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SOFTWARE TESTING

Contents

- Introduction
- Types of tests
- Test Levels
- Testing Strategies
- Test Design
- Test Coverage
- Test Execution
- Test Documentation
- Test Management

Introduction

Definition in IEEE Standard 610.12

- <u>To conduct an activity</u> in which a system or component is executed under specified conditions, <u>the results</u> are observed or recorded, and <u>an evaluation</u> is made of some aspect of the system or component.
- A set of one or more test** cases and/or procedures.
- "Test" means
 - All of / A part of the activity
 - All of / A part of the product the activity

Types of tests

□ The SWEBOK provides a list of Types of tests.

- The software engineer's intuition and experience
- Specifications
- Code
- Dataflow
- Fault
- Usage
- The nature of the application

Types of tests

The most commonly used types of tests.

- Equivalence class partitioning
- Boundary value
- Decision table
- Exploratory
- Operational profile

Equivalence class partitioning

- To examines the defined acceptable range for each input to determine the following classes for each input.
 - Valid(s) : continuous range or list of values that should be legal and processed successfully by code.
 - Invalid(s) : continuous range or list of values that should be illegal and not accepted by the software, but not cause an acceptable result, either.

Equivalence class partitioning

- An example : The age of an individual
 - The valid range could be 0 to 120



- Equivalence classes :
 - Valid : {0-120}
 - Invalid : {<0} and {>120}

Equivalence class partitioning

The steps

- Define the valid and invalid class for each input.
- Test as many of the valid classes together as possible.
- Do one test for each invalid classes.

Boundary value testing

Mandates the testing of <u>four values</u> for each input

- The legally defined minimum
- The legally defined maximum
- The first possible value below the legally defined minimum
- The first possible value above the legally defined maximum

Boundary value testing

An example : The age of an individual

- The legally defined minimum : 0
- The legally defined maximum : 120
- The first possible value below the legally defined minimum : -1
- The first possible value above the legally defined maximum : 121

It can be applied for the length of the field for nonnumeric inputs.

Decision table

To cover all possible combinations of the input conditions in the tests.

- Lists the all possible conditions and actions in the first column of a table
- There is a column or "rule" for every possible combination of input conditions.
 - A particular input condition is marked with a Y for yes, an N for no, or an I for immaterial (both yes and no)

Decision table

□ An example : For computing U.S. payroll tax withholding

Table 1				
Conditions	Rule 1	Rule 2	Rule 3	Rule 4
Wages earned	N	Y	Y	Y
End of pay period	Ι	N	Y	Y
FICA limit exceeded	I	Ι	<u>N</u>	Y
Actions				
Withhold FICA tax	N	N	Y	N
Withhold Medicare tax	Ν	Ν	Y	Y
Withhold payroll tax	Ν	Ν	Y	Y

Exploratory testing

- Not require preplanning of exact data values
- Planning the focus the testing process
- Not mandatory to stick to the plan
- The tester reacts to the results being produced and modifies the plan accordingly.
 - For example, if many problems are being discovered with a particular aspect of the system, more tests are created for that area.

Operational profile

- □ <u>To test more</u> for the features that are <u>used more</u>.
 - As a result, achieve more robustness of the software
 - Recommends that the number of tests run for each system feature follow the model of how much it is used during operation
 - Actual usage may be measured
 - Useful for a regression test

- Testing is <u>done at more than one level</u>.
 - Because, a software product is being developed or maintained
- Testing levels <u>vary</u>
 - To the scope of software being tested
 - The test techniques, objectives, environment
- Testing level schemes start with <u>the smallest scope</u> to be tested and <u>increase in scope</u>.

- Some organizations also have multiple levels of test for the entire system product.
 - For example, security, performance, usability etc.
- The number and types of test levels vary from organization to organization and even with projects within one organization.
- Any one of these levels may have multiple level within it.

Main factors that effect the number and types of levels

- System size
- Complexity
- Safety criticality
- The experience of the testing staff and management
- The degree of desire for certification
- Each organization makes its own decision about how many levels of test to have, and improves it if the goals of the organization are not being met.

Definition of test levels in IEEE/EIA 12207.0.

- Different processes have different testing level needs.

The acquisition process

- The acquirer checks that all of the predefined acceptance conditions are met

The development process

- Each software unit and database
- Integrated units and components
- Tests for each software requirement
- Software qualification testing for all requirements
- System integration
- System qualification testing for system requirement

- The operation process
 - operational testing
- The maintenance process
 - All development levels for improvements and adaptation
 - Test the modified parts of the system
 - Test the unmodified parts
 - Migration verification
 - Possibly also parallel testing

The supporting process

- Verification
 - The software products of a specific activity successfully implements the requirements of the immediately prior activity
- Validation
 - The final, as-built software or system product meets all of the requirement

- Definition test levels in The SWEBOK
 - Unit testing verifies the functioning in isolation of software pieces which are separately testable.
 - Integration testing is the process of verifying the behavior of a whole system.
 - System testing is concerned with the behavior of a whole system.

Testing strategies

Reflects the priorities of the organization

- Leads to the emphasis and coverage goals for the test cases themselves
- □ Focused on either "<u>macro</u>" or "<u>micro</u>" test issues

Test strategy issues - Macro

- □ Time-to-market
 - Speed of test development and execution
- Amount of functionality to be delivered
 - And as a result, tested
- Quality of the product
 - thoroughness of the testing

- >These three issues are trade-offs.

Test strategy issue - Macro

Most organizations want all three.

 -> Therefore, Strategy creates priorities for the selection and management of all test activities.

Test strategy issue - Macro

- Another "macro"
 - The desire for the cost of all development and maintenance of all test activities to meet expectations.
 - Role in supporting the organization's business goals

Test strategy issues - Micro

Focused on test processes and products

Some examples (support "macro" strategies)

- For reduction of time to market
 - More automation to speed test execution
 - Fewer turnovers in testing staff to minimize time for learning curves
 - Better selection of the test cases that are executed, to find the more serious problems earlier

Test strategy issue - Micro

- For functionality changes
 - Tracing from requirements to test cases to enable finding the cases affected by the changes quickly
 - Smaller, more modular test scripts to maximize reuse during changes in functionality
- For quality of the product
 - \cdot Better tools to measure current test coverage
 - \cdot Better unit test tools for developers
 - \cdot More variety in the test types

Test strategy issue - Micro

- To control test effort costs
 - Use a project management tool to estimate test activities and to track the actual expenditures
 - Add root cause analysis(RCA) to test readiness review meeting

Test design

- Test design = Art + Science
- The goal of test design
 - To get the most return with the least effort!
- A good test design includes
 - Both structured and unstructured techniques

Unstructured techniques

- Random
- Ad hoc
 - Performed without planning and documentation
 - A part of exploratory testing
 - Intended to be run only once, unless a defect is discovered
- Exploratory
- Advantage
 - Find lots of problems, often quite serious

Structured techniques

- Equivalence class partitioning
- Boundary value
- Decision table

Advantage

- Provide linear coverage
 - All attributes are tested to the same degree in exactly the same manner.

Test coverage of code

- Measuring how much a software program has been exercised by tests(code).
- The goal for coverage of code during testing will vary with the level of test.

Test coverage of code

- Ways to define code was "Covered"
 - To count it as covered if it was executed in any part
 - Count physical line of code of logical line of code
- The most robust definition is to use logical lines of code with 100% coverage.
 - To call out a need for execution of every condition
 - Calls for 100% of all possible paths for execution

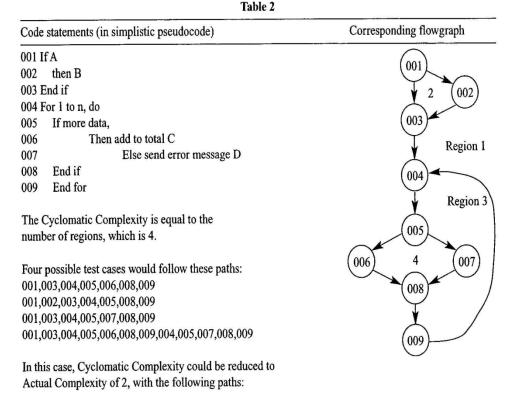
Test coverage of code

- A universally recognized technique for achieving 100% coverage.
 - > <u>Tom McCabe's Basis Path Testing technique</u>
 - The goal is 100% condition coverage, but not every possible path.

Tom McCabe's Basis Path testing

The steps

- Draw a flowgraph
- \cdot Each logical statement (node) : circle
- The transfer of control as a result of decisions (edges) : arrows
- Compute the metric cyclomatic complexity
 - \cdot Count the number of regions
 - \cdot number of edges number of nodes + 2
- Choose the paths



001,003,004,005,006,008,009 001,002,003,004,005,007,008,009,004,005,006,008,009

Tom McCabe's Basis Path testing

Actual complexity

- To test all of the nodes and edges with fewer than the cyclomatic complexity number of paths.

Cyclomatic complexity [·]

- Included on certification exams in one form or another
- One of the few aspects of software engineering that produces a numerical answer.
- provides an easily deterministic exam question and answer

Test coverage of specifications

Traceability matrix

- If the contents of a specification have been inventoried in some manner.
- After completed, each requirement can be traced to the test cases where it is exercised by filling in a column in the table identifying these cases.
- The tracing has been completed, it is possible to compute the % requirements tested or a similar metric.

Table 3		
ID #	Requirement summary	Test scenario/cases
001	Selection of items for purchase.	PUR002/35-40, 66-85
		PUR003/1-57
002	Entry and validation of credit card information	CRC001/1-36
		CRC002/5-89
003	Limit the maximum items purchased at one time as a fraud countermeasure	CRC003/5-34, 75-115
		PUR001/56-77
		PUR002/41-65

Test execution

- The needs for the test execution are specified in the Test Plan.
 - Specifies every component of the test environment, hardware, software, automated tools, data, personnel
- All of the actual test input and procedure are specified in test cases and test procedures.
 - Need to be documented with enough clarity
 - Another individual can replicate the results

Test execution

- The test results are logged during execution following the test plan, including an evaluation as to the success or failure of each test cases.
- Incident reports are recorded during test execution to allow both the developer and subsequent tester of the repaired code to reproduce the original problem.

Test execution

- Testing <u>may not go according to plan</u>.
 - Test execution is adapting to unplanned changes
- "Test Director" or "Test Coordinator"
 - To adapt to the changes from the plan
 - <u>To redirect</u> the total test execution effort
- When the test execution is completed
 - the results are documented in the test summary report.

- Test documentation is <u>recorded in media</u>.
 - Example : word processor, databases etc.
- The media selected for documentation will vary.
 - The level of detail of the test document
 - The <u>experience</u> of the testers preparing and using the documentation
 - The availability of automated test tools

Standard for Software Test Documentation

- <u>Test plan</u>: The overall resources, test environment scope of what is to be tested/not tested, methods
 - · Most organizations do
 - Includes management planning information
 - · Covered in an overall project plan
 - Skipping the test plan also works well when the test processes and environments are stable from one software release to the next.

- Test design : A more detailed level of methodology
 - Information for an identified subset of the overall scope
- Test cases : The actual data needed to run the test
- <u>Test procedures</u>: The steps for the pretest setup, test execution, posttest activities
- Test logs : The actual test results
- <u>Incident reports</u>: Descriptions of test result that do not match expectations
 - · Incident reports are virtually always tracked with a database.

- <u>Test summary report</u>: The pass of fail decision for the test, the rationale for that decision, a summary of all test results, and the detailed test results
- <u>Test item transmittal report</u>: An inventory of all test documents and data being delivered as a result of a test.

- The documentation requirements are tailored by individual organizations to better meet their needs and abilities.
 - To combine one or more of the documents
- The trade-offs of time-to-market vs. quality vs. completeness of the product are discussed, and a decision is made as to what software can go into production when.

Test management

- Includes all of the normal project management activities for the test aspects of a project
 - Estimating schedules
 - Planning for staffing and training
 - Identifying and planning tasks
 - Monitoring the execution of the plans and replanning based on the results

Test management

- A standard management techniques that is particularly needed in testing is the concept of management reserve.
 - This is where a manager has resources that are available, but held back and not allocated until something goes wrong with the existing plans.
 - Metrics and measurement programs are a useful tool for test management.