Chapter 8 – Software Testing

- These slides are based on Prof. Ian Sommerville's slides
- You should read chapter 8 of "SOFTWARE ENGINEERING" 9th Edition by Ian Sommerville

Topics covered

- ✧ Software testing and inspection
- ✧ Development testing
- ✧ Test-driven development
- ✧ Release testing
- ✧ User testing

Program testing

- ✧ Testing is intended to show that a program does what it is intended to do and to discover program defects before it is put into use.
- ✧ When you test software, you execute a program using artificial data.
- ✧ You check the results of the test run for errors, anomalies or information about the program's non-functional attributes.
- ✧ Can reveal the presence of errors NOT their absence.
- ✧ Testing is part of a more general verification and validation process, which also includes static validation techniques.

Program testing goals

- ✧ To demonstrate to the developer and the customer that the software meets its requirements.
  - For custom software, this means that there should be at least one test for every requirement in the requirements document. For generic software products, it means that there should be tests for all of the system features, plus combinations of these features, that will be incorporated in the product release.
- ✧ To discover situations in which the behavior of the software is incorrect, undesirable or does not conform to its specification.
  - Defect testing is concerned with rooting out undesirable system behavior such as system crashes, unwanted interactions with other systems, incorrect computations and data corruption.

Validation and defect testing

- The first goal leads to validation testing
  - You expect the system to perform correctly using a given set of test cases that reflect the system's expected use.
- The second goal leads to defect testing
  - The test cases are designed to expose defects. The test cases in defect testing can be deliberately obscure and need not reflect how the system is normally used.

Testing process goals

- Validation testing
  - To demonstrate to the developer and the system customer that the software meets its requirements
  - A successful test shows that the system operates as intended.
- Defect testing
  - To discover faults or defects in the software where its behaviour is incorrect or not in conformance with its specification
  - A successful test is a test that makes the system perform incorrectly and so exposes a defect in the system.

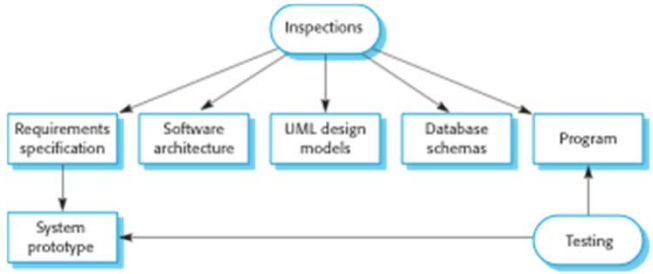
Verification vs validation

- Verification:
  "Are we building the product right".
  - The software should conform to its specification.
- Validation:
  "Are we building the right product".
  - The software should do what the user really requires.

Inspections and testing

- Software inspections Concerned with analysis of the static system representation to discover problems (static verification)
  - May be supplement by tool-based document and code analysis.
- Software testing Concerned with exercising and observing product behaviour (dynamic verification)
  - The system is executed with test data and its operational behaviour is observed.

Inspections and testing



Software inspections

- These involve people examining the source representation with the aim of discovering anomalies and defects.
- Inspections not require execution of a system so may be used before implementation.
- They may be applied to any representation of the system (requirements, design,configuration data, test data, etc.).
- They have been shown to be an effective technique for discovering program errors.

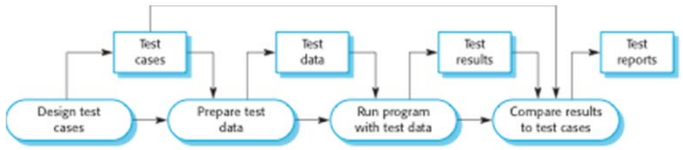
Advantages of inspections

- During testing, errors can mask (hide) other errors. Because inspection is a static process, you don't have to be concerned with interactions between errors.
- Incomplete versions of a system can be inspected without additional costs. If a program is incomplete, then you need to develop specialized test harnesses to test the parts that are available.
- As well as searching for program defects, an inspection can also consider broader quality attributes of a program, such as compliance with standards, portability and maintainability.

Inspections and testing

- Inspections and testing are complementary and not opposing verification techniques.
- Both should be used during the V & V process.
- Inspections can check conformance with a specification but not conformance with the customer's real requirements.
- Inspections cannot check non-functional characteristics such as performance, usability, etc.

A model of the software testing process



Stages of testing

- ✧ Development testing, where the system is tested during development to discover bugs and defects.
- ✧ Release testing, where a separate testing team test a complete version of the system before it is released to users.
- ✧ User testing, where users or potential users of a system test the system in their own environment.

Topics covered

- ✧ Software testing and inspection
- ✧ Development testing
- ✧ Test-driven development
- ✧ Release testing
- ✧ User testing

Development testing

- ✧ Development testing includes all testing activities that are carried out by the team developing the system.
  - Unit testing, where individual program units or object classes are tested. Unit testing should focus on testing the functionality of objects or methods.
  - Component testing, where several individual units are integrated to create composite components. Component testing should focus on testing component interfaces.
  - System testing, where some or all of the components in a system are integrated and the system is tested as a whole. System testing should focus on testing component interactions.

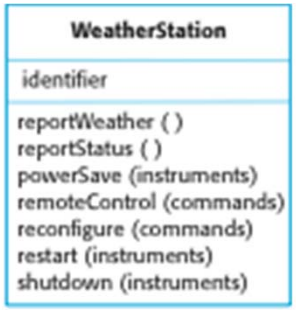
Unit testing

- Unit testing is the process of testing individual components in isolation.
- It is a defect testing process.
- Units may be:
  - Individual functions or methods within an object
  - Object classes with several attributes and methods
  - Composite components with defined interfaces used to access their functionality.

Object class testing

- Complete test coverage of a class involves
  - Testing all operations associated with an object
  - Setting and interrogating all object attributes
  - Exercising the object in all possible states.

The weather station object interface



Weather station testing

- Has a single attribute, i.e. identifier.
  - This is a constant that is set when the weather station is installed.
  - therefore only need a test that checks if it has been properly set up.
- Need to define test cases for each method.
- test methods in isolation if possible

- Using a state model, identify sequences of state transitions to be tested and the event sequences to cause these transitions
  - For example:
  - Shutdown -> Running-> Shutdown
  - Configuring-> Running-> Testing -> Transmitting -> Running
  - Running-> Collecting-> Running-> Summarizing -> Transmitting -> Running

Automated testing

- Whenever possible, unit testing should be automated so that tests are run and checked without manual intervention.
- In automated unit testing, you make use of a test automation framework (such as JUnit) to write and run your program tests.
- Unit testing frameworks provide generic test classes that you extend to create specific test cases. They can then run all of the tests that you have implemented and report, often through some GUI, on the success of otherwise of the tests.

Automated test components

- A setup part, where you initialize the system with the test case, namely the inputs and expected outputs.
- A call part, where you call the object or method to be tested.
- An assertion part where you compare the result of the call with the expected result. If the assertion evaluates to true, the test has been successful if false, then it has failed.

Unit test effectiveness

- The test cases should show that, when used as expected, the component that you are testing does what it is supposed to do.
- If there are defects in the component, these should be revealed by test cases.
- This leads to 2 types of unit test case:
  - The first of these should reflect normal operation of a program and should show that the component works as expected.
  - The other kind of test case should be based on testing experience of where common problems arise. It should use abnormal inputs to check that these are properly processed and do not crash the component.

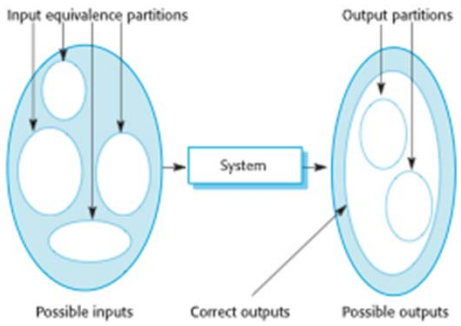
Testing strategies

- Partition testing, where you identify groups of inputs that have common characteristics and should be processed in the same way.
  - You should choose tests from within each of these groups.
- Guideline-based testing, where you use testing guidelines to choose test cases.
  - These guidelines reflect previous experience of the kinds of errors that programmers often make when developing components.

Partition testing

- Input data and output results often fall into different classes where all members of a class are related.
- Each of these classes is an equivalence partition or domain where the program behaves in an equivalent way for each class member.
- Test cases should be chosen from each partition.

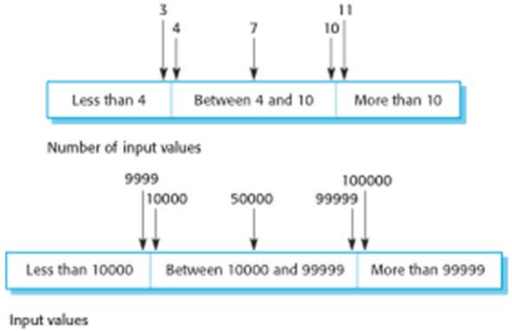
Equivalence partitioning



Choose test cases

- Once you have identified a set of partitions, you choose test cases from each of these partitions.
- A good rule of thumb for test case selection is to choose test cases on the boundaries of the partitions, plus cases close to the midpoint of the partition.

Equivalence partitions



Black-box and white-box testing

- When you use the specification of a system to identify test cases, this is called 'black-box testing'.
  - Here, you don't need any knowledge of how the system works.
- In 'white-box testing', you look at the code of the program to find possible test cases.
  - For example, your code may include exceptions to handle incorrect inputs.
  - You can use this knowledge to identify 'exception partitions'—different ranges where the same exception handling should be applied.

Testing guidelines (sequences)

- Test software with sequences which have only a single value.
- Use sequences of different sizes in different tests.
- Derive tests so that the first, middle and last elements of the sequence are accessed.
- Test with sequences of zero length.

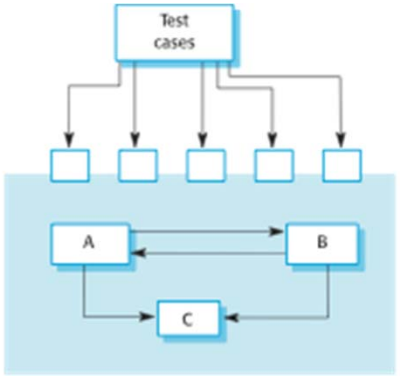
General testing guidelines

- Choose inputs that force the system to generate all error messages
- Design inputs that cause input buffers to overflow
- Repeat the same input or series of inputs numerous times
- Force invalid outputs to be generated
- Force computation results to be too large or too small.

Component testing

- Software components are often composite components that are made up of several interacting objects.
- You access the functionality of these objects through the defined component interface.
- Testing composite components should therefore focus on showing that the component interface behaves according to its specification.
  - You can assume that unit tests on the individual objects within the component have been completed.

Interface testing



Interface testing

- Objectives are to detect faults due to interface errors or invalid assumptions about interfaces.
- Interface types
  - Parameter interfaces Data passed from one method or procedure to another.
  - Shared memory interfaces Block of memory is shared between procedures or functions.
  - Procedural interfaces Sub-system encapsulates a set of procedures to be called by other sub-systems.

Interface errors

- Interface misuse
  - A calling component calls another component and makes an error in its use of its interface e.g. parameters in the wrong order.
- Interface misunderstanding
  - A calling component embeds assumptions about the behaviour of the called component which are incorrect.

Interface testing guidelines

- Design tests so that parameters to a called procedure are at the extreme ends of their ranges.
- Always test pointer parameters with null pointers.
- Design tests which cause the component to fail.
- In shared memory systems, vary the order in which components are activated.

System testing

- System testing during development involves integrating components to create a version of the system and then testing the integrated system.
- The focus in system testing is testing the interactions between components.
- System testing checks that components are compatible, interact correctly and transfer the right data at the right time across their interfaces.
- System testing tests the emergent behaviour of a system.

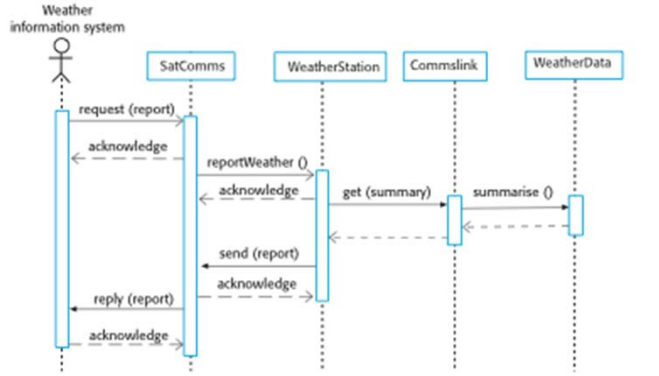
System and component testing

- During system testing, reusable components that have been separately developed and off-the-shelf systems may be integrated with newly developed components. The complete system is then tested.
- Components developed by different team members or sub-teams may be integrated at this stage. System testing is a collective rather than an individual process.
  - In some companies, system testing may involve a separate testing team with no involvement from designers and programmers.

Use-case testing

- The use-cases developed to identify system interactions can be used as a basis for system testing.
- Each use case usually involves several system components so testing the use case forces these interactions to occur.
- The sequence diagrams associated with the use case documents the components and interactions that are being tested.

Collect weather data sequence chart



Testing policies

- Exhaustive system testing is impossible so testing policies which define the required system test coverage may be developed.
- Examples of testing policies:
  - All system functions that are accessed through menus should be tested.
  - Where user input is provided, all functions must be tested with both correct and incorrect input.

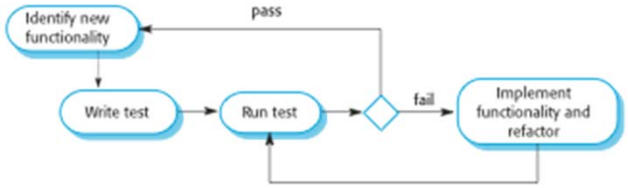
Topics covered

- Software testing and inspection
- Development testing
- Test-driven development
- Release testing
- User testing

Test-driven development

- Test-driven development (TDD) is an approach to program development in which you inter-leave testing and code development.
- Tests are written before code and ‘passing’ the tests is the critical driver of development.
- You develop code incrementally, along with a test for that increment. You don’t move on to the next increment until the code that you have developed passes its test.
- TDD was introduced as part of agile methods such as Extreme Programming. However, it can also be used in plan-driven development processes.

Test-driven development



TDD process activities

- ✧ Start by identifying the increment of functionality that is required. This should normally be small and implementable in a few lines of code.
- ✧ Write a test for this functionality and implement this as an automated test.
- ✧ Run the test, along with all other tests that have been implemented. Initially, you have not implemented the functionality so the new test will fail.
- ✧ Implement the functionality and re-run the test.
- ✧ Once all tests run successfully, you move on to implementing the next chunk of functionality.

Benefits of test-driven development

- ✧ Code coverage
  - Every code segment that you write has at least one associated test so all code written has at least one test.
- ✧ Regression testing
  - A regression test suite is developed incrementally as a program is developed.
- ✧ Simplified debugging
  - When a test fails, it should be obvious where the problem lies. The newly written code needs to be checked and modified.
- ✧ System documentation
  - The tests themselves are a form of documentation that describe what the code should be doing.

Regression testing

- ✧ Regression testing is testing the system to check that changes have not 'broken' previously working code.
- ✧ In a manual testing process, regression testing is expensive but, with automated testing, it is simple and straightforward. All tests are rerun every time a change is made to the program.
- ✧ Tests must run 'successfully' before the change is committed.

TDD and system test

- If you are reusing large code components or legacy systems then you need to write tests for these systems as a whole
- If you use test-driven development, you still need a system testing process to validate the system
  - System testing also tests performance, reliability, and checks that the system does not do things that it shouldn't do

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Release testing

- Release testing is the process of testing a particular release of a system that is intended for use outside of the development team.
- The primary goal of the release testing process is to convince the supplier of the system that it is good enough for use.
  - Release testing, therefore, has to show that the system delivers its specified functionality, performance and dependability, and that it does not fail during normal use.
- Release testing is usually a black-box testing process where tests are only derived from the system specification.

Release testing and system testing

- Release testing is a form of system testing.
- Important differences:
  - A separate team that has not been involved in the system development, should be responsible for release testing.
  - System testing by the development team should focus on discovering bugs in the system (defect testing). The objective of release testing is to check that the system meets its requirements and is good enough for external use (validation testing).

Requirements based testing

- Requirements-based testing involves examining each requirement and developing a test or tests for it.
- MHC-PMS requirements:
  - If a patient is known to be allergic to any particular medication, then prescription of that medication shall result in a warning message being issued to the system user.
  - If a prescriber chooses to ignore an allergy warning, they shall provide a reason why this has been ignored.

Requirements tests

- Set up a patient record with no known allergies. Prescribe medication for allergies that are known to exist. Check that a warning message is not issued by the system.
- Set up a patient record with a known allergy. Prescribe the medication to that the patient is allergic to, and check that the warning is issued by the system.
- Set up a patient record in which allergies to two or more drugs are recorded. Prescribe both of these drugs separately and check that the correct warning for each drug is issued.
- Prescribe two drugs that the patient is allergic to. Check that two warnings are correctly issued.
- Prescribe a drug that issues a warning and overrule that warning. Check that the system requires the user to provide information explaining why the warning was overruled.

A usage scenario for the MHC-PMS

Kate is a nurse who specializes in mental health care. One of her responsibilities is to visit patients at home to check that their treatment is effective and that they are not suffering from medication side effects.

On a day for home visits, Kate logs into the MHC-PMS and uses it to print her schedule of home visits for that day, along with summary information about the patients to be visited. She requests that the records for these patients be downloaded to her laptop. She is prompted for her key phrase to encrypt the records on the laptop.
…

Scenario testing

- If you are a release tester, you run through this scenario, playing the role of Kate and observing how the system behaves in response to different inputs.
- As ‘Kate’, you may make deliberate mistakes, such as inputting the wrong key phrase to decode records.
  - This checks the response of the system to errors.
- You should carefully note any problems that arise, including performance problems.
  - If a system is too slow, this will change the way that it is used.

Performance testing

- Part of release testing may involve testing the emergent properties of a system, such as performance and reliability.
- Tests should reflect the profile of use of the system.
- Performance tests usually involve planning a series of tests where the load is steadily increased until the system performance becomes unacceptable.
- Stress testing is a form of performance testing where the system is deliberately overloaded to test its failure behaviour.
  - It tests the failure behavior of the system
  - It stresses the system and may cause defects to come to light that would not normally be discovered

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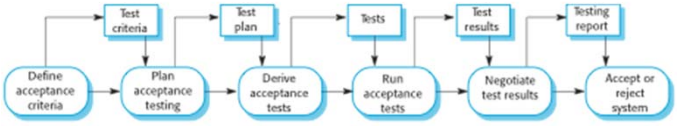
User testing

- User or customer testing is a stage in the testing process in which users or customers provide input and advice on system testing.
- User testing is essential, even when comprehensive system and release testing have been carried out.
  - The reason for this is that influences from the user's working environment have a major effect on the reliability, performance, usability and robustness of a system. These cannot be replicated in a testing environment.

Types of user testing

- Alpha testing
  - Users of the software work with the development team to test the software at the developer's site.
- Beta testing
  - A release of the software is made available to users to allow them to experiment and to raise problems that they discover with the system developers.
- Acceptance testing
  - Customers test a system to decide whether or not it is ready to be accepted from the system developers and deployed in the customer environment. Primarily for custom systems.

The acceptance testing process



Stages in the acceptance testing process

- Define acceptance criteria
- Plan acceptance testing
- Derive acceptance tests
- Run acceptance tests
- Negotiate test results
- Reject/accept system

Agile methods and acceptance testing

- In agile methods, the user/customer is part of the development team and is responsible for making decisions on the acceptability of the system.
- Tests are defined by the user/customer and are integrated with other tests in that they are run automatically when changes are made.
- There is no separate acceptance testing process.
- Main problem here is whether or not the embedded user is 'typical' and can represent the interests of all system stakeholders.

reviews

- Understand the goals of software testing.
- Understand validation testing and defect testing.
- Understand the meaning of validation and verification.
- Understand software inspection and testing.
- What are the three stages of testing?
- Understand the activities in unit test, component test and system test.
- Understand the activities in an automated test.
- Understand how partition testing and guideline-based testing work.
- How do you choose test cases in unit test?
- What is the focus of component testing?

reviews

- Understand the common interface errors.
- Understand the guideline for interface testing.
- Understand the difference between system testing and component testing.
- Why is use case–based testing an effective approach to system testing?
- What is exhaustive system testing? Is it possible? Explain your answer.
- Understand test-driven development.
- Understand the benefits of test-driven development.
- Understand the relationship between test-driven development and system testing.

reviews

- Understand release testing.
- What is the difference between release testing and system testing?
- Understand the activities in requirement and scenario based testing.
- Understand the activities in performance testing.
- What's the difference between user testing and release testing?
- Understand the three types of user testing.
- Understand the activities in acceptance testing.
- Understand the relationship between agile methods and acceptance testing.