

Standard Glossary of Terms Used in Software Testing

Release Notes

Version 3.6

International Software Testing Qualifications Board



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Release Notes

Version 3.6 of the Glossary 30 June 2021

This version is a minor update. In the first place, it supports the new version v4.0 of the Advanced Technical Test Analyst Syllabus. In addition, it contains maintenance updates that do not impact any ISTQB® exams or trainings.

The changes are categorized in different change types and listed in separate tables below and are based on the Glossary Principles.

For the references used, see the Glossary References and Trademarks document provided in the Glossary Help menu.

1. Terms Added

Name	Definition	See Also	Reference	Remark
component	A part of a system that can be tested in isolation.			The term has been deactivated in version 3.4. However, it needs to be reactivated because it is used in the definition of component testing.
condition testing	A white-box test technique in which test cases are designed to exercise outcomes of atomic conditions.			Used both in CTAL-TTA v4.0 and in CT-AuT, playing a major role.
coverage criteria	The criteria to define the test coverage items required to reach a test objective.			Used in various syllabi.

Name	Definition	See Also	Reference	Remark
mean time to failure	The average time from the start of operation to a failure for a component or system.			Used in CTAL-TTA v4.0
safety integrity level	The level of risk reduction provided by a safety function, related to the frequency and severity of perceived hazards.	Automotive safety integrity level	IEC 61508	A new keyword in CTAL-TTA v4.0

2. Terms Renamed

The table below enlists the terms renamed in this release, with possibly changed definitions.

Name	Definition	Old Name	See Also	Reference	Remark
back-to-back testing	Testing to compare two or more variants of a test item or a simulation model of the same test item by executing the same test cases on all variants and comparing the results.	back-to-back-testing		Spillner	Fix the spelling of the name.
coexistence	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.	co-existence		After ISO 25010	Fix the spelling of the name.
role-based review	A review technique in which a work product is evaluated from the perspective of different stakeholders.	role-based reviewing			All other review terms end with the word 'review' as well.
agile testing quadrants	A classification model of test types/levels in four quadrants, relating them to two dimensions of test goals: supporting the team vs. critiquing the product, and technology-facing vs. business-facing.	testing quadrants			A specific term in Agile
test completion report	A type of test report produced at completion milestones that provides an evaluation of the corresponding test items against exit criteria.	test summary report			Align with the name of the activity in which the report is created.

3. Terms Changed

The table below enlists the terms with changed definitions in this release. Changes to the references are not listed.

Name	Definition	Old definition	Remark
API testing	Testing performed by submitting requests to the test object using its application programming interface.	Testing performed by submitting commands to the software under test using programming interfaces of the application directly.	Replace command with request; remove redundancy in the definition.
build verification test	An automated test that validates the integrity of each new build and verifies its key/core functionality, stability, and testability.	A set of automated tests which validates the integrity of each new build and verifies its key/core functionality, stability and testability.	Replace set of tests with test in the definition.
continuous integration	An automated software development procedure that merges, integrates and tests all changes as soon as they are committed.	A software development procedure merging, integrating and testing all changes as soon as they are committed within an automated process.	Shorten the definition, remove 'process' which was redundant with 'procedure'.
emulator	Software used during testing that mimics the behavior of hardware.	A device, computer program, or system that accepts the same inputs and produces the same outputs as a given system.	Improve the definition of emulator.
fault injection	The process of intentionally adding a defect to a component or system to determine whether it can detect and possibly recover from it.	The process of intentionally adding defects to a system for the purpose of finding out whether the system can detect, and possibly recover from, a defect. Fault injection is intended to mimic failures that might occur in the field.	Remove the second sentence. Improve the wording: fault injection adds one defect at a time rather than many.
fault seeding	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.	The process of intentionally adding known faults to those already in a component or system to monitor the rate of detection and removal, and to estimate the number of faults remaining.	Replace fault with defect. Shorten the wording.

Name	Definition	Old definition	Remark
hyperlink test tool	A tool used to check that no broken hyperlinks are present on a website.	A tool used to check that no broken hyperlinks are present on a web site.	Write website as one word.
low-level test case	A test case with concrete values for preconditions, input data, expected results, postconditions, and a detailed description of actions (where applicable).	A test case with concrete values for preconditions, input data, expected results and postconditions and detailed description of actions (where applicable).	Replace the first 'and' with a comma.
mean time between failures	The average time between consecutive failures of a component or system.	The average time between failures of a component or system.	Specify that they are consecutive failures.
modifiability	The degree to which a component or system can be modified without degrading its quality.	The degree to which a component or system can be changed without introducing defects or degrading existing product quality.	Aligned with IREB: Remove introducing defects because it is redundant. Replace 'changed' with 'modified' to be consistent with the name.
quality management	The process of establishing and directing a quality policy, quality objectives, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, and quality improvement for an organization.	Coordinated activities to direct and control an organization with regard to quality that include establishing a quality policy and quality objectives, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, and quality improvement.	Make the definition of quality management consistent in wording with the other management terms.
security	The degree to which a component or system protects its data and resources against unauthorized access or use and secures unobstructed access and use for its legitimate users.	The degree to which a component or system protects information and data so that persons or other components or systems have the degree of access appropriate to their types and levels of authorization.	Aligned with IREB: Replace information with resources in the subject; add the aspect of securing unobstructed access.
simulator	A component or system used during testing which behaves or operates like a given component or system.	A device, computer program or system used during testing, which behaves or operates like a given system when provided with a set of controlled inputs.	Use the consistent wording 'component or system'; remove the last part which is redundant.

Name	Definition	Old definition	Remark
static testing	Testing that does not involve the execution of a test item.	Testing a work product without the work product code being executed.	Make the definition consistent with CTFL. The work product does not necessarily have executable code.
technical review	A formal review by technical experts that examine the quality of a work product and identify discrepancies from specifications and standards.	A type of formal review by a team of technically-qualified personnel that examines the quality of a work product and identifies discrepancies from specifications and standards.	Aligned with IREB: Replace 'team of technically-qualified personnel' with 'technical experts'.
user story testing	A black-box test technique in which test cases are designed based on user stories to verify their correct implementation.	A black-box test design technique in which test cases are designed based on user stories to verify their correct implementation.	Replace 'test design technique' with 'test technique' in the definition.

4. Terms Removed

The table below lists the names of the terms that have been removed from the Glossary since version 3.5.

Name	Remark
boundary value coverage	An obvious composition of the parts, a definition adds no value.
branch coverage	An obvious composition of the parts, a definition adds no value.
code coverage	An obvious composition of the parts, a definition adds no value.
compiler	Neither a testing term nor a keyword.
Computer Aided Software Testing	The term is not in common use anymore.
equivalence partition coverage	An obvious composition of the parts, a definition adds no value.
error tolerance	Has the same meaning as user error protection which is the preferred term (an ISO 25010 quality characteristic).
incident	Neither a testing term nor a keyword.
incident management tool	An obvious composition of the parts, a definition adds no value.
incident report	Neither a testing term nor a keyword.
path coverage	An obvious composition of the parts, a definition adds no value.
project retrospective	A synonym of retrospective meeting.
risk type	The term is not a keyword and rarely used in the Syllabi.
static code analysis	The Glossary contains the term static analysis. The term static code analysis is just a subset of static analysis, and the definition is trivial.
test case specification	An obvious composition of the parts, a definition adds no value.
test phase	An obvious composition of the parts, a definition adds no value.