#### **INF 3121 Software Testing**

# Tool support for testing Chapter 6

1. Types of test tools

- 2. Effective use of test tools: potential benefits and risks
- 3. Introducing a test tool to an organization

- 1.1 Tool support for testing
- 1.2 Test tool classification
- 1.3 Tools for test management
- 1.4 Tools for static testing
- 1.5 Tools for test specification
- 1.6 Tools for execution and logging
- 1.7 Tools for performance & monitoring
- 1.8 Tools for specific testing needs

#### 2. Effective use of test tools

- 2.1 Potential benefits and risks of tools
- 2.2 Special considerations for tools
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## Types of test tools

- ✓ LO: Classify different types of test tools according to their purpose and to the activities in the test process and in the software life-cycle
- √ LO: Explain the term "test tool"
- ✓ LO: For each type of test tool, explain how it supports testing

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## Tool support for testing – types of tools

**Test tools** can be used for one or more activities that support testing:

- Tools that are directly used in testing (e.g.: test execution tools, test data generation tools, result comparison tools)
- Tools that help in managing the testing process (i.e: test results, requirements, incidents, defects) and for monitoring and reporting the test execution
- Tools that are used in exploration (e.g. tools that monitor the file activity for an application)
- Any tool that aids in testing

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## Tool support for testing - purposes

- **Tools support** for testing can have one or more of the following purposes, depending on the context:
  - improve the efficiency of the test activities (e.g.: by automating repetitive tasks)
  - automate activities that require significant resources when done manually (e.g. static testing)
  - automate activities that cannot be done manually (e.g. large-scale performance testing of client-server applications)
  - increase reliability of testing (by automating large data comparisons or simulating complex behavior)

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## Test tool classification

**Tools** are classified according to the testing activities that they support.

- one activity
- more than one activity, but classification falls under the main activity

#### **Notes**

- Some types of test tool can be intrusive the tool itself can affect the outcome of the test. (i.e. timing measurements may be different depending on how you measure it with different performance tools).
- The consequence of intrusive tools is called the probe effect.
- Some tools offer support more appropriate for developers. Such tools are marked with "(D)" in this chapter.

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## Tools support for management of testing & tests

#### **Characteristics**

- Support for the management of tests and the testing activities.
- Support for traceability of tests, test results and incidents to source documents, such as requirements specifications.
- Generation of progress reports.
- Logging test results.
- Offer info on metrics related to the tests.

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## Tools support for management of testing & tests

## Requirements management tools

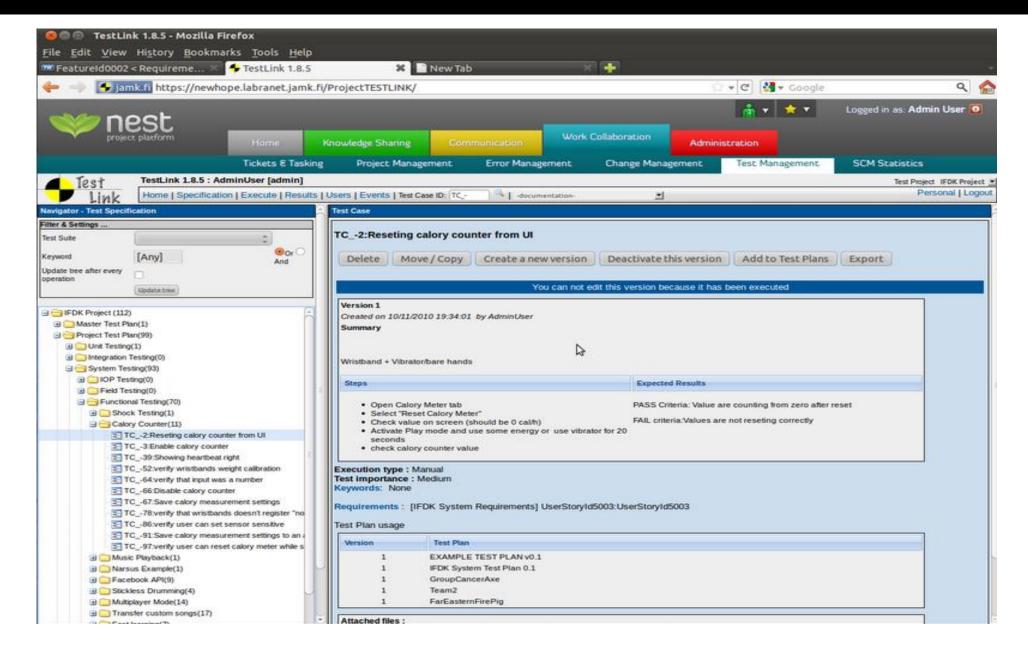
store requirements

check for consistency and undefined (missing) requirements

allow prioritization

enable individual tests to be traceable to requirements

## Requirements management tools



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## Tools support for management of testing & tests

#### Incident management tools

store and manage incident reports

support management of incident reports

#### Statuses of incident reports:

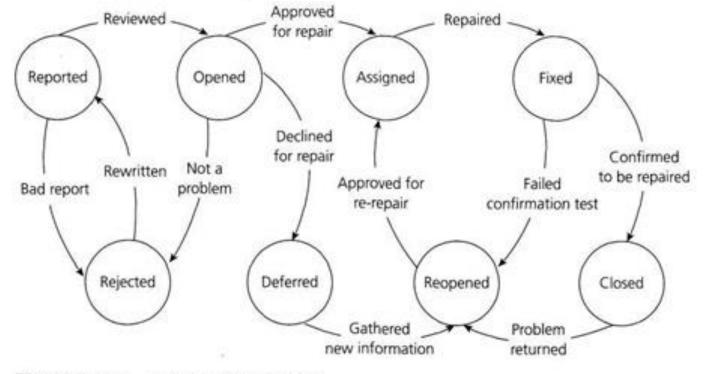
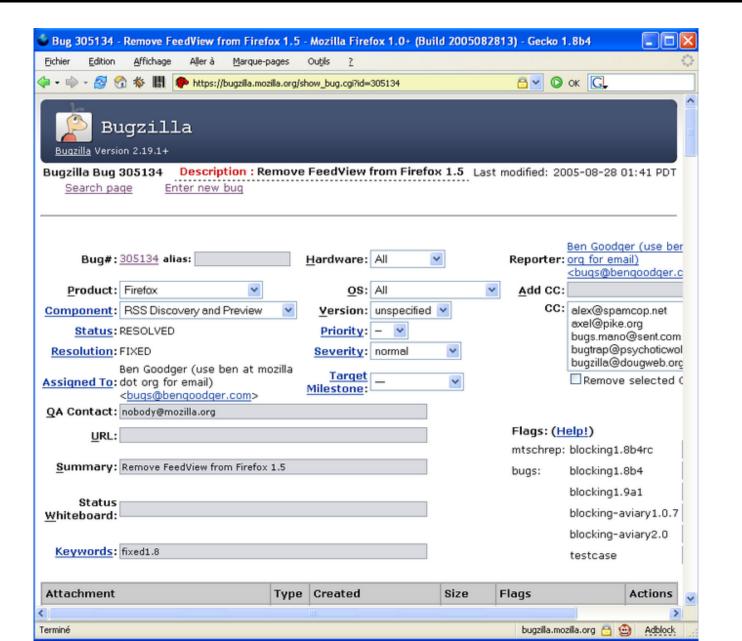
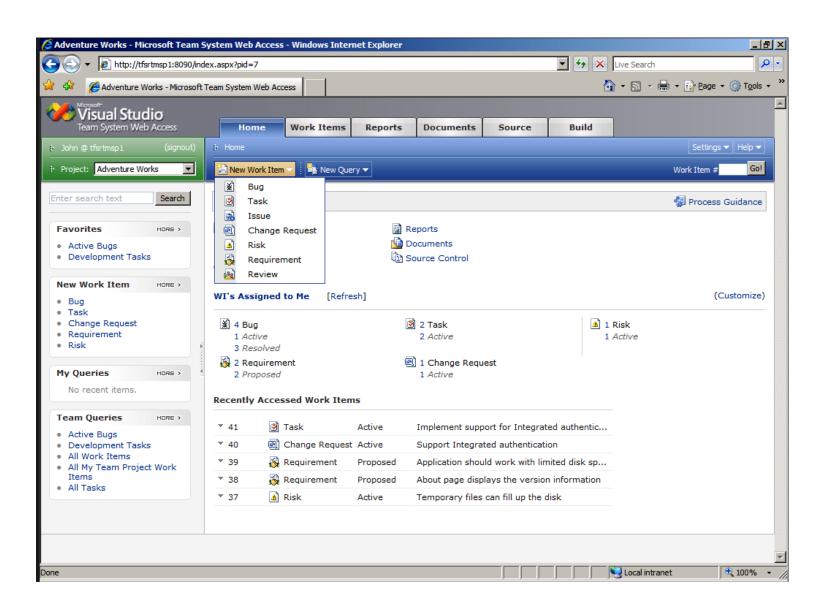


FIGURE 5.3 Incident report life cycle

### **Incident management tools**



## Incident management tools



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## Tools support for management of testing & tests

## Configuration management tools

are necessary to keep track of different versions and builds of the SW and tests

are particularly useful when developing on more than one configuration of the HW/SW environment

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## Tools support for management of testing & tests

#### **Configuration management tools**

History [edit]

Configuration Management (CM) as a formal management approach was developed by the USAF for the DoD in the 1950s as a technical management discipline for hardware material items—and it is now a standard practice in virtually every industry. The CM process became its own technical discipline sometime in the late 1960s when the DoD developed a series of military standards called the "480 series" (i.e., MIL-STD-480 and MIL-STD-481) that were subsequently issued in the 1970s. In 1991, the "480 series" was consolidated into a single standard known as the MIL—STD-973 that was then replaced by MIL—HDBK-61 pursuant to a general DoD goal that reduced the number of military standards in favor of industry technical standards supported by Standards Developing Organizations (SDO). [8] This marked the beginning of what has now evolved into the most widely distributed and accepted standard on CM, ANSI-EIA-649-1998. [9] Now widely adopted by numerous organizations and agencies, the CM discipline's concepts include systems engineering (SE), integrated logistics support (ILS), Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI), ISO 9000, Prince2 project management methodology, COBIT, Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL), product lifecycle management, and application lifecycle management. Many of these functions and models have redefined CM from its traditional holistic approach to technical management. Some treat CM as being similar to a librarian activity, and break out change control or change management as a separate or stand alone discipline.

## **Configuration management tools**



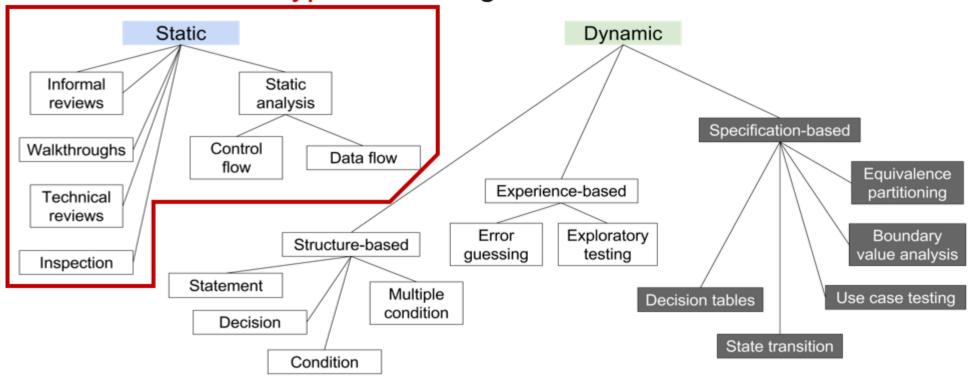
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## Tools support for static testing

Recall the different types of testing



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## Tools support for static testing

#### Tools for static testing

Tools that aid in improving the code / work product, without executing it

#### Categories

Review tools

Supports the review process

Static analysis tools

Supports code examination

Modelling tools

Validate models of system / software

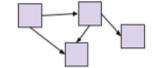
Review Process Tools



Static Analysis Tools

Modelling Tools





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## Tools support for static testing

## Review tools

store information about review processes

store and communicate review comments, report on defects and effort

They can provide aid for online reviews, which is useful if the team is geographically dispersed.

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## Tools support for static testing

#### Review process tools

Common reference for the review processes conducted

Keep track of all the information from the review process

Store and communicate review comments, report on defects and effort

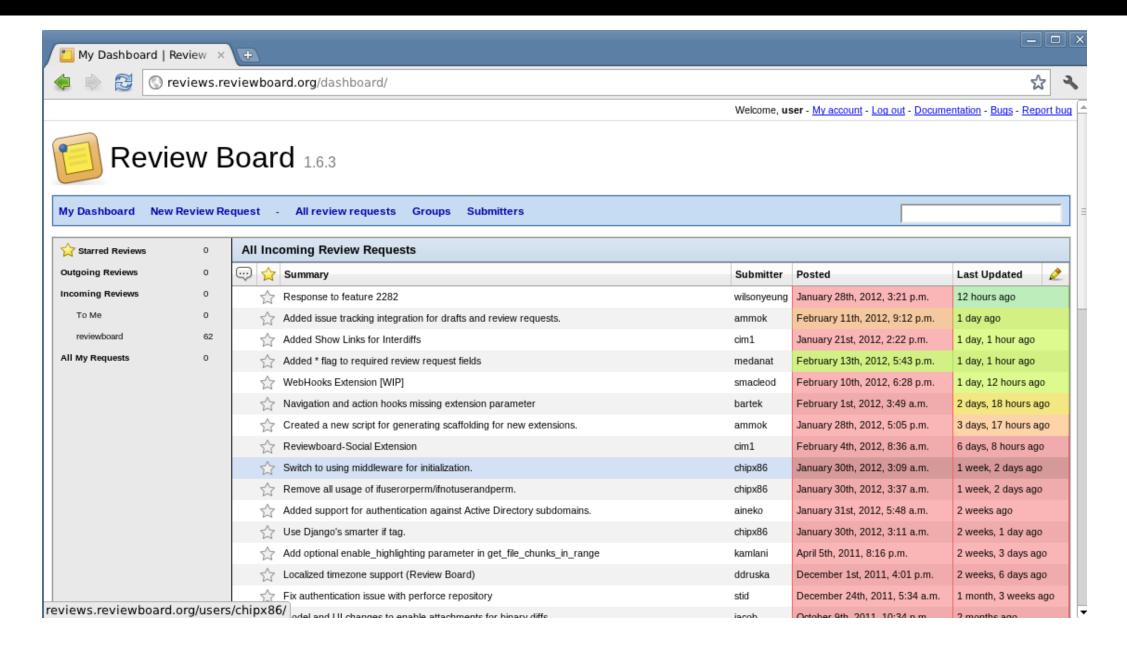
Monitoring review status → Passed, passed with corrections, requires re-review

#### When to use?

Suitable for more formal review processes

Geographically dispersed teams

### **Review tools**



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## Tools support for static testing

#### Major purpose:

#### Static analysis tools (D)

- The enforcement of coding standards.
- The analysis of structures and dependencies (e.g. linked webpages)
- Aiding in understanding the code.

support developers, testers and quality assurers in finding defects before dynamic testing.

Static analysis tools can calculate metrics from the code (e.g. complexity), which can give valuable information for planning or risk analysis.

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## Tools support for static testing

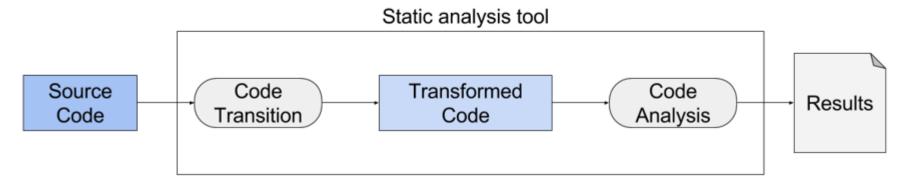
#### Static analysis tools (D)

Mostly used by developers → Component (unit) testing

Tool is executed → Code is not

The source code serves as input data to the tool

Extension of compiler technology



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## Tools support for static testing

#### Static analysis tools (D)

Support developers and testers in finding defects before dynamic testing

#### Purpose

To better understand the code, and find ways of improving it

#### Common features

Calculate metrics → Complexity, nesting levels → Identify areas of risk

Enforce coding standards

Analyse code structures and dependencies

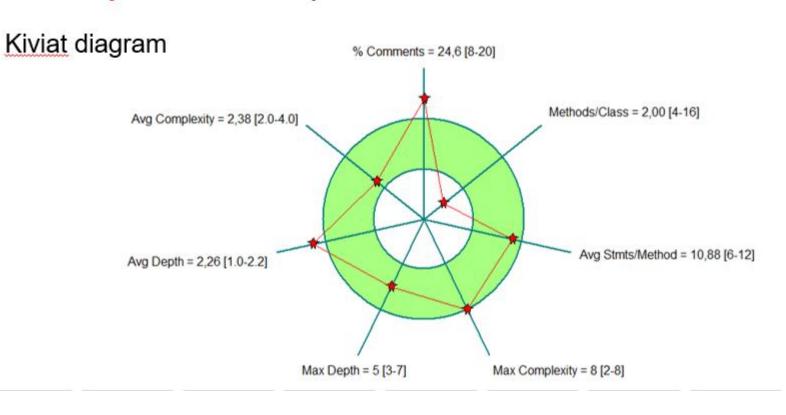
#### Static analysis tool example: Source Monitor

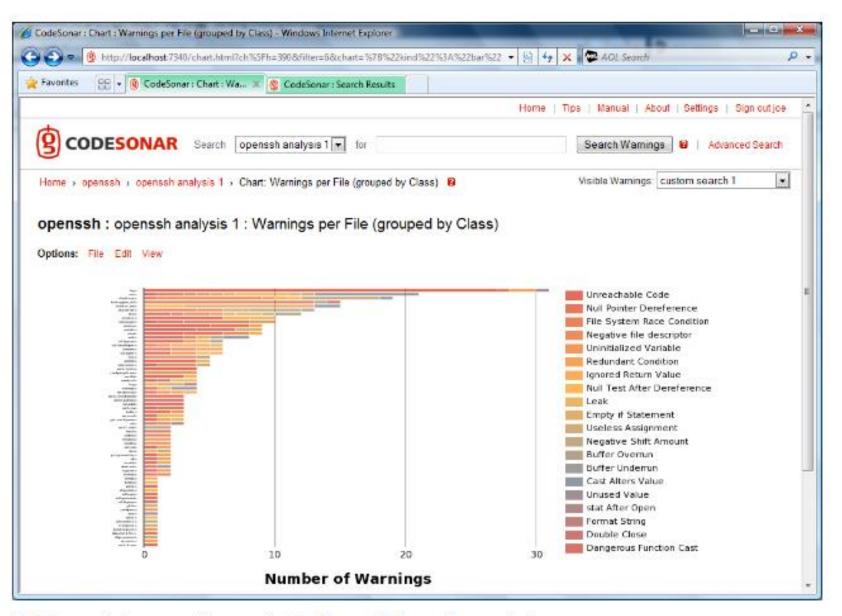
Collects metrics from source code files

Displays and prints metrics in tables and charts

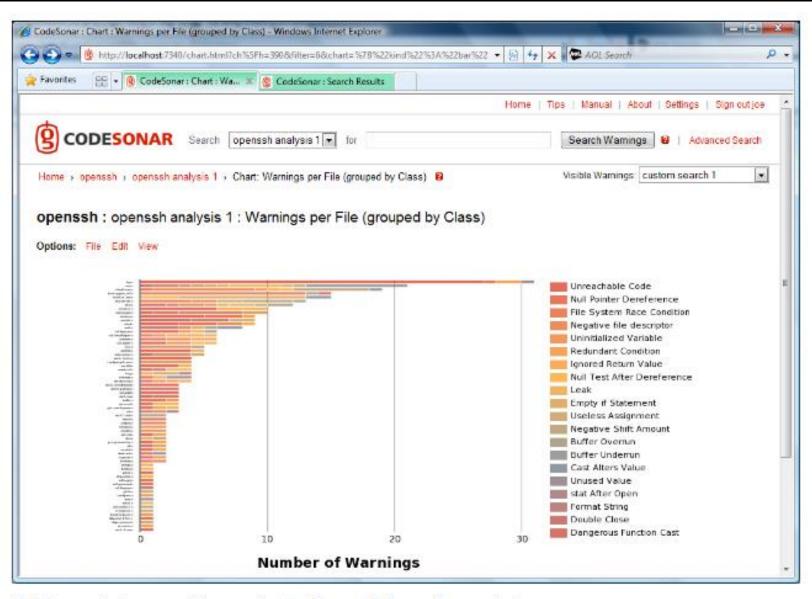
File Edit View Win	dow <u>H</u> elp	p											_ 8 ×
File Name	Li∇	Statements	% Branches	Calls	% Comments	Classes	Methods/Class	Avg Stmts/Method	Max Complexity	Max Depth	Avg Depth	Avg Complexity	
GUI.java	195	110	10,0	69	24,6	4	2,00	10,88	8	5	2,26	2,38	
Board.java	104	46	0,0	40	36,5	1	1,00	19,00	1	2	1,00	1,00	
Square.java	86	50	8,0	6	19,8	1	15,00	1,80	3	3	1,56	1,27	
EmptySquare.java	70	25	44,0	17	20,0	1	3,00	7,00	7	5	2,80	4,67	
UtenGUlMain.java	63	30	23,3	23	20,6	1	1,00	26,00	8	4	2,83	8,00	
SquareContainer.java	32	17	5,9	1	18,8	- 1	4,00	2,25	2	2	1,47	1,25	
SudokuContainer.java	29	11	0,0	3	27,6	1	4,00	0,75	1	2	1,09	1,00	
FilledSquare.java	27	8	25,0	5	29,6	1	2,00	2,50	3	3	1,75	2,00	
Column.java	13	3	0,0	1	38,5	1	1,00	1,00	1	2	1,00	1,00	
Row.java	13	3	0,0	1	38,5	1	1,00	1,00	1	2	1,00	1,00	
Box.java	12	3	0,0	1	41,7	1	1,00	1,00	1	2	1,00	1,00	

#### Static analysis tool example: Source Monitor

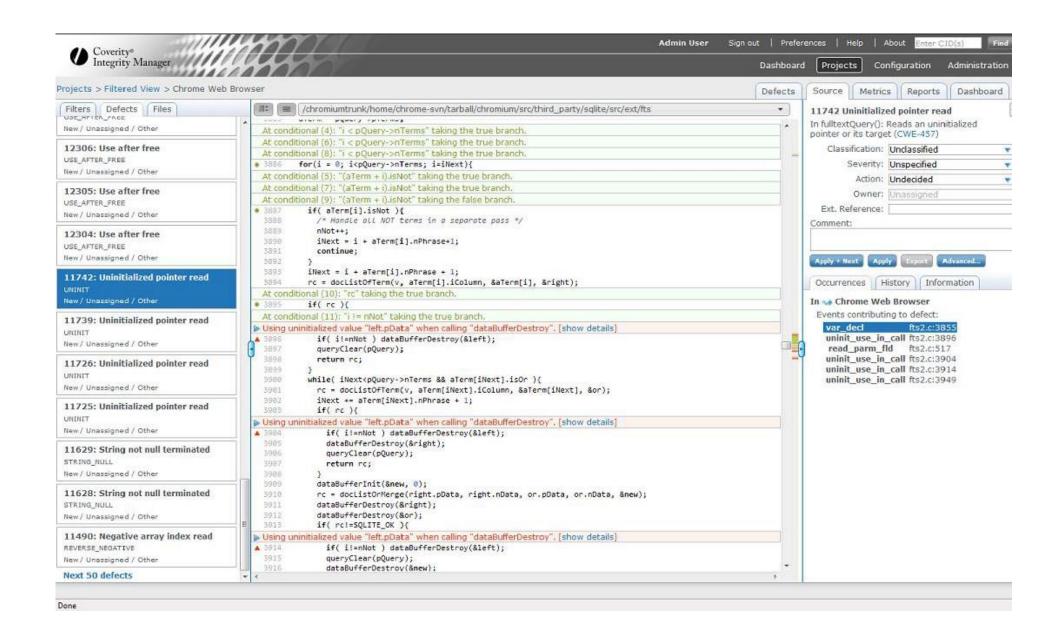




CodeSonar chart summarizing warning locations and classes for a project.



CodeSonar chart summarizing warning locations and classes for a project.



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## Tools support for static testing

## Modeling tools (D)

Validate models of the software.

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## Tools support for static testing

#### Modelling tools (D)

Validate models of the system / software

#### Purpose

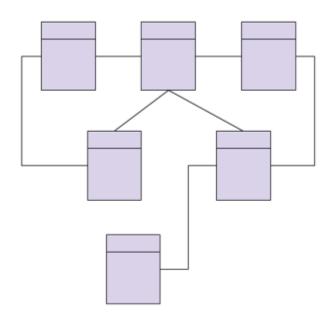
To better aid in designing the software

#### Common features and characteristics

Identify inconsistencies and defects within the models

Identify and prioritise risk areas

Predicting system response and behaviour under various situations



## Tools support for static testing

#### Modelling tool example: Star UML

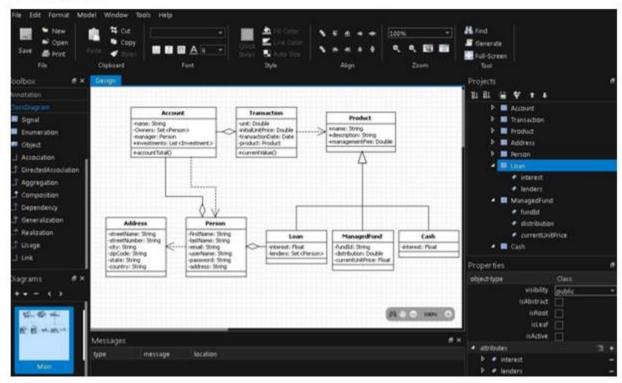
**UML** tool

Variety of diagrams

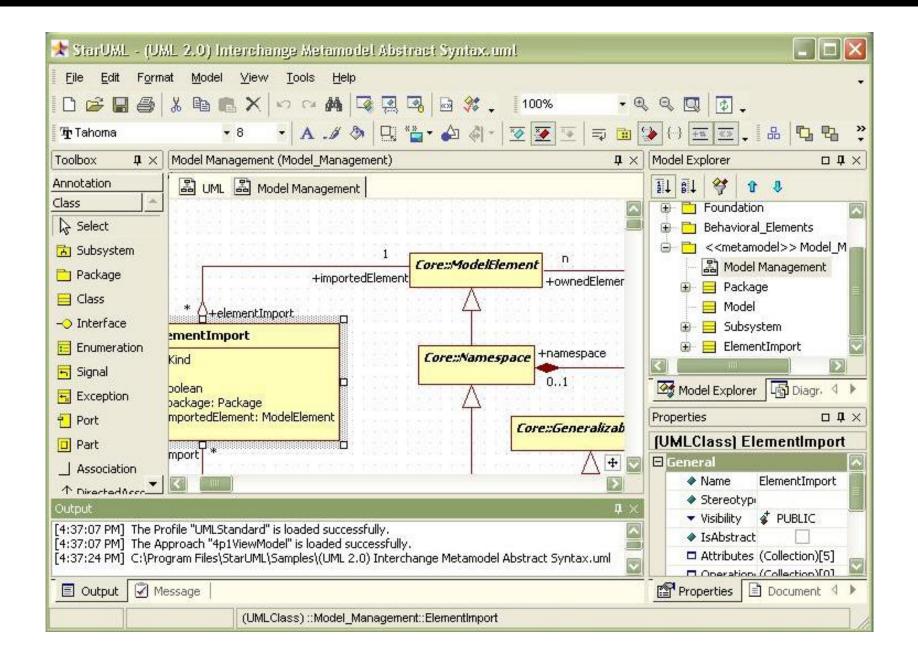
Class / Domain

Use case

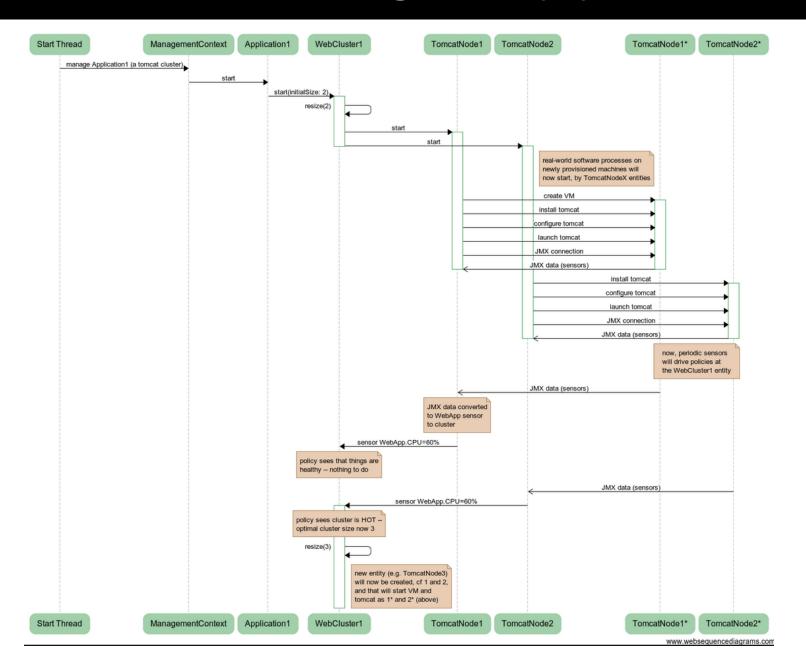
Sequence



## Modeling tools (D)



## Modeling tools (D)



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## Tools support for static testing

The major benefit of static testing tools and modeling tools is the cost effectiveness of finding more defects at an earlier time in the development process.

As a result, the development process may accelerate and improve by having less rework

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## Tools support for test specification

#### Test design tools

Generate test inputs or executable tests:

from requirements,

from a graphical user interface,

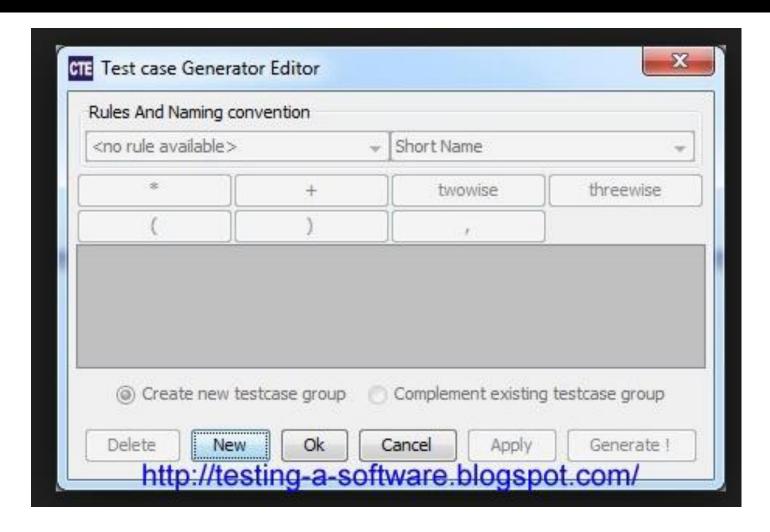
from design models (state, data or object)

or from code.

This type of tool may generate expected outcomes as well (i.e. may use a test oracle)

They can save valuable time and provide increased thoroughness of testing because of the completeness of the tests that the tool can generate.

### Test design tools



## **Test design tools**

#	Operating System	Language	Browser	$\Box$ [	#	Operating System	Language	Browser
1	Windows 8 64bit	French	Chrome latest	0	28	Ubuntu 12.10	German	Opera latest 0
2	Windows 7 Ultimate	Italian	Internet Explorer 8	<b>@</b>	29	Ubuntu 12.10	Spanish	Chrome latest 📀
3	Windows XP home	French	Internet Explorer 8	<b>@</b>	30	Ubuntu 12.10	Chinese Simpl.	Opera latest 0
4	Ubuntu 12.10	French	Chrome latest	0	31	Ubuntu 12.10	Chinese Trad.	Chrome latest 💿
5	Windows 8 64bit	German	Internet Explorer 10	e	32	Ubuntu 12.10	Japanese	Firefox latest 🧶
6	Windows 8 64bit	Spanish	Safari latest	<u>@</u>	33	Ubuntu 12.10	Korean	Firefox latest 🧶
7	OS X 10.8	Chinese Simpl.	Chrome latest	<b>©</b>	34 (	OS X 10.8	French	Safari latest 🏽 🍪
8	Windows 8 64bit	Chinese Trad.	Firefox latest	<b>@</b>	35 (	OS X 10.8	Italian	Firefox latest 🧶
9	Windows 8 64bit	Japanese	Opera latest	0	36	OS X 10.8	German	Opera latest 0
10	Windows 8 64bit	Korean	Internet Explorer 10	e	37	OS X 10.8	Spanish	Opera latest 0
11	Windows 8 64bit	Italian	Internet Explorer 10	e	38	OS X 10.8	Chinese Trad.	Safari latest 🏻 🍪
12	Windows 8 64bit	Chinese Simpl.	Internet Explorer 10	e	39	OS X 10.8	Japanese	Safari latest 🙆
13	Windows 7 Ultimate	French	Internet Explorer 10	e	40	OS X 10.8	Korean	Safari latest 🏽 🎯
14	Windows 7 Ultimate	German	Chrome latest	<b>©</b>	41	Windows XP home	French	Firefox latest 🧶
15	Windows 7 Ultimate	Spanish	Safari latest	<u>@</u>	42	Ubuntu 12.10	French	Opera latest 0
16	Windows 7 Ultimate	Chinese Simpl.	Firefox latest	<b>@</b>	43	Windows 7 Ultimate	Italian	Safari latest 🙆
17	Windows 7 Ultimate	Chinese Trad.	Opera latest	0	44 (	OS X 10.8	Italian	Opera latest 0
18	Windows 7 Ultimate	Japanese	Internet Explorer 8	<b>@</b>	45	Windows 7 Ultimate	German	Internet Explorer 8 🏻 🥵
19	Windows 7 Ultimate	Korean	Internet Explorer 8	<b>@</b>	46	Windows 8 64bit	German	Firefox latest 🧶
20	Windows XP home	Italian	Chrome latest	<b>©</b>	47	Windows 7 Ultimate	Spanish	Internet Explorer 8 🏉
21	Windows XP home	German	Safari latest	<b>6</b>	48	Windows 8 64bit	Spanish	Internet Explorer 10 🩋
22	Windows XP home	Spanish	Firefox latest	<b>@</b>	49	Windows XP home	Chinese Simpl.	Internet Explorer 8 😥
23	Windows XP home	Chinese Simpl.	Opera latest	0	50 (	OS X 10.8	Chinese Simpl.	Safari latest 🙆
24	Windows XP home	Chinese Trad.	Internet Explorer 8	<b>@</b>	51	Windows 7 Ultimate	Chinese Trad.	Internet Explorer 10 🥰
25	Windows XP home	Japanese	Chrome latest	<b>©</b>	52	Windows 8 64bit	Japanese	Internet Explorer 10 🥴
26	Windows XP home	Korean	Chrome latest	<b>©</b>	53	Windows 8 64bit	Korean	Opera latest 0
27	Ubuntu 12.10	Italian	Firefox latest	<b>ම</b>				

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# Tools support for test specification

# Test data preparation tools

Manipulate databases or files to <u>set up test data</u> to be used during the execution of tests

Benefit: they ensure that live data in a test environment is made anonymous, for data protection.

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# Tools support for test specification

# Which test activities are supported by test data preparation tools?

Common features of test data preparation tools

Data can be selected from an existing database

Data can be created, generated, and altered for use in tests

Construct a large number of similar records → Volume tests

## When to use?

During test specification and control → Test data management is difficult

Ensure the system under test is being tested realistically

Useful for performance and reliability testing

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# Tools support for test specification

Which test activities are supported by test data

preparation tools?

Example: Simple login site



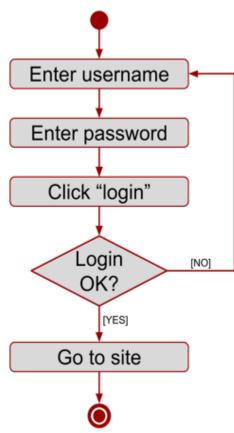
# Data need for testing website

List of various usernames

List of various passwords

Database of existing users

We do not want to create all this by hand!



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### 2. Effective use of test tools

- 2.1 Potential benefits and risks of tools
- 2.2 Special considerations for tools
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# Tools support for test specification

Which test activities are supported by test data

preparation tools?

Test data for whitebox-testing

Concern: Coverage

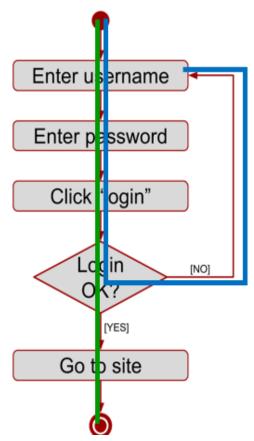
Ensure all branches are tested at least once

Generate data for this purpose

# Example

Invalid combination of username and password

Valid combination of username and password



- 1.1 Tool support for testing
- 1.2 Test tool classification
- 1.3 Tools for test management
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### 2. Effective use of test tools

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# Tools support for test specification

# Which test activities are supported by test data preparation tools?

Test data for blackbox-testing

No data

Valid / Invalid data sets

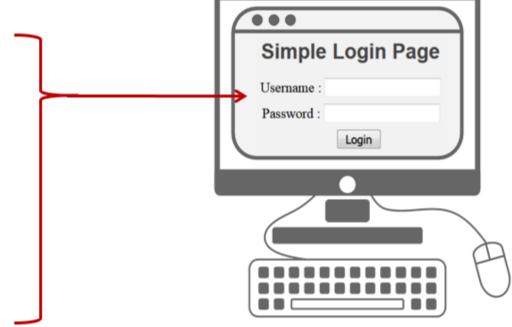
Illegal data sets

Equivalence and Boundary data sets

Decision table data sets

State transition data sets

Use case data sets



- 1.1 Tool support for testing
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# Tools support for test specification

# Which test activities are supported by test data preparation tools?

Test data for security testing

Confidentiality

Test data to verify correct encryption

Integrity

Test data to verify correct information provided

Authentication and authorisation

Test data to verify correct identity management

Combinations of users, roles, operations



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# Tools support for test specification

# Which test activities are supported by test data preparation tools?

## Test data for performance testing

Real data

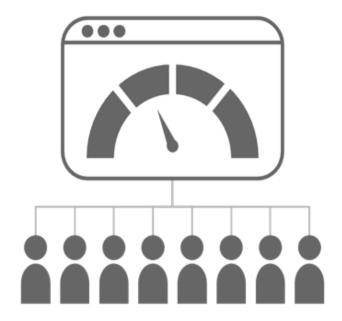
Test data obtained from users

## Load

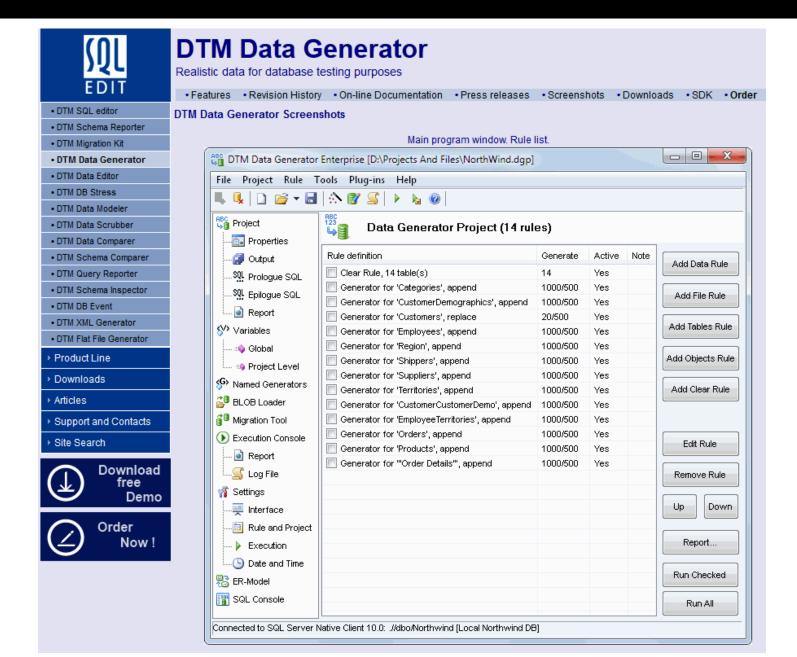
Large amounts of test data can be produced

## Maintenance

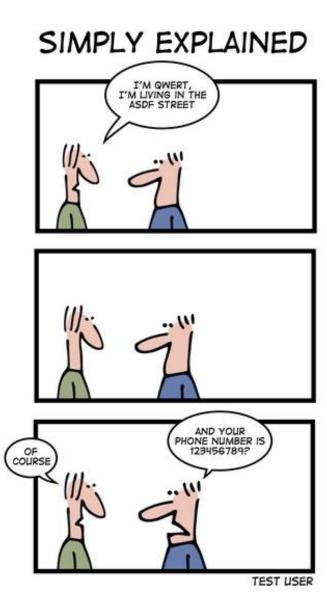
Test data from the production environment



# **Test data preparation tools**



# **Test data preparation tools**



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# Tools support for test execution & logging

## Test execution tools

Enable tests to be executed automatically using stored inputs & expected outcomes

The scripting language allows to manipulate the tests with little effort(i.e. repeat the test with other data)

Can also be used to record tests(capture &playback tools)

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

# Levels of scripting

Linear Scripts Structured Scripts

Shared Scripts

Data-Driven Scripts

Keyword-driven Scripts

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

# Example: Simple Login Form

Test with different combinations of username and password



Problem: Necessary to write three scripts for three different combinations?

- 1. Go to login page
- 2. Type username "Hansen"
- 3. Type password "oslo123"
- 4. Click "Login" button

- 1. Go to login page
- 2. Type username "Olsen"
- 3. Type password "bergen 456"
- 4. Click "Login" button

- 1. Go to login page
- 2. Type username "Jensen"
- 3. Type password "harstad 789"
- 4. Click "Login" button

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

# Example: Simple Login Form

This test approach is time-consuming

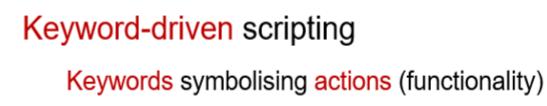
Solution: Separate test script from data (username, password) → No hard-coding

One script retrieves different combinations of username and password

1. Go to page		Username	Password
2. Type username "file.nextUsername()"		Hansen	oslo123
3. Type username " <mark>file.nextPasswor</mark>	rd()"————————————————————————————————————	Olsen	bergen456
4. Click "Login" button		Jensen	harstad789

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# Tools support for test execution & logging



"One level up" from data-driven scripting

Can write tests using keywords

"What to test, rather than how to test it"

Keyword	Script
Login	script1
CH_password	script2
Logout	script3

## [script1]

- 1. Go to page
- 2. Type username "file.nextUsername()"
- 3. Type username "file.nextPassword()"
- 4. Click "Login" button

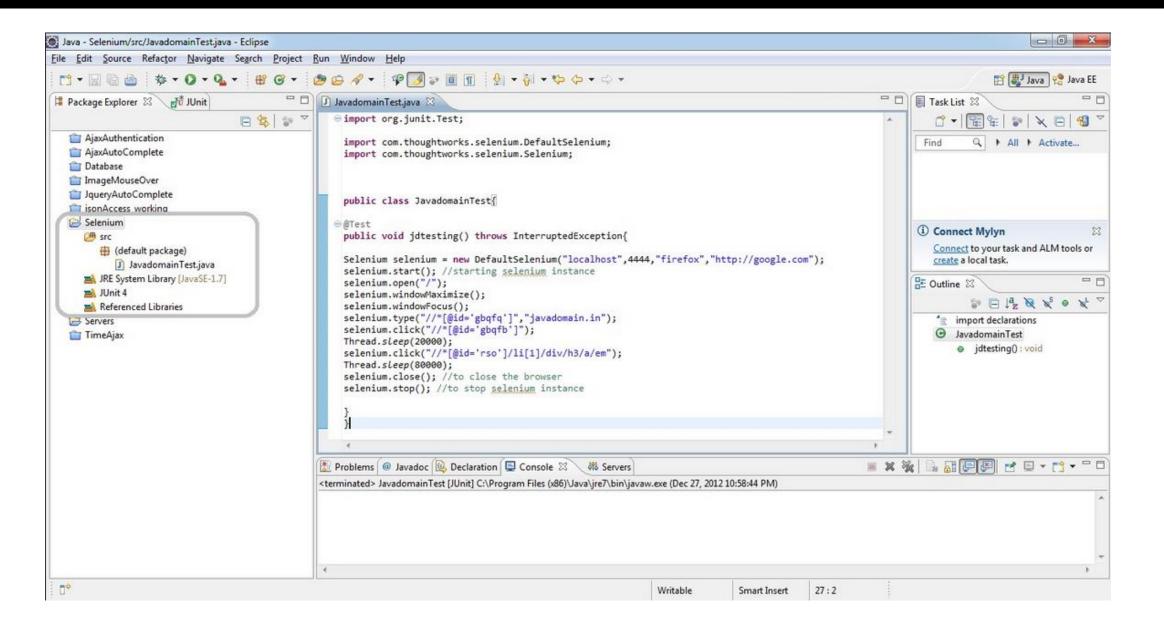
## [script2]

- 1. Click on user avatar
- 2. Click "Change password"
- 3. Type current password
- 4. Type new password
- 5. Click "Confirm" button

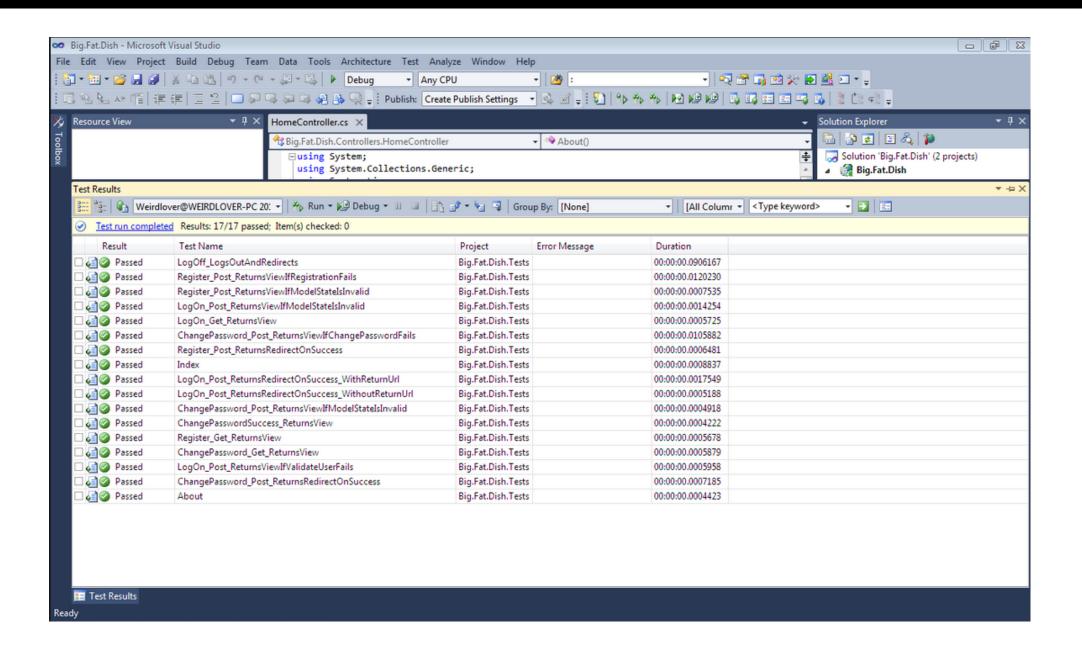
## [script3]

- 1. Click on user avatar
- 2. Click "Logout" button

# Test execution tools



# Test execution tools



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# Tools support for test execution & logging

## Test harness / unit test framework tools (D)

Facilitate the test of components of a system - simulating the environment in which that test object will run.

They may be called unit test tools when they have a particular focus on the component test level.

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

Test harness and unit test framework tools (D)

The two types are similar

Support tools for testing individual components or software units

Harness: Stubs and drivers → Small programs that interact with software

Unit test framework tools → Support for object-oriented software

When are these tools used?

During test execution and logging

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

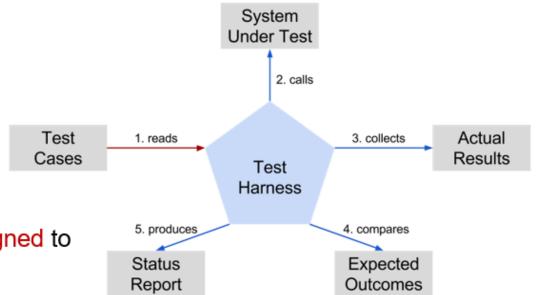


"Enabler" that does all the work of:

- (i) Executing the tests, using
- (ii) A test library, and
- (iii) Generates reports

Requires that the test scripts are designed to

- (iv) Handle different data, and
- (v) Test scenarios



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# Tools support for test execution & logging

## **Drivers**

Calls the component to be tested

In other words: A component that calls the *Tested Unit* 

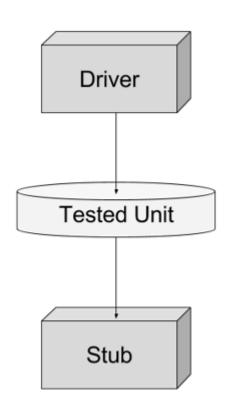
## **Stubs**

Called from the software component to be tested

In other words: A component the Tested Unit depends on

Partial implementation

Fake values



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# Tools support for test execution & logging

## Characteristics of test harness and unit test framework tools

Supply inputs to the software being tested

Receive outputs generated by the software being tested

Execute a set of tests within the framework

Record pass / fail results of each test

Store tests

Coverage measurement at code level

Provide support for debugging

# Test harness/unit test framework tools (D)

```
Test
public void RhinoMocksDemo()
   MockRepository mocks = new MockRepository();
   // create some mocks
   IEmailBuilder emailBuilder = mocks.CreateMock<IEmailBuilder>();
   IEmailSender = mocks.CreateMock<IEmailSender>();
   Email email = new Email();
   // set expectations
   Expect.Call(emailBuilder.Create()).Return(email);
   emailSender.Send(email);
   // execute the test
   mocks.ReplayAll();
   Reporter reporter = new Reporter(emailSender, emailBuilder);
   reporter.SendSomeEmails();
   mocks.VerifyAll();
```

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

# Test comparators

Determine differences between files, databases or test results

Test execution tools include dynamic comparators, but post-execution comparison may be done by a separate comparison tool.

A test comparator may use a test oracle, especially if it is automated.

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

# Test comparators are used when the executed test generates a lot of output.

Testing is more than providing inputs

Need to check if software produces the correct result

Compare actual outcomes to expected results

Two ways of comparing results

Dynamic comparison → Comparison done during test execution

Post-execution comparison → Comparison performed after test has finished

Software under test is no longer executing

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

# Test comparators are used when the executed test generates a lot of output.

# **Dynamic** comparison

Best done by test execution tools

Useful when actual results do not match expected results in the middle of a test

Tool may be programmed to take recovery actions / go to a different set of tests

# Example

Good for comparing wording of an error message

Does the pop-up message match the correct wording for that error message?

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# Tools support for test execution & logging

# Test comparators are used when the executed test generates a lot of output.

# Post-execution comparison

Done by a separate, standalone tool (not test execution tool)

>> Test comparator / test comparison tool

Best for comparing large amounts of data

# Example

Comparing the contents of an entire file

Does the produced file match the expected contents of that file?

Comparing a large set of records from a database to the expected contents

# **Test comparators**

Tasks 🖽 Test Data Comparator 🗙					
🖳 Action	J <b>©</b> Type	🗗 Test Data			
ACTION	3-9 Type	🗘 In	₽1 Expected	<b>₽</b> Actual	
HobjMoney = new Money(amount, curr	ху				
amount	int	9	[08]	9	
currency	java.lang.String				
objMoney	junit.samples.money.Mo				
<expected exception=""></expected>	Throwable		<no exception=""></no>	<no exception=""></no>	
retValue = objMoney.equals(anObject)	ху				
anObject	java.lang.Object				
retValue	© boolean				
<expected exception=""></expected>	Throwable		<no exception=""></no>	<no exception=""></no>	
Test Data Comparator loaded.				(?)	

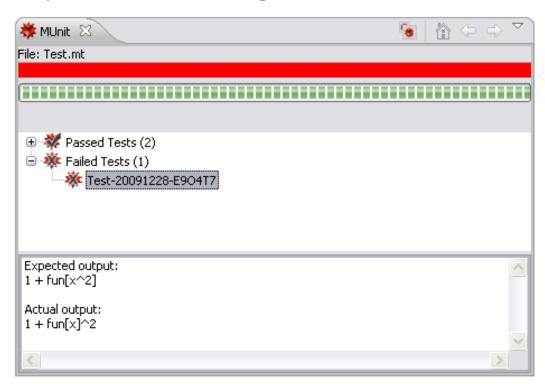
# **Test comparators**

Mathematica Development User Guide > Tasks > Wolfram MUnit Tester

## The Test Comparator

The test comparator is a useful feature for seeing exactly what the error is in a test failure.

First, you should run a test file or test suite. Then select one of the test failures: this should show the expected and actual results in the test report. A sample is shown in the following.



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# Tools support for test execution & logging

## Coverage measurement tools (D)

Can be intrusive or non intrusive (depends on the measurement technique used)

Measure the percentage of specific types of code structure that have been exercised

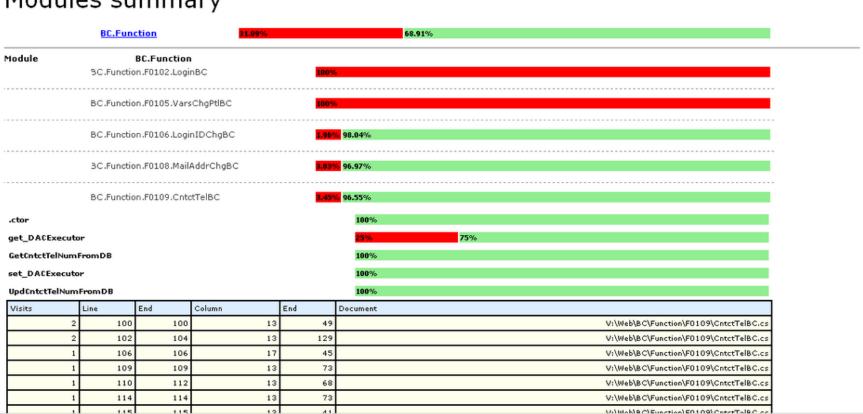
# **Coverage measurement tools (D)**



## **NCover Code Coverage Report**

Expand | Collapse

## Modules summary



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# Tools support for test execution & logging

Security tools

Search for specific vulnerabilities of the system

# **Security tools**

- Modules	- Question -
Title Screen Firewall FilePermissions AccountSecurity BootSecurity SecureInetd DisableUserTools ConfigureMiscPAM Logging MiscellaneousDaemons DNS Apache Printing FTP TMPDIR End Screen	Explanation  (Tk User Interface)  v1.2.0.prerelease  Please answer all the questions to build a more secure system.  The Next and Back buttons navigate forward and backward in the questions database. Changes made in the Answer field are *only* saved when you push the Next button! The "modules" in the questions database are listed to the left. You can jump to the start of any module simply by clicking on its name.  Some questions have two levels of explanatory text, which you can adjust with the Explain Less/More button.  Please address bug reports and suggestions to jay@bastille-linux.org Bugs in the Tk user interface are the fault of allenp@nwlink.com.
	Answer ————————————————————————————————————
	Back Next Explain Less

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# Tools support for performance & monitoring

# Performance testing/ load testing/ stress testing tools

Monitor and report on how a system behaves under a variety of simulated usage conditions.

They simulate a load on:

an application, a database, or a system environment.

They are often based on automated repetitive execution of tests, controlled by parameters.

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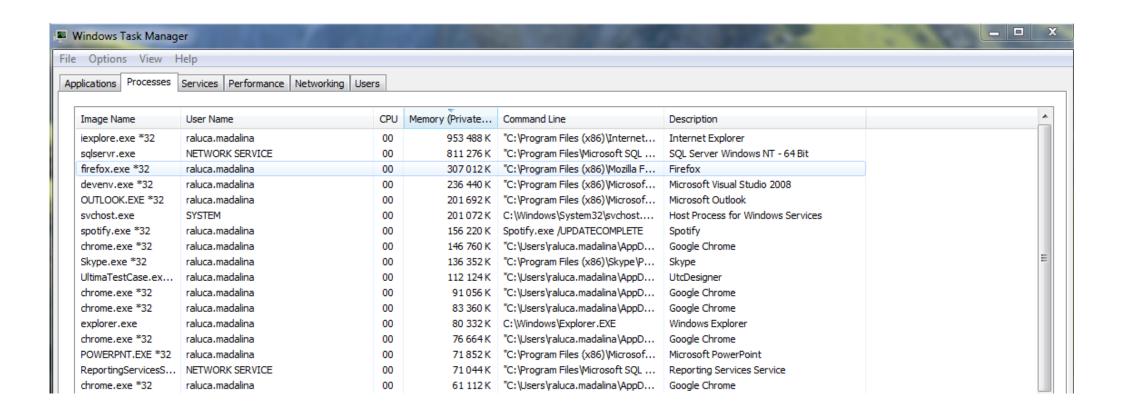
# Tools support for performance & monitoring

## Dynamic analysis tools (D)

Find defects that appear only when software is executing (i.e. memory leaks)

They are typically used in component and component integration testing

# Dynamic analysis tools (D)



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# Tools support for performance & monitoring

# Test data for performance testing

## Real data

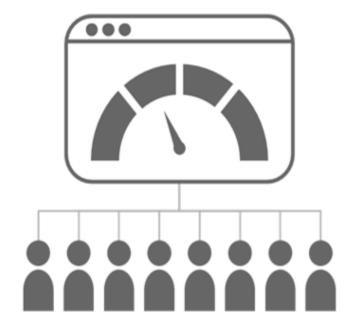
Test data obtained from users

## Load

Large amounts of test data can be produced

## Maintenance

Test data from the production environment



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# Tools support for performance & monitoring

Tests should reflect realistic (correct) scenarios

Systems are often required to handle significant load / interactions

Inadequate / insufficient testing compromises system quality

Setting up test data → Significant effort

Extensive range or volume of data needed

Creating this data can be very resource-consuming

Test data preparation tools help us manage this effort



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# Tools support for performance & monitoring

### Common features of test data preparation tools

Data can be selected from an existing database

Data can be created, generated, and altered for use in tests

Construct a large number of similar records → Volume tests

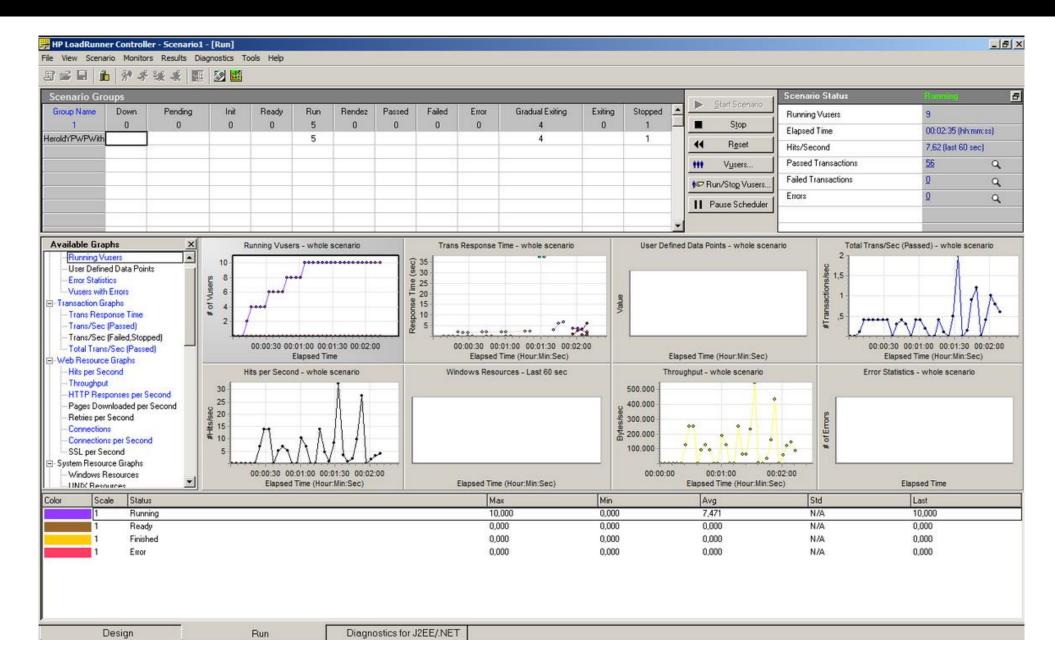
### When to use?

During test specification and control → Test data management is difficult

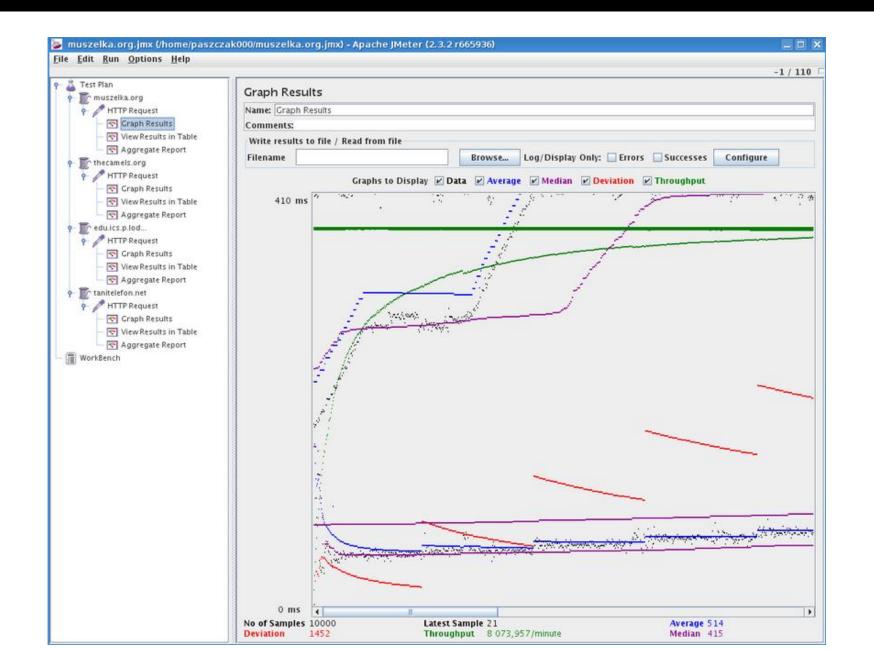
Ensure the system under test is being tested *realistically* 

Useful for performance and reliability testing

# **Performance** testing/load testing/stress testing tools



# **Performance** testing/load testing/stress testing tools



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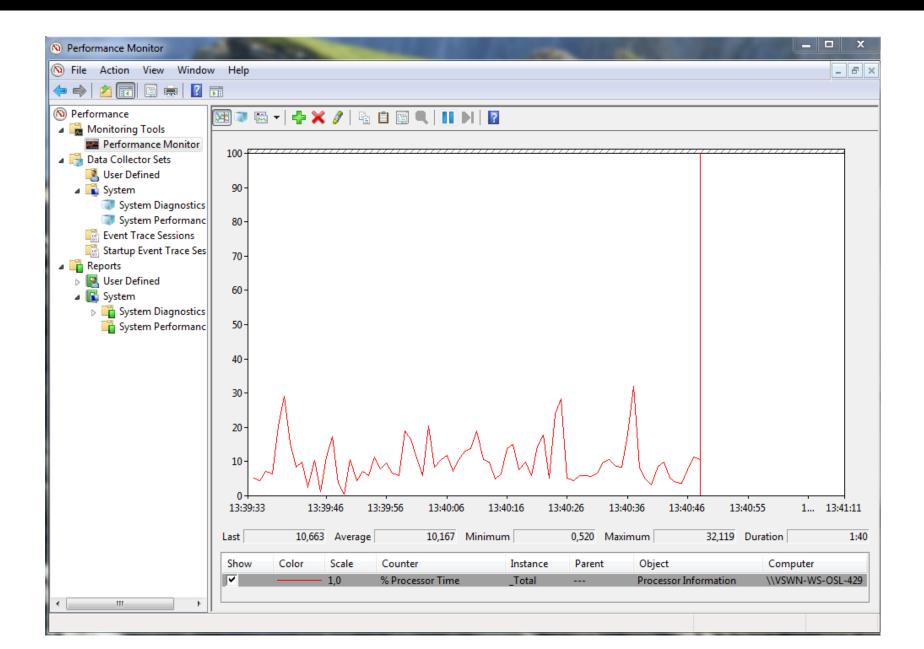
# Tools support for performance & monitoring

# Monitoring tools

Are not strictly testing tools but provide information that can be used for testing purposes.

Analyze, verify and report on usage of specific system resources, and give warnings of possible service problems.

# **Monitoring tools**



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# Tools support for specific application areas

 There are tools specialized for use in a particular type of application.

### Example:

performance testing tools specifically for web-based applications

dynamic analysis tools specifically for testing security aspects.

• Example of targeted areas: embedded systems.

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# Tools support for specific application areas

- Testers may use:
  - word processor
  - spreadsheets

as a testing tool, but they are often used to store:

- test designs
- test scripts
- test data.
- Testers may also use SQL to set up and query databases containing test data.
- Tools used by developers when debugging, to help localize defects and check their fixes, are also testing tools.
- It is a good idea to look at any type of tool available to you for ways it could be used to help support any of the testing activities.

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# Effective use of test tools

- ✓ LO: Summarize the potential benefits of using test tools in the software life-cycle
- ✓ LO: Summarize the potential risks of using test tools in the software life-cycle
- ✓ LO: Summarize the potential risks of test automation in the software life-cycle
- ✓ LO: Remember the special considerations for test execution tools, static analysis tools and test management tools

- 1.1 Tool support for testing
- 1.2 Test tool classification
- 1.3 Tools for test management
- 1.4 Tools for static testing
- 1.5 Tools for test specification
- 1.6 Tools for execution and logging
- 1.7 Tools for performance & monitoring
- 1.8 Tools for specific testing needs

### 2. Effective use of test tools

- 2.1 Potential benefits and risks of tools
- 2.2 Special considerations for tools
- 3. Introducing a test tool into an organization

# Potential benefits and risks

- Simply purchasing or leasing a tool does not guarantee success with that tool.
- Each type of tool may require additional effort to achieve real and lasting benefits.

### Potential benefits and risks

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Potential benefits of using tools :

Reduced repetitive work (running regression tests, re-entering the same test data. Etc)

Greater consistency and repeatability (tests executed by a tool, tests derived from requirements).

Objective assessment (static measures, coverage).

Ease of access to information about tests or testing (statistics / graphs about test progress, incident rates, performance)

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### Potential benefits and risks

### Greater consistency and repeatability

People tend to do the same tasks in a slightly different way

Distractions affect human performance

Doing more than one task simultaneously

Interruptions by peers / co-workers

Fatigue and personals issues

External pressures

Tools will reproduce the exact same procedure as previously



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### Potential benefits and risks

### Objective assessment

Humans are prone to make errors

Subjective preconceived notions and bias toward verification

Testing tools on the other hand ...

Objective "preconceived notions"

Assessment → Repeatable and consistently calculated

Cyclomatic complexity, nesting levels

Coverage, system behaviour, incident statistics

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### Potential benefits and risks

Ease of access to information about the tests or test effort

Information presented visually

Easier for the human mind to understand

Chart, graphs > Long list of numbers

Special purpose tools provide features directly

Statistics and graphs

Incident rates

Performance



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### Potential benefits and risks

Potential risks of using tools:

Unrealistic expectations for the tool (functionality & ease of use).

<u>Underestimating time, cost and effort for the introduction of a tool</u> (training, external expertise).

Underestimating the time and effort needed to achieve significant and continuing benefits from the tool

Underestimating the effort required to maintain the test assets generated by the tool.

Over-reliance on the tool (replacement where manual testing would be better).

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### Potential benefits and risks

### Tools are not magic!

They can do very well what they have been designed to do, but they cannot do everything.

### The tester concentrates on

- what should be tested
- what the test cases should be
- how to prioritize the testing

### The tool user concentrates on

- how best to get the tool to do its job effectively
- how to give increasing benefit from tool use

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# Special considerations: Test execution tools

- This type of tool often requires significant effort in order to achieve significant benefits.
- Capturing tests by recording the actions of a manual tester seems attractive, but this approach does not scale to large numbers of automated tests. This type of script may be unstable when unexpected events occur.
- Data-driven approach: separates out the test inputs (the data) and uses a more generic script that can read the test data and perform the same test with different data.
- In a keyword-driven approach: the spreadsheet contains keywords with the actions to be taken (also called action words), and test data. Testers can then define tests using the keywords.

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# **Special considerations: Performance testing tools**

- The design of the load to be generated by the tool
- Timing aspects
- How to interpret the information gathered.
- These tools need tester with expertise in performance testing to design the tests and interpret results.

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# Special considerations: Static analysis tools

- There is a risk that the changes to make old code to conform to new standard will introduce an unexpected side-effect.
- These tools applied to source code can enforce coding standards, but if applied to existing code may generate a lot of messages.
- A gradual implementation with initial filters to exclude some messages would bean effective approach.

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# **Special considerations: Test management tools**

 They need to interface with other tools or spreadsheets in order to produce information in the best format for the current needs of the organization.

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# Introducing a test tool into an organization

✓ LO: State the main considerations for introducing a new test tool to an organization

✓ LO: State the goals of a proof-of-concept for a test tool, with the scope of evaluation and pilot

✓ LO: Explain the success factors for the deployment of a new test tool into an organization

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### 3. Introducing a test tool into an organization

# Introducing a test tool into an organization

The *main considerations* in selecting a tool for an organization include:

- Assess the organizational maturity, strengths and weaknesses
- Evaluate against clear requirements and objective criteria.
- A proof-of-concept to test the required functionality and determine whether the product meets its objectives.
- Evaluation of the vendor (including training, support and commercial aspects).
- Identification of internal requirements for coaching and mentoring in the use of the tool.

## Introducing a test tool into an organization

Introducing the selected tool into an organization starts with a *pilot project,* with the following objectives:

Learn more detail about the tool.

- Evaluate how the tool fits with existing processes and practices, and determine what would need to change.
- Decide on standard ways of using and maintaining the tool and the test.
- Assess whether the benefits will be achieved at reasonable cost.

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# Introducing a test tool into an organization

**Success factors** for the deployment of the tool within an organization include:

- Roll out the tool to the rest of the organization incrementally.
- Adapt and improve processes to fit with the use of the tool.
- Provide training and coaching/mentoring for new users.
- Define usage guidelines.
- Implement a way to learn lessons from tool use.
- Monitor the tool use and benefits.