



Standard Glossary of Terms used in Software Testing

Version 4.8

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Search results

Exact matches first

Filter for Term type: Quality and testing



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All terms

A/B testing

Version 2

A test approach in which two variants of a test object are statistically evaluated to determine which performs better for specified characteristics.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-11

abnormal end

Version 1

The unintended termination of the execution of a component or system prior to completion.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: abnormal termination

abuse case

Version 1

A use case in which some actors with malicious intent are causing harm to the system or to other actors.

Term type: Quality and testing

acceptance criteria

Version 3

The criteria that a work product must satisfy to be accepted by the stakeholders.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After IREB Glossary

acceptance test-driven development

Version 1

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

Abbreviation: ATDD

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: specification by example

acceptance testing

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: user acceptance testing

accessibility

Version 2

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: user assistance

account harvesting

Version 1

The process of obtaining user account information based on trial and error with the intention of using that information in a security attack.

Term type: Quality and testing

accountability

Version 1

The degree to which the actions of an entity can be traced uniquely to that entity.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

actual result

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: actual outcome

ad hoc reviewing

Version 2

A review technique performed informally without a structured process.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 20246

Synonyms: ad hoc review

See also: review technique

ad hoc testing

Version 2

Informal testing performed without test analysis and test design.

Term type: Quality and testing

adaptability

Version 3

The degree to which a component or system can be adapted to various or evolving hardware, software, or other operational or usage environments.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: portability

adversarial example

Version 1

An input to an ML model created by applying small perturbations to a working example that results in the model outputting an incorrect result with high confidence.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 29119-11

adversarial testing

Version 2

A test technique in which tests are designed based on adversarial examples.

Term type: Quality and testing

Agile Manifesto

Version 1

A statement on the values that underpin Agile software development. The values are: individuals and interactions over processes and tools, working software over comprehensive documentation, customer collaboration over contract negotiation, responding to change over following a plan.

Term type: Quality and testing

Agile software development

Version 1

A group of software development lifecycle models based on iterative incremental development, where requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration between self-organizing cross-functional teams.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: feature-driven development

Agile test leader

Version 1

A leadership role that serves agile teams, championing testing and quality at the organizational level.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: quality coach, agile test manager, quality leader

See also: test manager, Agile test team leader

Agile test team leader

Version 1

A role that is responsible for maintaining solution quality within an agile delivery team.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: Agile test leader

alpha testing

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

analytical test strategy

Version 1

A test strategy whereby the test team analyzes the test basis to identify the test conditions to cover.

Term type: Quality and testing

analyzability

Version 2

The degree to which an assessment can be made for a component or system of either the impact of one or more intended changes, the diagnosis of deficiencies or causes of failures, or the identification of parts to be modified.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: maintainability

anomaly

Version 1

A condition that deviates from expectation.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

anonymization

Version 1

The irreversible process of removing or altering data so that individuals cannot be identified.

Term type: Quality and testing

anti-malware

Version 1

Software that is used to detect and inhibit malware.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: malware

API testing

Version 2

A test approach performed by submitting requests to a test object using its application programming interface.

Term type: Quality and testing

application programming interface

Version 1

A type of interface in which the components or systems involved exchange information in a defined formal structure.

Abbreviation: API

Term type: Quality and testing

appraisal

Version 1

The activities of measuring and monitoring the quality of a system.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ASQ

appropriateness recognizability

Version 2

The degree to which users can recognize whether a component or system is appropriate for their needs.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

Synonyms: understandability

See also: usability

assertion

Version 1

A Boolean expression that is expected to evaluate to true if and only if the software executes correctly.

Term type: Quality and testing

atomic condition

Version 2

A condition that does not contain logical operators.

Term type: Quality and testing

attack

Version 1

A test approach in which a set of deliberate actions is used to reveal a particular defect type.

Term type: Quality and testing

attack vector

Version 1

A path or means by which an attacker can gain access to a system for malicious purposes.

Term type: Quality and testing

attacker

Version 1

A person or process that attempts to access data, functions or other restricted areas of the system without authorization, potentially with malicious intent.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: hacker

audio testing

Version 1

A test type to determine if the game music and sound effects will engage the user and enhance the gameplay.

Term type: Quality and testing

audit

Version 2

An independent examination performed by a third party on a work product or process to assess whether it complies with specified criteria.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

auditability

Version 1

The degree to which an audit can be performed on a work product or process.

Term type: Quality and testing

authenticity

Version 1

The degree to which the identity of a subject or resource can be proved to be the one claimed.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 25010

automated testing

Version 1

The result of test automation.

Term type: Quality and testing

automotive safety integrity level

Version 1

One of four levels that specify the item's or element's necessary requirements of ISO 26262 and safety measures to avoid an unreasonable residual risk.

Abbreviation: ASIL

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 26262

See also: safety integrity level

availability

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

back-to-back testing

Version 2

A test approach in which a pseudo-oracle is used.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

See also: pseudo-oracle

base choice coverage

Version 1

The coverage of parameter-value combinations in which each value of a parameter is combined with the base values of all other parameters, for a chosen base value per parameter.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Ammann and Offutt

See also: combinatorial testing, pairwise coverage, each choice coverage

behavior-based test technique

Version 1

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are model elements of the state-dependent behavior of a test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

behavior-driven development

Version 1

A collaborative approach to development in which the team is focusing on delivering expected behavior of a component or system for the customer, which forms the basis for testing.

Abbreviation: BDD

Term type: Quality and testing

beta testing

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

black-box test technique

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

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

black-box testing

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: specification-based testing

botnet

Version 1

A network of compromised computers, called bots or robots, which is controlled by a third party and used to transmit malware or spam, or to launch attacks.

Term type: Quality and testing

boundary value

Version 2

A minimum or maximum value of an ordered equivalence partition.

Term type: Quality and testing

boundary value analysis

Version 3

A black-box test technique in which the test conditions are boundary values.

Abbreviation: BVA

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: domain testing

branch

Version 2

A transfer of control between two consecutive nodes in the control flow graph of a test item.

Term type: Quality and testing

branch coverage

Version 2

The coverage of branches in a control flow graph.

Term type: Quality and testing

branch testing

Version 1

A white-box test technique in which the test conditions are branches.

Term type: Quality and testing

bug bash

Version 1

An informal, collaborative cross-functional test session to identify defects.

Term type: Quality and testing

bug hunting

Version 1

A test approach in which gamification and awards for defects found are used as a motivator.

Term type: Quality and testing

build verification test

Version 1

An automated test that validates the integrity of each new build and verifies its key/core functionality, stability, and testability.

Abbreviation: BVT

Term type: Quality and testing

built-in quality

Version 1

A set of practices to verify that each solution meets quality standards throughout each increment of development, focusing on quality assurance as a shared responsibility.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After SAFe

calculation testing

Version 1

A test type to determine the functional correctness of calculation formulas.

Term type: Quality and testing

Capability Maturity Model Integration

Version 1

A framework that describes the key elements of an effective product development and maintenance process. The Capability Maturity Model Integration covers best-practices for planning, engineering and managing product development and maintenance.

Abbreviation: CMMI

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: CMMI

capacity

Version 1

The degree to which the maximum limits of a component or system parameter meet requirements.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

capacity testing

Version 1

Testing to evaluate the capacity of a system.

Term type: Quality and testing

capture/playback

Version 2

A test automation approach in which inputs to a test object are recorded during manual testing to generate automated test scripts that can be executed later.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: capture/replay, record/playback

causal loop diagram

Version 1

A graphical representation used to visualize cause-effect relationships and feedback loops in a system.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Sterman

cause-effect diagram

Version 1

A graphical representation used to organize and display the interrelationships of various possible root causes of a problem. Possible causes of a real or potential defect or failure are organized in categories and subcategories in a horizontal tree-structure, with the (potential) defect or failure as the root node.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Juran

Synonyms: fishbone diagram, Ishikawa diagram

cause-effect graph

Version 1

A graphical representation of logical relationships between inputs (causes) and their associated outputs (effects) of a test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

certification

Version 1

The process of confirming that a component, system or person complies with specified requirements.

Term type: Quality and testing

checklist-based reviewing	Version 1
A review technique guided by a list of questions or required attributes.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Synonyms: checklist-based review	
See also: review technique	
checklist-based testing	Version 3
An experience-based test technique in which test cases are designed to exercise the items of a checklist.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
classification tree	Version 2
A tree diagram representing test data domains of a test object.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
classification tree technique	Version 2
A black-box test technique in which test conditions are derived from a classification tree.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: Grochtmann	
Synonyms: classification tree method	
See also: combinatorial testing	
closed-loop system	Version 1
A system in which the controlling action or input is dependent on the output or changes in output.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: Bakshi	
code injection	Version 1
A type of security attack performed by inserting malicious code at an interface into an application to exploit poor handling of untrusted data.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
coding standard	Version 2
A quality standard that defines required characteristics of code.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
coexistence	Version 2
The degree to which a component or system can perform its required functions while sharing an environment and resources with other components or systems without a negative impact on any of them.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 25010	
Synonyms: co-existence	
See also: portability	
collaboration-based test approach	Version 1
An approach to testing that focuses on defect avoidance by collaborating among stakeholders.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
combinatorial testing	Version 3
A black-box test technique in which test conditions are specific combinations of values of several parameters.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: classification tree technique, pairwise coverage, base choice coverage	
command-line interface	Version 2
A type of interface in which the information is passed in form of command lines.	
Abbreviation: CLI	
Term type: Quality and testing	

Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification

Version 1

A catalog of known cyber security attack patterns used to prevent attacks.

Abbreviation: CAPEC

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: MITRE-CAPEC

Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures

Version 1

A catalog of publicly disclosed vulnerabilities in released software packages.

Abbreviation: CVE

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: MITRE-CVE

Common Vulnerability Scoring System

Version 1

A free and open industry standard for assessing the severity of system security vulnerabilities based on the ease and impact of an attack.

Abbreviation: CVSS

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After FIRST-CVSS

Common Weakness Enumeration

Version 1

A community-developed list of common software and hardware weaknesses.

Abbreviation: CWE

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: MITRE-CWE

Common Weakness Scoring System

Version 1

A standard for assessing software weaknesses and vulnerabilities in a consistent, flexible, and open manner.

Abbreviation: CWSS

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: MITRE-CWE

compatibility

Version 1

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

compliance

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: IREB Glossary

compliance testing

Version 1

Testing to determine the compliance of the component or system.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: conformance testing, regulation testing, standards testing

component

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: module

component integration testing

Version 3

The integration testing of components.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: module integration testing

component testing

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: module testing

computer forensics

Version 1

The practice of determining how a security attack has succeeded and assessing the damage caused.

Term type: Quality and testing

concept drift

Version 1

A change in user expectations, behavior or the operational environment over time that negatively impacts the ML functional performance of an operational ML model.

Term type: Quality and testing

concurrency

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

concurrency testing

Version 1

Testing to evaluate if a component or system involving concurrency behaves as specified.

Term type: Quality and testing

condition coverage

Version 1

The coverage of condition outcomes.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: branch condition coverage

condition testing

Version 2

A white-box test technique in which test conditions are outcomes of atomic conditions.

Term type: Quality and testing

confidence interval

Version 1

In managing project risks, the period of time within which a contingency action must be implemented in order to be effective in reducing the impact of the risk.

Term type: Quality and testing

confidentiality

Version 1

The degree to which a component or system only allows authorized accesses to data.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: retesting

connectivity

Version 1

The degree to which a component or system can connect to other components or systems.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 2382

consultative test strategy

Version 1

A test strategy whereby the test team relies on the input of one or more key stakeholders to determine the details of the strategy.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: directed test strategy

context of use

Version 1

Users, tasks, equipment (hardware, software and materials), and the physical and social environments in which a software product is used.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 9241-11

continuous automated compliance validation

Version 1

The automated process of determining compliance throughout the lifecycle of a work product.

Term type: Quality and testing

continuous delivery

Version 1

An automated software development procedure in which code changes are automatically built, tested, and prepared for a release to production.

Abbreviation: CD

Term type: Quality and testing

continuous deployment

Version 1

An automated software release procedure in which all code changes are deployed to production after all specified tests have passed.

Term type: Quality and testing

continuous integration

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

continuous testing

Version 2

A test approach that performs testing throughout the software development lifecycle, early and often, and automates tests to obtain feedback as quickly as possible on software release candidates.

Term type: Quality and testing

contract testing

Version 1

A type of integration testing that verifies that the interfaces are used as specified in their contracts.

Term type: Quality and testing

control chart

Version 1

A statistical process control tool used to monitor a process and determine whether it is statistically controlled. It graphically depicts the average value and the upper and lower control limits (the highest and lowest values) of a process.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: Shewhart chart

control flow

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-4

control flow analysis

Version 3

A type of static analysis based on a representation of unique paths for executing a component or system.

Term type: Quality and testing

control testing

Version 1

A test approach that evaluates whether internal controls are designed appropriately and operate effectively to be within compliance.

Term type: Quality and testing

convergence metric

Version 1

A metric that shows progress toward a defined criterion, e.g., convergence of the total number of tests executed to the total number of tests planned for execution.

Term type: Quality and testing

cost of quality

Version 1

The total costs incurred on quality activities and defects, consisting of the costs of defect prevention, appraisal, internal failure, and external failure.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ASQ

coverage

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: test coverage

coverage criteria

Version 1

The criteria to define the coverage items required to reach a test objective.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: coverage item

coverage item

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: coverage criteria

Critical Testing Processes

Version 1

A content-based model for test process improvement built around twelve critical processes. These include highly visible processes, by which peers and management judge competence and mission-critical processes in which performance affects the company's profits and reputation.

Abbreviation: CTP

Term type: Quality and testing

cross-browser compatibility

Version 1

The degree to which a website or web application can function across different browsers and degrade gracefully when browser features are absent or lacking.

Term type: Quality and testing

cross-device testing

Version 1

A test type to determine whether a component or system performs correctly across its intended range of devices.

Term type: Quality and testing

cross-site scripting

Version 1

A vulnerability that allows attackers to inject malicious code into an otherwise benign website.

Abbreviation: XSS

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: NIST.IR.7298

See also: vulnerability

crowd testing

Version 1

A test approach in which testing is distributed to a large group of testers.

Term type: Quality and testing

CRUD testing

Version 1

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are operations of the types create, read, update, and delete for an entity.

Term type: Quality and testing

cyclomatic complexity

Version 3

The maximum number of linear, independent paths through a program.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After McCabe

Synonyms: cyclomatic number

dashboard

Version 1

A representation of dynamic measurements of operational performance for some organization or activity, using metrics represented via metaphors such as visual dials, counters, and other devices resembling those on the dashboard of an automobile, so that the effects of events or activities can be easily understood and related to operational goals.

Term type: Quality and testing

data accuracy

Version 1

The degree to which data correctly represents the real-world values it is intended to model.

Term type: Quality and testing

data consistency

Version 1

The degree to which data has attributes that are free from contradiction and are coherent with other data in a specific context of use.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25012

data drift

Version 1

A change in the distribution of input data over time that negatively impacts the ML functional performance of an operational ML model.

Term type: Quality and testing

data flow analysis

Version 2

A type of static analysis based on the lifecycle of variables.

Term type: Quality and testing

data obfuscation

Version 1

Data transformation that makes it difficult for a human to recognize the original data.

Term type: Quality and testing

data pipeline testing

Version 1

A test type that covers the training and operational data pipelines of a machine learning system.

Term type: Quality and testing

data privacy

Version 1

The protection of personally identifiable information or otherwise sensitive information from undesired disclosure.

Term type: Quality and testing

data provenance testing

Version 1

A test type to determine if data is sourced, managed, protected, and used in accordance with an organization's policies, standards, and regulatory obligations.

Term type: Quality and testing

data reconciliation

Version 1

The process of comparing data from different sources to verify consistency and correctness and resolving if necessary.

Term type: Quality and testing

data representativeness testing

Version 1

A test type to determine if the datasets used for training an AI model are fair representations of the data expected to be encountered by the operational model.

Term type: Quality and testing

data-based test technique

Version 1

A test technique in which test conditions are model elements of the test object data.

Term type: Quality and testing

data-driven testing

Version 3

A test automation approach in which test data is separated from a test script to allow its repeated execution with various test data.

Abbreviation: DDT

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: keyword-driven testing, data-driven testing

dataset constraint testing	Version 1
A type of static testing to determine if logical or specified constraints are followed on a dataset.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
debugging	Version 2
The process of finding, analyzing and removing the causes of failures in a component or system.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
decision coverage	Version 2
The coverage of decision outcomes.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
decision table testing	Version 4
A black-box test technique in which the test conditions are the combinations of conditions and the resulting actions shown in a decision table.	
Abbreviation: DTT	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 29119-4	
decision testing	Version 2
A white-box test technique in which test cases are designed to execute decision outcomes.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
defect	Version 3
An imperfection or deficiency in a work product where it does not meet its requirements or specifications or impairs its intended use.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 24765	
Synonyms: bug, fault, flaw	
See also: error, failure	
defect density	Version 2
The number of defects per unit size of a work product.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 24765	
Synonyms: fault density	
defect detection percentage	Version 1
The number of defects found by a test level, divided by the number found by that test level and any other means afterwards.	
Abbreviation: DDP	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Synonyms: Fault Detection Percentage (FDP)	
See also: escaped defect	
defect management	Version 4
The process of recognizing, recording, classifying, investigating, fixing and disposing of defects.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
defect management committee	Version 2
A cross-functional team of stakeholders who perform defect management.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
defect prevention	Version 1
The measures that reduce the likelihood of recurrence of defects in work products and limit the propagation of defects in subsequent work products.	
Term type: Quality and testing	

defect report

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: bug report

defect taxonomy

Version 2

A list of categories designed to identify and classify defects.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: bug taxonomy

See also: defect-based test technique

defect workflow

Version 1

The state transition model of a defect lifecycle, including responsibilities.

Term type: Quality and testing

defect-based test technique

Version 2

A test technique in which test conditions are based on a specific defect type.

Term type: Quality and testing

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

See also: defect taxonomy

definition-use pair

Version 2

The association of a definition of a variable with the subsequent use of that variable.

Term type: Quality and testing

demilitarized zone

Version 1

A physical or logical subnetwork that contains and exposes an organization's external-facing services to an untrusted network, commonly the Internet.

Abbreviation: DMZ

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: network zone

denial of service

Version 1

A security attack that is intended to overload the system with requests such that legitimate requests cannot be serviced.

Abbreviation: DoS

Term type: Quality and testing

destructive testing

Version 1

A test type that subjects a component or system to malicious inputs, abnormal conditions, or security exploits to induce persistent anomalous behavior.

Term type: Quality and testing

device-based testing

Version 1

A test type in which test suites are executed on physical or virtual devices.

Term type: Quality and testing

domain testing

Version 1

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are points on, near to, inside or outside the boundaries of different equivalence partitions of the input value domain.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: equivalence partitioning, boundary value analysis

drift testing

Version 1

A type of maintenance testing that evaluates the degree to which data drift, concept drift or both occur.

Term type: Quality and testing

driver A component or tool that temporarily replaces another component and controls or calls a test item in isolation. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: test driver	Version 2
dynamic analysis The process of evaluating a component or system based on its behavior during execution. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After ISO 24765	Version 2
dynamic application security testing A test approach in which attacks are simulated and reactions are analyzed to determine the vulnerabilities of a component or system. Abbreviation: DAST Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After NIST.IR.7298 See also: static application security testing, interactive application security testing, vulnerability	Version 1
dynamic testing A test approach that involves test execution of a test item. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After ISO 29119-1 See also: static testing	Version 2
each choice coverage The coverage of equivalence partitions in multiple sets of partitions. Abbreviation: ECC Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After Ammann and Offutt See also: pairwise coverage, base choice coverage	Version 2
edge case A test condition which is within the defined operational limits of a component or system but is uncommon, extreme, or atypical. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
effectiveness The extent to which correct and complete goals are achieved. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: ISO 9241-11 See also: efficiency	Version 2
efficiency The degree to which resources are expended in relation to results achieved. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: IREB Glossary See also: effectiveness, performance efficiency	Version 3
EFQM Model A management framework that supports organisations in managing change and improving performance. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: EFQM Synonyms: European Foundation for Quality Management Excellence Model, EFQM Excellence Model	Version 2
emulator A component used during testing that mimics the behavior of hardware. Term type: Quality and testing See also: simulator	Version 3

end-of-line testing

Version 1

A test type performed at the end of a production line to evaluate if a manufactured product meets its requirements.

Abbreviation: EOL testing

Term type: Quality and testing

end-to-end testing

Version 1

A test type in which business processes are tested from start to finish under production-like circumstances.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: E2E testing

endurance testing

Version 1

Testing to determine the stability of a system under a significant load over a significant period of time within the system's operational context.

Term type: Quality and testing

entry criteria

Version 2

The set of conditions for officially starting a defined task.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: Gilb and Graham

See also: exit criteria

environment model

Version 1

An abstraction of the real environment of a component or system including other components, processes, and environment conditions, in a real-time simulation.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: Wallentowitz

equivalence partition

Version 4

A subset of a value domain for which a component or system is expected to treat all values the same based on the specification.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: partition testing

See also: domain testing

equivalent manual test effort

Version 1

Effort required for running tests manually.

Abbreviation: EMTE

Term type: Quality and testing

ergonomics testing

Version 1

Testing to determine whether a component or system and its input devices are being used properly with correct posture.

Term type: Quality and testing

error

Version 1

A human action that results in a defect.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 24765

Synonyms: mistake

See also: defect

error guessing

Version 3

A test technique in which the tests conditions are based on the tester's knowledge of past failures or failure modes.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 29119-1

escaped defect

Version 2

A defect that is not detected by a test activity that is supposed to find it.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: defect detection percentage

ethical hacker

Version 2

A security tester who follows the code of ethics of their organization.

Term type: Quality and testing

ethical system testing

Version 1

A test type that evaluates a system's design, interface, and potential societal and legal impacts against established ethical principles.

Term type: Quality and testing

exhaustive testing

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: complete testing

exit criteria

Version 2

The set of conditions for officially completing a defined task.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Gilb and Graham

Synonyms: test completion criteria, completion criteria

See also: entry criteria

expected result

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: predicted outcome, expected outcome

experience-based test technique

Version 4

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

Term type: Quality and testing

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

experience-based testing

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

expert usability review

Version 1

An informal usability review in which the reviewers are experts. Experts can be usability experts or subject matter experts, or both.

Term type: Quality and testing

explainability

Version 1

The degree to which results from an AI-based system can be explained.

Term type: Quality and testing

exploratory testing

Version 4

A test approach in which tests are dynamically designed and executed based on tester's knowledge, exploration of a test item, and previous test results.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

See also: test charter

external failure

Version 1

A failure that occurs during the regular operation of a system after its delivery to the end users.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ASQ

failed

Version 1

A test result if the actual result does not match the expected result.

Term type: Quality and testing

failover

Version 1

The backup operational mode in which the functions of a system that becomes unavailable are assumed by a secondary system.

Term type: Quality and testing

failure

Version 3

An event in which a component or system does not meet its requirements within specified limits during its execution.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: malfunction

See also: defect

failure mode

Version 1

The physical or functional manifestation of a failure.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 24765

failure mode and effect analysis

Version 1

A systematic approach to risk identification and analysis of identifying possible modes of failure and attempting to prevent their occurrence.

Abbreviation: FMEA

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: Software Failure Mode and Effect Analysis

failure rate

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 24765

false-negative result

Version 1

A test result which fails to identify a defect that is actually present in a test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: false-pass result

false-positive result

Version 1

A test result in which a defect is reported although no such defect actually exists in the test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: false-fail result

fault attack

Version 1

A test technique to evaluate a specific quality characteristic of a test object by attempting to trigger specific failures.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: security attack

fault injection

Version 2

A technique for creating adverse conditions to evaluate whether a component or system can detect them and show reliable behavior.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: fault insertion

See also: fault seeding, fault tolerance

fault seeding

Version 2

The process of intentionally adding defects to a component or system to monitor the rate of detection and removal, and to estimate the number of defects remaining.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: bebugging, error seeding, mutation testing

See also: fault injection

fault tolerance

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system operates as intended despite the presence of hardware or software defects.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: fault injection

fault tree analysis

Version 1

A technique for analyzing the causes of failures that uses a hierarchical model of events and their logical relationships.

Abbreviation: FTA

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: Software Fault Tree Analysis

feature-driven development

Version 1

An iterative and incremental software development process driven from a client-valued functionality (feature) perspective. Feature-driven development is mostly used in Agile software development.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: Agile software development

field testing

Version 1

A test level performed to evaluate the system behavior in an operational environment.

Term type: Quality and testing

finding

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

flexibility

Version 1

The degree to which a component or system can be adapted to changes in its requirements, contexts of use, or system environment.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: portability

follow-up test case

Version 1

A test case generated by applying a metamorphic relation to a source test case during metamorphic testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

formal review

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 20246

formal testing

Version 1

A test approach that follows a defined process, is based on precise specifications, emphasizing documentation, traceability, and coverage.

Term type: Quality and testing

formative evaluation

Version 1

A type of evaluation designed and used to improve the quality of a component or system, especially when it is still being designed.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: summative evaluation

functional adaptability

Version 1

The degree to which an AI-based system can acquire information from data or previous actions to make future predictions.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 25059

functional appropriateness

Version 3

The degree to which the functions facilitate the accomplishment of specified tasks and objectives.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 25010

Synonyms: suitability

functional completeness

Version 1

The degree to which the set of functions covers all the specified tasks and user objectives.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 25010

functional correctness

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system provides the correct results with the needed degree of precision.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: accuracy

functional safety

Version 1

The absence of unreasonable risk due to hazards caused by malfunctioning behavior of electric/electronic systems.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 26262

functional suitability

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

Synonyms: functionality

See also: interoperability

functional testing

Version 4

A test type to determine the functional suitability of a test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

fuzz testing

Version 2

A test technique in which high volumes of random data are used to generate test inputs.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: fuzzing

See also: vulnerability

generic test automation architecture

Version 2

A representation of the layers, components, and interfaces that allows for a structured and modular approach to implement test automation.

Abbreviation: gTAA

Term type: Quality and testing

graphical user interface	Version 1
A type of interface that allows users to interact with a component or system through graphical icons and visual indicators.	
Abbreviation: GUI	
Term type: Quality and testing	
grey-box testing	Version 2
A test approach that combines elements of black-box testing and white-box testing.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
GUI testing	Version 2
A test approach performed by interacting with a test object using a graphical user interface.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
hacker	Version 1
A person or organization who is actively involved in security attacks, usually with malicious intent.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: attacker, script kiddie	
hardware-in-the-loop	Version 2
A virtual test environment in which real hardware with integrated software is tested.	
Abbreviation: HiL	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: Automotive SPICE	
hashing	Version 1
Transformation of a variable length string of characters into a usually shorter fixed-length value or key. Hashed values, or hashes, are commonly used in table or database lookups. Cryptographic hash functions are used to secure data.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: salting	
heuristic	Version 1
A generally recognized rule of thumb that helps to achieve a goal.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
heuristic evaluation	Version 2
A usability review technique that evaluates a work product by using a set of heuristics.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
high-level test case	Version 3
A test case with abstract preconditions, input data, expected results, postconditions, and actions (where applicable).	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Synonyms: logical test case, abstract test case	
See also: low-level test case	
holistic testing	Version 1
A collaborative approach to quality assurance through system-wide continuous testing, learning and improvement.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
hotfix	Version 1
A software release to fix critical defects without waiting for a planned release.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
human-centered design	Version 1
An approach to design that aims to make software products more usable by focusing on the use of the software products and applying human factors, ergonomics, and usability knowledge and techniques.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: ISO 9241-210	

hybrid software development model

Version 1

A type of software development lifecycle model that combines elements of different software development lifecycle models.

Term type: Quality and testing

hypothesis testing

Version 1

The validation of a theory and its assumptions using sample data

Term type: Quality and testing

impact analysis

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

incremental development model

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After PMBOK

independence of testing

Version 1

The separation of testing responsibilities from development for a test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After DO-178C

independent test lab

Version 1

An organization responsible to test and certify that the software, hardware, firmware, platform, and operating system follow all jurisdictional rules for each location where a component or system will be used.

Abbreviation: ITL

Term type: Quality and testing

informal review

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

information assurance

Version 1

Measures that protect and defend information and information systems by ensuring their availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality, and non-repudiation. These measures include providing for restoration of information systems by incorporating protection, detection, and reaction capabilities.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: NIST.IR.7298

information security

Version 1

The protection of information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After NIST.IR.7298

input data testing

Version 1

A test level that focuses on the quality of data used for training an ML model.

Term type: Quality and testing

insider threat

Version 1

A security threat originating from within the organization, often by an authorized system user.

Term type: Quality and testing

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 20246

See also: peer review

installability

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system can be successfully installed and/or uninstalled in a specified environment.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: portability

integration testing

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

integrity

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

interaction capability

Version 1

The degree to which a component or system can exchange information via the user interface with its specified users to complete an intended task.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: usability

interactive application security testing

Version 1

A test approach that analyzes the code executed and pinpoints where a vulnerability exists by combining dynamic application security testing with static application security testing

Abbreviation: IAST

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: dynamic application security testing, static application security testing

interface testing

Version 1

A type of integration testing performed to determine whether components or systems pass data and control correctly to one another.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

internal failure

Version 1

A failure that occurs during the operation of a system before its delivery to the end users.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ASQ

internationalization

Version 1

The process of making a system suitable for international user groups.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: localization

interoperability

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: functional suitability

intervenability	Version 1
The degree to which an operator can intervene in a system's functioning in a timely manner to prevent harm or hazard.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
intrusion detection system	Version 1
A system which monitors activities to detect violations of the security policy.	
Abbreviation: IDS	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: malware scanning	
iterative development model	Version 1
A type of software development lifecycle model in which the component or system is developed through a series of repeated cycles.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
k-multisection neuron coverage	Version 1
The coverage of sections of the output range of each neuron in a neural network, where the output range is divided into k sections.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
keyword	Version 1
A phrase that represents specific actions to be performed during test execution.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 29119-1	
keyword-driven testing	Version 3
A test automation approach in which test scripts contain keywords and supporting files that contain scripts that implement those keywords.	
Abbreviation: KDT	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Synonyms: action word-driven testing	
See also: data-driven testing	
label correctness testing	Version 1
A test type to determine the accuracy and consistency of labels assigned to examples in a dataset.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
learnability	Version 3
The degree to which specified users can learn to use a component or system within a defined period.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 25010	
level of intrusion	Version 1
The level to which a test object is modified by adjusting it for testability.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
level test plan	Version 1
A test plan that typically addresses one test level.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: test plan	
linear scripting	Version 1
A simple scripting technique without any control structure in the test scripts.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
load generation	Version 1
The process of simulating a defined set of activities at a specified load to be submitted to a component or system.	
Term type: Quality and testing	

load generator

Version 1

A tool that generates a load for a system under test.

Term type: Quality and testing

load management

Version 1

The control and execution of load generation, and performance monitoring and reporting of the component or system.

Term type: Quality and testing

load profile

Version 1

Documentation defining a designated number of virtual users who process a defined set of transactions in a specified time period that a component or system being tested may experience in production.

Term type: Quality and testing

load testing

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

localization

Version 1

The process of making a system suitable for a specific user group.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: internationalization

low-level test case

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: concrete test case, physical test case

See also: high-level test case

machine learning

Version 1

The process of using computational techniques to enable systems to learn from data or experience.

Abbreviation: ML

Term type: Quality and testing

maintainability

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: analyzability, modifiability, testability

maintenance

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

maintenance testing

Version 1

A test type that evaluates the effect of changes made to an operational system or its environment.

Term type: Quality and testing

malware

Version 1

Software that is intended to harm a system or its components.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: anti-malware

malware scanning	Version 2
Static analysis aiming to detect malicious code received at an interface.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: intrusion detection system	
manual testing	Version 1
A test activity performed manually.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
manufacturing-based quality	Version 2
A view of quality measured by the degree that a product or service conforms to its intended design and requirements based on the process used.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After Garvin	
master test plan	Version 2
A test plan that is used to coordinate multiple test levels or test types.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: test plan	
math testing	Version 1
A test type to determine the correctness of the pay table implementation, the random number generator results, and the return to player computations.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
maturity	Version 2
(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.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
MBT model	Version 1
Any model used in model-based testing.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
mean time between failures	Version 1
The average time between consecutive failures of a component or system.	
Abbreviation: MTBF	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: mean time to failure	
mean time to failure	Version 1
The average time from the start of operation to a failure for a component or system.	
Abbreviation: MTTF	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: mean time between failures	
mean time to repair	Version 1
The average time a component or system will take to recover from a failure.	
Abbreviation: MTTR	
Term type: Quality and testing	
measurement	Version 1
The process of assigning a number or category to an entity to describe an attribute of that entity.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 24765	

memory leak

Version 2

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

metamorphic relation

Version 1

A description of how a change to an input for a test case affects an expected result based on the required behavior of a test item.

Abbreviation: MR

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

metamorphic testing

Version 2

A test technique in which test conditions are metamorphic relations.

Abbreviation: MT

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: property-based testing

method table

Version 1

A table containing different test approaches, test techniques and test types that are required depending on the automotive safety integrity level and on the context of a test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 26262

methodical test strategy

Version 1

A test strategy whereby the test team uses a pre-determined set of test conditions such as a quality standard, a checklist, or a collection of generalized, logical test conditions which may relate to a particular domain, application or type of testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

ML functional performance

Version 1

The degree to which an ML model meets ML functional performance criteria.

Term type: Quality and testing

ML functional performance criteria

Version 1

Criteria based on ML functional performance metrics used as a basis for model evaluation, tuning and testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

ML functional performance metric

Version 1

A measure that relates to the functional correctness of an ML model.

Term type: Quality and testing

ML model

Version 1

An implementation of machine learning that generates a prediction, classification or recommendation based on input data.

Term type: Quality and testing

ML model testing

Version 1

A test level that focuses on the ability of an ML model to meet required ML functional performance criteria and non-functional criteria.

Term type: Quality and testing

mob testing

Version 1

A test approach in which a small group tests the same system together at the same time using a single user interface and computer, followed by a retrospective.

Term type: Quality and testing

mock

Version 1

A type of test double that simulates the expected behavior of the component during testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: mock object, mock-up

See also: test double, stub

model conversion testing

Version 1

A test type to determine whether an ML model converted for deployment retains acceptable predictive accuracy, consistent behavior, and operational efficiency.

Term type: Quality and testing

model coverage

Version 2

The coverage of model elements.

Term type: Quality and testing

model-based test strategy

Version 1

A test strategy whereby the test team derives testware from models.

Term type: Quality and testing

model-based testing

Version 1

Testing based on or involving models.

Abbreviation: MBT

Term type: Quality and testing

model-in-the-loop

Version 2

A virtual test environment in which a simulation model of the system is tested.

Abbreviation: MiL

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: Automotive SPICE

moderator

Version 4

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: facilitator

modifiability

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system can be modified without degrading its quality.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

Synonyms: changeability

See also: maintainability

modified condition/decision coverage

Version 2

The coverage of all outcomes of the atomic conditions that independently affect the overall decision outcome.

Abbreviation: MC/DC

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: condition determination coverage, modified multiple condition coverage

modified condition/decision testing

Version 1

A white-box test technique in which test conditions are outcomes of atomic conditions that independently affect a decision outcome.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: condition determination testing, modified multiple condition testing, MC/DC testing

modularity

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

monitoring tool

Version 2

A software tool or hardware device that runs concurrently with a system under test and supervises, records and/or analyzes its behavior.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 24765

multiplayer testing

Version 1

A test type to determine if many players can simultaneously interact with the casino game world, with computer-controlled opponents, game servers, and with each other based on the game design.

Term type: Quality and testing

multiple condition coverage

Version 1

The coverage of all possible combinations of all single condition outcomes within one statement.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: branch condition combination coverage, condition combination coverage

multiple condition testing

Version 2

A white-box test technique in which test conditions are outcome combinations of atomic conditions.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: branch condition combination testing, condition combination testing

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

Version 1

An indicator of psychological preference representing the different personalities and communication styles of people.

Abbreviation: MBTI

Term type: Quality and testing

N-switch coverage

Version 1

The coverage of sequences of N+1 transitions.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: Chow

Synonyms: Chow's coverage metrics

negative testing

Version 1

A test type in which a component or system is used in a way that it is not intended.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: invalid testing, dirty testing

network zone

Version 1

A sub-network with a defined level of trust. For example, the Internet or a public zone would be considered to be untrusted.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: demilitarized zone

neuron boundary coverage

Version 1

The coverage of neurons in a neural network where their output either exceeds the maximum achieved in training, or is less than the minimum achieved in training.

Term type: Quality and testing

neuron coverage

Version 2

The coverage of neurons in a neural network where their output exceeds a specified threshold.

Term type: Quality and testing

non-functional testing

Version 3

A test type to evaluate that a component or system complies with non-functional requirements.

Term type: Quality and testing

non-repudiation

Version 1

The degree to which actions or events can be proven to have taken place, so that the actions or events cannot be repudiated later.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

offline MBT

Version 1

Model-based test approach in which test cases are generated into a repository for future execution.

Term type: Quality and testing

online MBT	Version 1
Model-based test approach in which test cases are generated and executed simultaneously.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Synonyms: on-the-fly MBT	
open-loop system	Version 1
A system in which the controlling action or input is independent of the output or changes in output.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: Bakshi	
operability	Version 2
The degree to which a component or system has attributes that make it easy to operate and control.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 25010	
See also: usability	
operational acceptance testing	Version 3
A type of acceptance testing performed to determine whether the organization responsible for operating the system can accept it.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Synonyms: production acceptance testing	
operational profile	Version 2
An actual or predicted pattern of use of the component or system.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
operational profiling	Version 1
The process of developing and implementing an operational profile.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
organizational test strategy	Version 1
A strategy that describes the generic requirements for testing and how to perform testing within an organization.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
pair testing	Version 1
A test approach in which two team members simultaneously collaborate on testing a work product.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
pairwise coverage	Version 1
The coverage of pairs of parameter-value pairs.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: combinatorial testing, base choice coverage, each choice coverage	
pairwise testing	Version 2
A black-box test technique in which test conditions are pairs of parameter-value pairs.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 29119-4	
par sheet testing	Version 1
A test type to determine that a game returns the correct mathematical results to the screen, to the players' accounts, and to the casino account.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
pass/fail criteria	Version 1
Decision rules used to determine whether a test item has passed or failed.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 29119-1	

passed	Version 1
A test result if the actual result matches the expected result.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
password cracking	Version 1
A security attack recovering secret passwords stored in a computer system or transmitted over a network.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After NIST.IR.7298	
peer review	Version 2
A type of review performed on a work product by persons that have the abilities required to create it.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 20246	
See also: technical review, inspection, walkthrough	
penetration testing	Version 2
A type of dynamic application security testing to assess weaknesses and vulnerabilities without causing harm by mimicking an attacker.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: vulnerability	
performance efficiency	Version 3
The degree to which a component or system performs its functions with efficient use of resources under specified conditions, throughput, and time.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 25010	
See also: efficiency	
performance testing	Version 2
A test type to determine the performance efficiency of a component or system.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
performance testing tool	Version 1
A test tool that generates load for a designated test item and that measures and records its performance during test execution.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
perspective-based reading	Version 2
A type of role-based reviewing that uses checklists and involves the creation of prototype deliverables.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 20246	
Synonyms: perspective-based reviewing	
See also: review technique	
pharming	Version 1
A security attack intended to redirect a website's traffic to a fraudulent website without the user's knowledge or consent.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
phase containment	Version 2
The policy of removing defects in the same phase of the software development lifecycle in which they were introduced.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
phishing	Version 1
An attempt to acquire personal or sensitive information by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
player perspective testing	Version 1
Testing done by testers from a player's perspective to validate player satisfaction.	
Term type: Quality and testing	

playtest

Version 1

Ad hoc testing of a game by players to identify failures and gather feedback.

Term type: Quality and testing

portability

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: adaptability, coexistence, installability, replaceability, flexibility

post-release testing

Version 1

A test level performed after the release of a system to validate that it can be deployed in operational environments.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: testing in production

postcondition

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

precondition

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

priority

Version 1

The level of importance assigned to a task according to specific criteria.

Term type: Quality and testing

PRISMA

Version 1

A technique used in risk-based testing that creates a product risk matrix.

Term type: Quality and testing

process assessment

Version 1

A disciplined evaluation of an organization's software processes against a reference model.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 15504

process-compliant test strategy

Version 1

A test strategy whereby the test team follows a set of predefined processes, whereby the processes address such items as documentation, the proper identification and use of the test basis and test oracle(s), and the organization of the test team.

Term type: Quality and testing

product risk

Version 2

A risk that impacts the quality of a product.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: risk

product-based quality

Version 3

A view of quality measured by the degree that well-defined quality characteristics are met.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Garvin

project risk

Version 2

A risk that impacts project success.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: risk

property-based testing

Version 1

A test approach in which test results are verified using specified relations between inputs and expected results of a test case.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: metamorphic testing

proximity-based testing

Version 1

A test type to confirm that sensors can detect nearby objects without physical contact.

Term type: Quality and testing

pseudo-oracle

Version 1

An independently derived variant of the test item used to generate results, which are compared with the results of the original test item based on the same test inputs.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 29119-11

See also: back-to-back testing

pseudonymization

Version 1

The reversible process of replacing identifiers with artificial data so that individuals cannot be identified.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality

Version 4

The degree to which a work product satisfies stated and implied requirements.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After IREB Glossary

quality assistance

Version 1

An approach to quality management that focuses on a quality culture throughout an organization.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality assurance

Version 2

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

Abbreviation: QA

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

See also: quality management

quality capability

Version 1

The abilities an organization needs to accomplish its quality goals.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: testing capability

quality characteristic

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 24765

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

quality coaching

Version 1

The activities focused on helping an agile organization identify, understand, and deal with quality management, business value, flow of work, and customer collaboration.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality control

Version 1

Activities designed to evaluate the quality of a component or system.

Abbreviation: QC

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

See also: testing

quality culture

Version 1

An organizational value system that results in an environment to establish and continually improve quality.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality debt

Version 1

The implied cost of deferred quality assurance activities.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality engineering

Version 1

A set of engineering practices in which stakeholders share joint responsibility for applying quality measures to deliver a work product which fulfills requirements with the right level of quality at the proper time.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality gate

Version 1

A milestone at which a decision about proceeding to the next phase is taken based on predefined quality criteria.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality hunting

Version 1

A test approach in which gamification and awards for the most valuable information about the quality of the test object are used as a motivator.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality management

Version 1

The process of establishing and directing a quality policy, quality objectives, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, and quality improvement for an organization.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

See also: quality assurance

quality measure

Version 1

A group of preventive, detective or corrective activities to achieve a required quality level.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality policy

Version 1

High-level documentation describing the principles, approaches and major objectives of the organization regarding quality.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality report

Version 1

Documentation summarizing the quality level and the associated quality risks.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality reporting

Version 1

The activity that collects and analyzes data from quality engineering activities and consolidates it to inform stakeholders.

Term type: Quality and testing

quality risk

Version 2

A product risk or a project risk impacting quality management.

Term type: Quality and testing

RACI matrix

Version 1

A matrix describing the participation by various roles in completing tasks or deliverables for a project or process. It is especially useful in clarifying roles and responsibilities. RACI is an acronym derived from the four key responsibilities most typically used: Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, and Informed.

Term type: Quality and testing

ramp-down

Version 1

A technique for decreasing the load on a system in a measurable and controlled way.

Term type: Quality and testing

ramp-up

Version 1

A technique for increasing the load on a system in a measurable and controlled way.

Term type: Quality and testing

random testing

Version 1

A black-box test technique in which input values are randomly generated.

Term type: Quality and testing

reactive test strategy

Version 1

A test strategy whereby the test team waits to design and implement tests until the software is received, reacting to the actual system under test.

Term type: Quality and testing

reactive testing

Version 1

A test approach that dynamically responds to the behavior of a test object and to test results being obtained.

Term type: Quality and testing

reconnaissance

Version 1

The exploration of a target area aiming to gain information that can be useful for an attack.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: footprinting

recoverability

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system can recover the data directly affected by an interruption or a failure and re-establish the desired state of the component or system.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: reliability

red teaming

Version 1

A test approach that involves attacking a system to deliberately cause it to produce harmful or undesirable results.

Term type: Quality and testing

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

regression-averse test strategy

Version 1

A test strategy whereby the test team applies various techniques to manage the risk of regression such as functional and/or non-functional regression test automation at one or more levels.

Term type: Quality and testing

regulatory acceptance testing

Version 3

A type of acceptance testing performed to determine the compliance of a test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

reliability

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: recoverability

reliability growth model

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

remote test lab

Version 1

A facility that provides remote access to a test environment.

Term type: Quality and testing

replaceability

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system can replace another specified component or system for the same purpose in the same environment.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

See also: portability

requirement

Version 2

A provision that contains criteria to be fulfilled.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 24765

requirements-based testing

Version 2

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are derived from atomic requirements.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

resilience

Version 1

The ability of a component or system to recover from disruptions and adapt to changing conditions to maintain operations.

Term type: Quality and testing

resource utilization

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system uses no more than the specified amount of resources to perform its function under specified conditions.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

Synonyms: storage

retrospective

Version 2

A regular event in which team members discuss results, review their practices, and identify ways to improve.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After SAFe

Synonyms: project retrospective, retrospective meeting, post-project meeting

reusability

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

review

Version 4

A type of static testing in which the quality of a work product or process is evaluated by individuals.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: static testing

review technique A procedure used to perform a review. Term type: Quality and testing See also: checklist-based reviewing, perspective-based reading, role-based reviewing, scenario-based reviewing, ad hoc reviewing	Version 1
reviewer A participant in a review who identifies defects in the work product. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After ISO 20246 Synonyms: checker, inspector	Version 2
risk A factor that could result in future negative consequences. Term type: Quality and testing See also: product risk, project risk	Version 1
risk analysis The overall process of risk identification and risk assessment. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 2
risk appetite The amount and type of risk an organization is willing to pursue or retain. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After NIST.IR.7298	Version 1
risk assessment The process to examine identified risks and determine the risk level. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 2
risk control The overall process of risk mitigation and risk monitoring. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
risk identification The process of finding, recognizing and describing risks. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: ISO 31000	Version 2
risk impact The damage that will be caused if a risk becomes an actual outcome or event. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: impact	Version 1
risk level The measure of a risk defined by risk impact and risk likelihood. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: risk exposure	Version 2
risk likelihood The probability that a risk will become an actual outcome or event. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: likelihood	Version 1
risk management The process for handling risks. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After ISO 24765	Version 3

risk mitigation

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

risk monitoring

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

risk register

Version 1

The documentation used in project management and governance to assess, prioritize, and track identified risks.

Term type: Quality and testing

risk-based testing

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

robustness

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system maintains its level of performance under any circumstances.

Term type: Quality and testing

role-based reviewing

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 20246

Synonyms: role-based review

See also: review technique

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: CMMI

root cause analysis

Version 2

A process used to identify the root cause of a defect.

Abbreviation: RCA

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: causal analysis

rule-based test technique

Version 1

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are model elements of the state-independent behavior rules of a test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

S.M.A.R.T. goal methodology

Version 1

A framework for the clear formulation of management objectives by requiring goals to be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely.

Abbreviation: SMART

Term type: Quality and testing

safety

Version 2

The degree to which a component or system under defined conditions can avoid endangering human life, health, property, or the environment.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

safety integrity level

Version 1

The level of risk reduction provided by a safety function, related to the frequency and severity of perceived hazards.

Abbreviation: SIL

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After IEC 61508

See also: automotive safety integrity level

salting

Version 1

A cryptographic technique that adds random data (salt) to the user data prior to hashing.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: hashing

scalability

Version 1

The degree to which a component or system can be adjusted for changing capacity.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Gerrard

scalability testing

Version 1

Testing to determine the scalability of the software product.

Term type: Quality and testing

scenario-based reviewing

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 20246

Synonyms: scenario-based review

See also: review technique

scenario-based testing

Version 1

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are sequences of interactions between external actors and the test item.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: scenario testing

schema validation

Version 1

A type of static testing to verify that data conforms to a predefined format, structure, data types and value constraints.

Term type: Quality and testing

scribe

Version 2

A person who records information at a review meeting.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

Synonyms: recorder

script kiddie

Version 1

A person who executes security attacks that have been created by other hackers rather than creating one's own attacks.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: hacker

scripted testing

Version 1

A test approach that involves the creation and use of a test script.

Term type: Quality and testing

security

Version 4

The degree to which a component or system defends against security attacks and provides access appropriate to types and levels of authorization.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25010

security attack

Version 1

An attempt to gain unauthorized access to a component or system, resources, information, or an attempt to compromise system integrity.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After NIST.IR.7298

See also: fault attack

security audit

Version 1

An audit evaluating an organization's security processes and infrastructure.

Term type: Quality and testing

security policy

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

security procedure

Version 1

A set of steps required to implement the security policy and the steps to be taken in response to a security incident.

Term type: Quality and testing

security risk

Version 1

A quality risk related to security.

Term type: Quality and testing

security testing

Version 1

A test type to determine the security of a component or system.

Term type: Quality and testing

sequential development model

Version 2

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

service virtualization

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

session-based test management

Version 1

A method for measuring and managing session-based testing.

Abbreviation: SBTM

Term type: Quality and testing

session-based testing

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

severity

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

shadow testing

Version 1

A test type used to compare a new version of a component or system with the current version by running the former in the background.

Term type: Quality and testing

shift left

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: shift right

shift right

Version 1

A test approach to test a system continuously in production.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: shift left, testing in production

side-effects testing

Version 1

A test type to determine if executing a test object leads to unforeseen consequences.

Term type: Quality and testing

sign change coverage

Version 1

The coverage of neurons activated with both positive and negative activation values in a neural network for a set of tests.

Term type: Quality and testing

sign-sign coverage

Version 1

The coverage achieved if by changing the sign of each neuron it can be shown to individually cause one neuron in the next layer to change sign while all other neurons in the next layer do not change sign for a set of tests.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-11

simulator

Version 2

A component or system used during testing which behaves or operates like a given component or system.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

See also: emulator

smoke testing

Version 1

A test type to gain sufficient confidence that a test object is ready for planned testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

societal and ethical risk mitigation

Version 1

The degree to which an AI-based system avoids risks to society arising from its operation.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25059

software development lifecycle

Version 1

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

Abbreviation: SDLC

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: lifecycle model

software lifecycle

Version 1

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

software process improvement

Version 1

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

Abbreviation: SPI

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After CMMI

software qualification test

Version 1

Testing performed on completed, integrated software to provide evidence for compliance with software requirements.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: Automotive SPICE

Software Usability Measurement Inventory

Version 2

A questionnaire-based usability testing tool that measures and benchmarks user experience.

Abbreviation: SUMI

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: Kirakowski93

See also: Website Analysis and Measurement Inventory

software-in-the-loop

Version 2

A virtual test environment in which real software is tested.

Abbreviation: SiL

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: Automotive SPICE

source test case

Version 1

A test case that passed and is used as the basis of follow-up test cases in metamorphic testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

spike testing

Version 1

Testing to determine the ability of a system to recover from sudden bursts of peak loads and return to a steady state.

Term type: Quality and testing

standard-compliant test strategy

Version 1

A test strategy whereby the test team follows a standard. Standards followed may be valid e.g., for a country (legislation standards), a business domain (domain standards), or internally (organizational standards).

Term type: Quality and testing

state transition testing

Version 3

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are state transitions or sequences of them.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-4

Synonyms: finite state testing

statement coverage

Version 3

The coverage of executable source statements.

Term type: Quality and testing

statement testing

Version 2

A white-box test technique in which test conditions are based on executable source statements.

Term type: Quality and testing

static analysis

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

See also: static testing

static application security testing

Version 1

A type of static analysis that focuses on detecting vulnerabilities.

Abbreviation: SAST

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After NIST.IR.7298

See also: dynamic application security testing, interactive application security testing, vulnerability

static testing

Version 4

A test approach that does not involve the execution of a test item.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: dynamic testing, static analysis, review

stress testing

Version 1

A type of performance testing to evaluate a system or component at or beyond the limits of its anticipated or specified workloads, or with reduced availability of resources such as access to memory or servers.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 24765

structural coverage

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

structured scripting

Version 1

A scripting technique that builds and utilizes a library of reusable (parts of) scripts.

Term type: Quality and testing

stub

Version 2

A type of test double providing predefined responses.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: mock

substantive testing

Version 1

A test approach that evaluates if the actual outcomes or data produced by a system or process are within compliance.

Term type: Quality and testing

summative evaluation

Version 1

A type of evaluation designed and used to gather conclusions about the quality of a component or system, especially when a substantial part of it has completed design.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: formative evaluation

synthetic test data

Version 1

Test data created or generated without using production data.

Term type: Quality and testing

system hardening

Version 1

The step-by-step process of reducing the vulnerabilities of a system by applying a security policy and different layers of protection.

Term type: Quality and testing

system integration testing

Version 4

A test level that focuses on the integration of systems.

Term type: Quality and testing

system of systems

Version 1

Multiple heterogeneous, distributed systems that are embedded in networks at multiple levels and in multiple interconnected domains, addressing large-scale inter-disciplinary common problems and purposes, usually without a common management structure.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: multi-system

system qualification test

Version 1

Testing performed on the completed, integrated system of software components, hardware components, and mechanics to provide evidence for compliance with system requirements and that the complete system is ready for delivery.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: Automotive SPICE

system testing

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

system throughput

Version 1

The amount of data passing through a component or system in a given time period.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

system under test

Version 2

A type of test object that is a system.

Abbreviation: SUT

Term type: Quality and testing

System Usability Scale

Version 1

A simple, ten-item attitude scale giving a global view of subjective assessments of usability.

Abbreviation: SUS

Term type: Quality and testing

Systematic Test and Evaluation Process

Version 2

A structured testing methodology also used as a content-based model for improving the testing process. It does not require that improvements occur in a specific order.

Abbreviation: STEP

Term type: Quality and testing

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After IEEE 1028

See also: peer review

test

Version 1

A set of one or more test cases.

Term type: Quality and testing

test adaptation layer

Version 1

The layer in a test automation architecture which provides the necessary code to adapt test scripts on an abstract level to the various components, configuration or interfaces of the SUT.

Term type: Quality and testing

test analysis

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

test analyst

Version 1

A person responsible for test analysis, test design, test implementation, and test execution, focusing on non-technical aspects of software.

Term type: Quality and testing

test approach

Version 3

The manner of implementing test tasks.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: test practice

test architect

Version 1

(1) A person who provides guidance and strategic direction for a test organization and for its relationship with other disciplines. (2) A person who defines the way testing is structured for a given system, including topics such as test tools and test data management.

Term type: Quality and testing

test automation	Version 3
The conversion of test activities to automated operation.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 2382	
test automation approach	Version 1
A test approach to automate test activities.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test automation architecture	Version 2
An instantiation of the generic test automation architecture for a system.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test automation engineer	Version 1
A person who is responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of a test automation architecture as well as the technical evolution of the resulting test automation solution.	
Abbreviation: TAE	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test automation framework	Version 2
A set of test harnesses and test libraries for test automation.	
Abbreviation: TAF	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test automation manager	Version 1
A person who is responsible for the planning and supervision of the development and evolution of a test automation solution.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test automation solution	Version 2
The implementation of a test automation architecture for a test automation assignment.	
Abbreviation: TAS	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test automation strategy	Version 2
A high-level description how to achieve long-term objectives of test automation under given technological, organizational and economic conditions.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test basis	Version 2
The body of knowledge used as the basis for test analysis and test design.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After TMap	
test case	Version 2
A set of preconditions, inputs, actions (where applicable), expected results and postconditions, developed based on test conditions.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: test step	
test case explosion	Version 2
The disproportionate growth in test cases for a specific test technique for a growing size or complexity of the test basis.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test charter	Version 3
A mission statement that guides an exploratory test session.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Synonyms: charter	
See also: exploratory testing	

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: test closure

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: test summary report

test condition

Version 4

A testable aspect of a component or system that is intended to be tested.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

Synonyms: test situation, test requirement, test idea

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: test management

test cycle

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

test data

Version 3

Data needed for test execution.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: test dataset

test data management

Version 1

The process of providing the required test data for a component or system while ensuring compliance with legislation and standards.

Term type: Quality and testing

test data preparation

Version 1

The activity to select data from existing databases or create, generate, manipulate and edit data for testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

test data subsetting

Version 1

The process of extracting a consistent subset of production data for testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

test design

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

test director

Version 1

A senior manager who manages test managers.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: test manager

test double

Version 1

A replacement component invoked by a test object to perform testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: mock

test environment	Version 1
An environment containing hardware, instrumentation, simulators, software tools, and other support elements needed to perform a test.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: ISO 24765	
Synonyms: test bed, test rig	
test estimation	Version 2
An approximation related to various aspects of testing.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test execution	Version 2
The activity that runs a test on a component or system producing actual results.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test execution automation	Version 1
The use of software, e.g., capture/playback tools, to control the execution of tests, the comparison of actual results to expected results, the setting up of test preconditions, and other test control and reporting functions.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test execution schedule	Version 2
A schedule for the execution of test suites within a test cycle.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test fixture	Version 1
The predefined data and test environment to test software in a repeatable manner.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test harness	Version 2
A collection of drivers and test doubles needed to execute a test suite.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test heuristic	Version 1
A heuristic that supports testing.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test histogram	Version 1
A visual representation that shows the distribution of test results.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test hook	Version 1
A customized software interface that enables automated testing of a test object.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test implementation	Version 3
The activity that prepares the testware needed for test execution.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test infrastructure	Version 1
The test environments, test tools, office environment and procedures needed to perform testing.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
test item	Version 2
A part of a test object used in the test process.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: test object	

test leader

Version 1

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: lead tester

See also: test manager

test level

Version 2

A specific instantiation of a test process.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: test stage

test log

Version 1

A chronological record of relevant details about test execution.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 24765

Synonyms: test record, test run log

test management

Version 2

The process of planning, scheduling, estimating, monitoring, reporting, controlling, and completing test activities.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 29119-1

See also: test control, test monitoring

test manager

Version 2

The person responsible for managing test activities, test resources, and evaluating the test object.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: test director, test leader, Agile test leader

Test Maturity Model integration

Version 1

A five-level staged framework for test process improvement, related to the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI), that describes the key elements of an effective test process.

Abbreviation: TMMi

Term type: Quality and testing

test mission

Version 1

The purpose of testing for an organization, often documented as part of the test policy.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: test policy

test mnemonic

Version 1

A memory aid in the form of an abbreviation used to help remember key concepts or test practices.

Term type: Quality and testing

test model

Version 1

A model describing testware that is used for testing a component or a system under test.

Term type: Quality and testing

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: test management

test object

Version 2

The work product to be tested.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: test item

test objective

Version 3

The purpose for testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: test goal

test oracle

Version 2

A source to determine an expected result.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Adrion

Synonyms: oracle

test plan

Version 3

Documentation that describes test objectives, means and schedule for achieving test coordination.

Term type: Quality and testing

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

test point analysis

Version 1

A formula-based test estimation technique based on function point analysis.

Abbreviation: TPA

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: TMap

test policy

Version 1

High-level documentation describing the principles, approach and major objectives of the organization regarding testing.

Term type: Quality and testing

Synonyms: organizational test policy

See also: test mission

test practice

Version 1

The expected way of performing test activities.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: test approach

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.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

test process

Version 3

A set of test activities performed to achieve a test objective.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 29119-1

test process group

Version 2

A collection of specialists who facilitate the definition, maintenance, and improvement of the test processes used by an organization.

Abbreviation: TPG

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After CMMI

test process improvement A program of activities undertaken to improve the performance and maturity of the organization's test processes. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After CMMI	Version 1
test process improvement manifesto A statement that echoes the Agile manifesto, and defines values for improving the test process. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: Veenendaal08	Version 2
test progress The progress of testing against a baseline. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
test progress report A type of periodic test report that includes the progress of test activities against a baseline, risks, and alternatives requiring a decision. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: test status report	Version 4
test pyramid A graphical model representing the relationship of the amount of testing per level, with more at the bottom than at the top. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
test report Documentation summarizing testing and test results. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
test reporting The activity that consolidates test monitoring information and evaluates whether test objectives have been reached to inform stakeholders. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 2
test result The status of the execution of a test. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After ISO 29119-1 Synonyms: outcome, test outcome, result	Version 2
test run The execution of a test suite on a specific version of the test object. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
test schedule A list of activities, tasks, and milestones of the test process, their intended start and finish dates and interdependencies. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
test scope A description of the test object and its features to be tested. Term type: Quality and testing See also: test plan	Version 1
test script A sequence of instructions for the execution of a test. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 2
test selection criteria The criteria used to derive and/or select test cases to achieve an acceptable size of a test. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 2

test session An uninterrupted period of time spent in executing tests. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
test smell An aspect of the testware that suggests potential problems, inefficiencies, or risks related to this testware. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
test specification The complete documentation of the test design, test cases, and test scripts for a specific test item. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After ISO 29119-1	Version 2
test step A single interaction between an actor and a test object consisting of an input, an action, and an expected result. Term type: Quality and testing See also: test case	Version 1
test strategy A description of how to perform testing to reach test objectives under given circumstances. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 4
test suite A set of test scripts or test procedures to be executed in a specific test run. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: test set, test case suite	Version 3
test technique A procedure used to define test conditions, design test cases, and specify test data. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: test design technique	Version 3
test type A group of test activities based on specific test objectives aimed at specific characteristics of a component or system. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After TMap	Version 2
test-driven development A software development technique in which the test cases are developed, automated and then the software is developed incrementally to pass those test cases. Abbreviation: TDD Term type: Quality and testing See also: test-first approach	Version 2
test-first approach An approach to software development in which the test cases are designed and implemented before the associated component or system is developed. Term type: Quality and testing See also: test-driven development	Version 1
testability 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. Term type: Quality and testing See also: maintainability	Version 3

testboarding	Version 1
A visualization technique that maps main and alternative scenarios per functionality that should be tested.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
tester	Version 2
A person who performs testing.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
testing	Version 3
The process within the software development lifecycle that evaluates the quality of a component or system and related work products.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: quality control	
testing capability	Version 1
The abilities an organization needs to accomplish its test objectives.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: quality capability	
testing for bias	Version 1
A test type to detect bias in input data, an AI model, or an AI-based system.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
testing in production	Version 1
A test level that focuses on validating a system in a production environment.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: post-release testing, shift right	
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.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
testware	Version 2
Work products produced during the test process for use in planning, designing, executing, evaluating and reporting on testing.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 29119-1	
think aloud usability testing	Version 1
A usability testing technique where test participants share their thoughts with the moderator and observers by thinking aloud while they solve usability test tasks. Think aloud is useful to understand the test participant.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
think time	Version 1
The amount of time required by a user to determine and execute the next action in a sequence of actions.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
threshold coverage	Version 1
The coverage of neurons exceeding a threshold activation value in a neural network for a set of tests.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
time behavior	Version 1
The degree to which a component or system can perform its required functions within required response times, processing times and throughput rates.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
tissue tester	Version 1
A tester outside an Agile team having no experience with the component or system who tests it to provide early feedback before planned testing or development continues.	
Term type: Quality and testing	

Total Quality Management

Version 2

An organization-wide management approach to quality based on employee participation to achieve long-term success through customer satisfaction.

Abbreviation: TQM

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 24765

tour

Version 1

A set of exploratory tests organized around a special focus.

Term type: Quality and testing

TPI Next

Version 1

A continuous business-driven framework for test process improvement that describes the key elements of an effective and efficient test process.

Term type: Quality and testing

traceability

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: IREB Glossary

traceability matrix

Version 1

A matrix which correlates work products or items within work products to determine the coverage achieved.

Term type: Quality and testing

transcendent quality

Version 2

A view of quality based on the perception and feeling of individuals.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Garvin

transparency

Version 1

The degree to which appropriate information about an AI-based system is communicated to relevant stakeholders.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After ISO 25059

unit test framework

Version 2

A tool that provides an environment for testing a unit in isolation.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Graham

unit testing

Version 1

A test level that focuses on evaluating the smallest part of code testable in isolation.

Term type: Quality and testing

usability

Version 3

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

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: user interface aesthetics, operability, appropriateness recognizability, interaction capability

usability evaluation

Version 1

A process through which information about the usability of a system is gathered in order to improve the system (known as formative evaluation) or to assess the merit or worth of a system (known as summative evaluation).

Term type: Quality and testing

usability lab

Version 1

A test facility in which unintrusive observation of participant reactions and responses to software takes place.

Term type: Quality and testing

usability requirement	Version 1
A requirement on the usability of a component or system.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
usability test participant	Version 1
A representative user who solves typical tasks in a usability test.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
usability test script	Version 1
A document specifying a sequence of actions for the execution of a usability test. It is used by the moderator to keep track of briefing and pre-session interview questions, usability test tasks, and post-session interview questions.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
usability test session	Version 1
A test session in usability testing in which a usability test participant is executing tests, moderated by a moderator and observed by a number of observers.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
usability test task	Version 1
A usability test execution activity specified by the moderator that needs to be accomplished by a usability test participant within a given period of time.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
usability testing	Version 2
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.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 25010	
use case testing	Version 3
A black-box test technique in which test cases are designed to exercise use case behaviors.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
user acceptance testing	Version 4
A type of acceptance testing performed to determine if intended users accept the system.	
Abbreviation: UAT	
Term type: Quality and testing	
See also: acceptance testing	
user controllability	Version 1
The degree to which a user can intervene in a system's functioning in a timely manner.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 25059	
user error protection	Version 1
The degree to which a component or system protects users against making errors.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: After ISO 25010	
user experience	Version 1
A person's perceptions and responses resulting from the use or anticipated use of a software product.	
Term type: Quality and testing	
Reference: ISO 9241-210	
user interface	Version 1
All components of a system that provide information and controls for the user to accomplish specific tasks with the system.	
Abbreviation: UI	
Term type: Quality and testing	

user interface aesthetics

Version 2

The degree to which a user interface enables pleasing and satisfying interaction for the user.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: ISO 25010

Synonyms: attractiveness

See also: usability

user interface guideline

Version 1

A low-level, specific rule or recommendation for user interface design that leaves little room for interpretation so designers implement it similarly. It is often used to ensure consistency in the appearance and behavior of the user interface of the systems produced by an organization.

Term type: Quality and testing

user story testing

Version 2

A black-box test technique in which test conditions are the acceptance criteria of user stories.

Term type: Quality and testing

See also: user story

user survey

Version 1

A usability evaluation whereby a representative sample of users are asked to report subjective evaluation into a questionnaire based on their experience in using a component or system.

Term type: Quality and testing

user-agent based testing

Version 1

A test type in which a test client is used to switch the user agent string and identify itself as a different client while executing test suites.

Term type: Quality and testing

user-based quality

Version 2

A view of quality measured by the degree that the needs, wants, and desires of a user are met.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Garvin

V-model

Version 2

A sequential software 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.

Term type: Quality and testing

validation

Version 2

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

Term type: Quality and testing

value change coverage

Version 1

The coverage of neurons activated where their activation values differ by more than a change amount in the neural network for a set of tests.

Term type: Quality and testing

value-based quality

Version 2

A view of quality measured by the ratio of the cost to the value received from a product or service.

Term type: Quality and testing

Reference: After Garvin

verification

Version 2

The process of confirming that a work product fulfills its specification.

Term type: Quality and testing

vibe testing

Version 1

A test approach in which AI tests a component or system based on natural language descriptions of desired user experiences.

Term type: Quality and testing

virtual test environment A test environment in which one or more parts are digitally simulated. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: ISO 29119-11	Version 1
virtual user A simulation of activities performed according to a user operational profile. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
visual testing A test type that uses image recognition to interact with GUI objects. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
vulnerability A weakness in a component or system or its use that can be exercised and can result in harm. Term type: Quality and testing See also: cross-site scripting, dynamic application security testing, static application security testing, fuzz testing, penetration testing, weakness	Version 3
vulnerability scanning A type of static analysis that detects vulnerabilities. Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
walkthrough A type of formal review in which an author leads members of the review through a work product and the members ask questions and make comments. Term type: Quality and testing Reference: After ISO 20246 Synonyms: structured walkthrough See also: peer review	Version 3
weakness A condition that may lead to undesirable behavior. Term type: Quality and testing See also: vulnerability	Version 2
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines A part of a series of web accessibility guidelines published by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the main international standards organization for the internet. They consist of a set of guidelines for making content accessible, primarily for people with disabilities. Abbreviation: WCAG Term type: Quality and testing	Version 1
Website Analysis and Measurement Inventory A commercial website analysis service providing a questionnaire for measuring user experience and assessing delivery of business goals online. Abbreviation: WAMMI Term type: Quality and testing See also: Software Usability Measurement Inventory	Version 2
white-box test technique A test technique based on the internal structure of a component or system. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: white-box test design technique, structure-based test technique	Version 3
white-box testing A test approach based on the internal structure of a component or system. Term type: Quality and testing Synonyms: clear-box testing, code-based testing, glass-box testing, logic-coverage testing, logic-driven testing, structural testing, structure-based testing	Version 2

wild pointer

Version 1

A pointer that references a location that is out of scope for that pointer or that does not exist.

Term type: Quality and testing
