activities
- Test Management
- Testing Automation

Test Planning and Preparation

- Major testing activities:
 - ▷ Test planning and preparation
 - ▷ Execution (testing)
 - ▷ Analysis and followup

- Test planning:
 - ▷ Goal setting
 - ▷ Overall strategy

- Test preparation:
 - ▷ Preparing test cases & test suite(s)
 - ▷ Preparing test procedure

Test Planning

- Goal setting and strategic planning.

- Goal setting
 - ▷ Quality perspectives of the customer
 - ▷ Quality expectations of the customer
 - ▷ Mapping to internal goals and concrete (quantified) measurement.
 - ▷ Example: customer's correctness concerns \Rightarrow specific reliability target

- Overall strategy, including:
 - ▷ Specific objects to be tested.
 - ▷ Techniques (and related models) to use.
 - ▷ Measurement data to be collected.
 - ▷ Analysis and followup activities.
 - ▷ Key: Plan the "whole thing"!

Test Preparation

- Procedure for test preparation
 - ▷ Preparing test cases
 - individual test cases
 - test case allocation
 - ▷ Preparing test procedure
 - basis for test procedure
 - order, flow, followup

- General concepts
 - ▷ Test run: operation instances
 - ▷ Input variable: test point
 - ▷ Input space:
 - all possible input variable values
 - ▷ Test case: static object + input to enable test runs to start-execute-finish.

Individual Test Case Preparation

- Individual test cases (micro-level) vs. test suite (macro-level)

- From multiple sources:
 - ▷ Actual runs (usage-based).
 - ▷ Implementation-based (white-box).
 - ▷ Specification-based (black-box).
 - ▷ May use similar/earlier products.
 - ▷ (direct) record and replay (less often).
 - ▷ (via) formal models (OP, CFT, BT, etc.)

- Defining input values (model \Rightarrow test cases):
 - ▷ Initial/intermediate/interactive input (expected output too?)
 - ▷ Exercise path/slice/track/etc
 - ▷ In testing terminology: sensitization

Test Cases Based on Formal Models

- Most organized, systematic test cases are derived from formal testing models:
 - ▷ Directly via newly constructed models.
 - ▷ Indirectly via exist test cases, etc.

- Model construction steps:
 - ▷ Information source identification and data collection
 - ▷ Analysis and initial model construction
 - ▷ Model validation and improvement

- Model usage:
 - ▷ Defining test cases.
(details with individual models/techniques)
 - ▷ Indirectly in analysis/lookup (Part IV).

Test Suite Preparation

- Test suite (macro-level)
 - ▷ Existing suite: what and where?
 - suitability? selection/screening?
 - ▷ Construction/generation of new ones
 - ▷ Organization & management:
often hierarchical.

- Adding new test cases
 - ▷ Estimate # of new test cases
 - ▷ Specify new (individual) test cases
 - ▷ Integrate to existing test cases

- Allocation to systems/operations
 - ▷ OP-/structure-based allocation
 - ▷ Both old and new test cases in suite

Test Procedure Preparation

- Key consideration: sequencing:
 - ▷ General: simple to complex.
 - ▷ Dependency among test cases.
 - ▷ Defect detection related sequencing.
 - ▷ Sequence to avoid accident.
 - ▷ Problem diagnosis related sequencing.
 - ▷ Natural grouping of test cases.

- Other considerations:
 - ▷ Effectiveness/efficiency concerns.
 - ▷ Smooth transition between test runs.
 - ▷ Management/resource/personnel/etc.

Test Execution

- Major testing activities:
 - ▷ Test planning and preparation
 - ▷ Execution (testing)
 - ▷ Analysis and followup

- Test execution:
 - ▷ Execution planning and management
 - ▷ Related activities: important part
 - failure identification and measurement
 - other measurement

Test Execution

- General steps
 - ▷ Allocating test time (& resources)
 - ▷ Invoking test
 - ▷ Identifying system failures
(& gathering info. for followup actions)

- Allocating test time
 - ▷ OP-based: systems/features/operations
 - ▷ Coverage concerns for critical parts
 - ▷ Coverage-based: func./struc. areas
 - ▷ Alternative: bottom-up approach
 - individual test cases \Rightarrow test time
 - sum-up \Rightarrow overall allocation
 - by OP or coverage areas

Test Execution

- Invoking test (OP-based)
 - ▷ OP \Rightarrow input variables (test points)
 - ▷ Follow probabilistic distributions (could be dynamically determined)
 - ▷ Sequence (what to test first?):
COTS, product, supersystem

- Invoking test (coverage-based)
 - ▷ Organize sensitized testcases
 - ▷ Sequence \Leftarrow coverage hierarchies

- Common part: Retest due to
 - ▷ Defect fix \Rightarrow verify fix
 - ▷ Code-base or feature change
 - ▷ General regression test

Test Execution

- Identifying system failures (oracle problem):
 - ▷ Similar for OP-/coverage-based
 - ▷ Analyze test output for deviations
 - ▷ Determine: deviation = failure ?
 - ▷ Handling normal vs. failed runs
 - non-blocking failure handling

- Solving oracle problem:
 - ▷ Theoretically undecidable.
 - ▷ Some cases obvious: crash, hang, etc.
 - ▷ Practically based on heuristics:
 - product domain knowledge
 - cross-checking with other products
 - implementation knowledge & internals
 - limited dynamic consistency checking

Test Execution

- Failure observation and measurement:
 - ▷ When determining deviation = failure
 - ▷ Establish when failure occurred
 - used in reliability and other analysis
 - ▷ Failure information (e.g., ODC):
 - what/where/when/severity/etc.

- Defect handling and test measurement:
 - ▷ Defect status and change (controlled)
 - ▷ Information gathering during testing:
 - example template: Table 7.1 (p.93)
 - ▷ Followup activities:
 - fix-verification cycle
 - other possibilities (defer, invalid, etc.)

Testing Analysis and Followup

- Major testing activities:
 - ▷ Test planning and preparation
 - ▷ Execution (testing)
 - ▷ Analysis and followup

- Test analysis and followup:
 - ▷ Execution/other measurement analyzed
 - ▷ Analysis results as basis for followup
 - ▷ Feedback and followup:
 - decision making (exit testing? etc.)
 - adjustment and improvement.

Testing Analysis and Followup

- Input to analysis
 - ▷ Test execution information
 - ▷ Particularly failure cases
 - ▷ Timing and characteristics data

- Analysis and output
 - ▷ Basic individual (failure) case
 - problem identification/reporting
 - repeatable problem setup
 - ▷ Overall reliability and other analysis?
(Module V)

- Followup activities
 - ▷ Defect analysis and removal (& re-test).
 - ▷ Decision making and management.
 - ▷ Test process and quality improvement.

Testing Analysis and Followup

- For individual test runs:
 - ▷ Success, continue with normal testing.
 - ▷ Failure: see below.

- Analysis and followup for failed runs:
 - ▷ Understanding the problem by studying the execution record.
 - ▷ Recreating the problem (confirmation).
 - ▷ Problem diagnosis
 - may involve multiple related runs.
 - ▷ Locating the faults.
 - ▷ Defect fixing (fault removal)
 - commonly via add/remove/modify code
 - sometimes involve design changes
 - ▷ Re-run/re-test to confirm defect fixing.

Testing Analysis and Followup

- Analysis and followup for overall testing:
 - ▷ Reliability analysis and followup.
 - ▷ Coverage analysis and followup.
 - ▷ Defect analysis and followup.
 - ▷ Focus of Part IV.

- Analyses: Different focuses:
 - ▷ Overall reliability and coverage for usage-based and coverage-based testing.
 - ▷ Detailed defect analysis.

- Followup activities: Similar.
 - ▷ Decision making and management.
 - ▷ Test process and quality improvement.

Test Management

- People's roles/responsibilities in formal and informal testing.

- In informal testing:
 - ▷ “run-and-observe” by testers.
 - ▷ “plug-and-play” by users.
 - ▷ Informal testing with ad-hoc knowledge
 - ▷ Deceptively “easy”, but not all failures or problems easy to recognize.

- In formal testing:
 - ▷ Testers, and organized in teams.
 - ▷ Management/communication structure.
 - ▷ Role of “code owners” (multiple roles?)
 - ▷ 3rd party (IV&V) testing.
 - ▷ Career path for testers.

Test Management

- Test team organization:
 - ▷ Vertical: Project oriented
 - product domain knowledge,
 - staffing/resource management hard.
 - ▷ Horizontal: Task oriented
 - even distribution of staff/resources
 - lack of internal knowledge/expertise
 - ▷ Mixed models might work better.

- Users and 3rd party testers:
 - ▷ User involvement in beta-testing and other variations (e.g., ECI in IBM)
 - ▷ IV&V with 3rd party testing/QA
 - ▷ Impact of new technologies:
 - CBSE, COTS impact
 - security, dependability requirements.

Test Automation

- Basic understanding:
 - ▷ Automation needed for large systems.
 - ▷ Fully automated: Impossible.
 - ▷ Focus on specific needs/areas.

- Key issues to consider:
 - ▷ Specific needs and potentials.
 - ▷ Existing tools available/suitable?
 - related: cost/training/etc.
 - ▷ Constructing specific tools?
 - ▷ Additional cost in usage & support.
 - ▷ Impact on resource/schedule/etc.

Test Automation

- Automation by test activity areas:
 - ▷ Automated test planning&preparation.
 - ▷ Automated test execution.
 - ▷ Automated test measurement, analysis, and followup.
 - ▷ Slightly different grouping due to tightly coupling for measurement & analysis.

- Automation for test execution.
 - ▷ Many debuggers: semi-automatic.
 - ▷ Task sequencing/scheduling tools.
 - ▷ Load/test generator: script ⇒ runs
 - ▷ Generally easier to obtain test scripts.

Test Automation

- Automation for test planning/preparation:
 - ▷ Test planning: Human intensive not much can be done (\approx inspection and FV).
 - ▷ Test model construction: similar to above.
 - automation possible at a small scale.
 - ▷ Test case generation: focus.

- Test case generation:
 - ▷ From test model to test cases.
 - ▷ Specific to individual techniques
 - e.g., cover checklist items, paths, etc.
 - ▷ Various specific tools.
 - ▷ Key: which specific testing technique supported by the specific tool?

Test Automation

- Test measurement, analysis, and followup.
 - ▷ Analyses dictate measurements needed.
 - ▷ Most common: reliability/coverage.
 - ▷ Defect measurement needed in most cases:
 - defect tracking tools.

- Reliability analysis related tools:
 - ▷ Analysis/modeling tools.
 - ▷ Collecting execution/input/etc. data.
 - ▷ More in Chapter 22.

Test Automation

- Coverage-based testing: measuring coverage and compare to pre-set goals.

- Test coverage steps:
 - ▷ Preparation: program instrumentation.
 - ▷ Measurement step: run and collect data.
 - ▷ Analysis step: analysis for coverage.
 - ▷ Example: Fig 7.1 (p.100).

- Test coverage tools:
 - ▷ Different levels/definitions of coverage
⇒ different tools.
 - ▷ Example tools:
 - McCabe: execution (control flow) path
 - S-TCAT: functional coverage
 - A-TAC: data flow coverage.

Summary

- Test activities:
 - ▷ Planning&preparation: focus of Part II.
 - ▷ Execution&measurement: common.
 - ▷ Analysis&followup: focus of Part IV.

- Test management:
 - ▷ Different roles and responsibilities.
 - ▷ Good management required.

- Test automation:
 - ▷ Set realistic expectations.
 - ▷ Specific areas for automation, esp. in execution, measurement, and analysis.