

Table 3.2 Testing Technique Descriptions

<i>Technique</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>
Acceptance testing	Final testing based on the end-user/customer specifications, or based on use by end users/customers over a defined period of time
Ad hoc testing	Similar to exploratory testing, but often taken to mean that the testers have significant understanding of the software before testing it
Alpha testing	Testing of an application when development is nearing completion; minor design changes may still be made as a result of such testing. Typically done by end users or others, not by programmers or testers
Basis path testing	Identifying tests based on flow and paths of a program or system
Beta testing	Testing when development and testing are essentially completed and final bugs and problems need to be found before final release. Typically done by end users or others, not by programmers or testers
Black-box testing	Testing cases generated based on the system's functionality
Bottom-up testing	Integrating modules or programs starting from the bottom
Boundary value testing	Testing cases generated from boundary values of equivalence classes
Branch coverage testing	Verifying that each branch has true and false outcomes at least once
Branch/condition coverage testing	Verifying that each condition in a decision takes on all possible outcomes at least once
Cause-effect graphing	Mapping multiple simultaneous inputs that may affect others, to identify their conditions to test
Comparison testing	Comparing software weaknesses and strengths to competing products

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Table 3.2 Testing Technique Descriptions (Continued)

<i>Technique</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>
Compatibility testing	Testing how well software performs in a particular hardware/software/operating system/network environment
Condition coverage testing	Verifying that each condition in a decision takes on all possible outcomes at least once
CRUD testing	Building a CRUD matrix and testing all object creations, reads, updates, and deletions
Database testing	Checking the integrity of database field values
Decision tables	Table showing the decision criteria and the respective actions
Desk checking	Developer reviews code for accuracy
End-to-end testing	Similar to system testing; the “macro” end of the test scale; involves testing of a complete application environment in a situation that mimics real-world use, such as interacting with a database, using network communications, or interacting with other hardware, applications, or systems if appropriate
Equivalence partitioning	Each input condition is partitioned into two or more groups. Test cases are generated from representative valid and invalid classes
Exception testing	Identifying error messages and exception-handling processes and conditions that trigger them
Exploratory testing	Often taken to mean a creative, informal software test that is not based on formal test plans or test cases; testers may be learning the software as they test it
Free-form testing	Ad hoc or brainstorming using intuition to define test cases
Gray-box testing	A combination of black-box and white-box testing to take advantage of both
Histograms	A graphical representation of measured values organized according to the frequency of occurrence; used to pinpoint hot spots

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Incremental integration testing	Continuous testing of an application as new functionality is added; requires that various aspects of an application's functionality be independent enough to work separately before all parts of the program are completed, or that test drivers be developed as needed; done by programmers or by testers
Inspections	Formal peer review that uses checklists, entry criteria, and exit criteria
Integration testing	Testing of combined parts of an application to determine if they function together correctly. The "parts" can be code modules, individual applications, or client/server applications on a network. This type of testing is especially relevant to client/server and distributed systems
JADs	Technique that brings users and developers together to jointly design systems in facilitated sessions
Load testing	Testing an application under heavy loads, such as testing of a Web site under a range of loads to determine at what point the system's response time degrades or fails
Mutation testing	A method for determining if a set of test data or test cases is useful, by deliberately introducing various code changes ("bugs") and retesting with the original test data/cases to determine if the bugs are detected. Proper implementation requires large computational resources
Orthogonal array testing	Mathematical technique to determine which variations of parameters need to be tested
Pareto analysis	Analyze defect patterns to identify causes and sources
Performance testing	Term often used interchangeably with stress and load testing. Ideally, performance testing (and any other type of testing) is defined in requirements documentation or QA or Test Plans

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Positive and negative testing	Testing the positive and negative values for all inputs
Prior defect history testing	Test cases are created or rerun for every defect found in prior tests of the system
Prototyping	General approach to gather data from users by building and demonstrating to them some part of a potential application
Random testing	Technique involving random selection from a specific set of input values where any value is as likely as any other
Range testing	For each input, identifies the range over which the system behavior should be the same
Recovery testing	Testing how well a system recovers from crashes, hardware failures, or other catastrophic problems
Regression testing	Testing a system in light of changes made during a development spiral, debugging, maintenance, or the development of a new release
Risk-based testing	Measures the degree of business risk in a system to improve testing
Run charts	A graphical representation of how a quality characteristic varies with time
Sandwich testing	Integrating modules or programs from the top and bottom simultaneously
Sanity testing	Typically, an initial testing effort to determine if a new software version is performing well enough to accept it for a major testing effort. For example, if the new software is crashing systems every five minutes, bogging down systems to a crawl, or destroying databases, the software may not be in a "sane" enough condition to warrant further testing in its current state
Security testing	Testing how well the system protects against unauthorized internal or external access, willful damage, etc.; may require sophisticated testing techniques

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State transition testing	Technique in which the states of a system are first identified, and then test cases written to test the triggers causing a transition from one state to another
Statement coverage testing	Every statement in a program is executed at least once
Statistical profile testing	Statistical techniques are used to develop a usage profile of the system that helps define transaction paths, conditions, functions, and data tables
Stress testing	Term often used interchangeably with load and performance testing. Also used to describe such tests as system functional testing while under unusually heavy loads, heavy repetition of certain actions or inputs, input of large numerical values, or large complex queries to a database system
Structured walkthroughs	A technique for conducting a meeting at which project participants examine a work product for errors
Syntax testing	Data-driven technique to test combinations of input syntax
System testing	Black-box type testing that is based on overall requirements specifications; covers all combined parts of a system
Table testing	Testing access, security, and data integrity of table entries
Thread testing	Combining individual units into threads of functionality that together accomplish a function or set of functions
Top-down testing	Integrating modules or programs starting from the top

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Unit testing	The most “micro” scale of testing; to test particular functions or code modules. Typically done by the programmer and not by testers, as it requires detailed knowledge of the internal program design and code. Not always easily done unless the application has a well-designed architecture with tight code; may require developing test driver modules or test harnesses
Usability testing	Testing for “user-friendliness.” Clearly, this is subjective, and will depend on the targeted end user or customer. User interviews, surveys, video recording of user sessions, and other techniques can be used. Programmers and testers are usually not appropriate as usability testers
User acceptance testing	Determining if software is satisfactory to an end user or customer
White-box testing	Test cases are defined by examining the logic paths of a system