9   Test Plan

CHAPTER TOPICS:

- ✓   What is Testing?
- ✓   Why is Testing Important?
- ✓   Software Testing Life Cycle
- ✓   What is a Test Plan?
- ✓   Content of a Test Plan
- ✓   Developing a Test Plan
- ✓   Managing Testing
- ✓   Conclusion

"I didn't fail the test, I just found 100 ways to do it wrong."– Benjamin Franklin

A N application development project can be a complex undertaking fraught with difficulties and quality issues. When software projects are running late, it is quite common to find project managers being pressured to deliver faster and forced to cut down on the full test process. But the problem is, fast delivery does not always translate into high quality products. Unlike poor quality hardware, where defects can be seen physically, bugs in poor quality software may not be discovered until much further down the line, possibly even several years later. A piece of software that works fine for a simple set of data may break down under high volume data.

Planning for the test process is important because if the application being developed is not well tested, it can create havoc in the entire system during production and could result in failure of the project. Therefore, a comprehensive test plan should be developed to ensure the resulting application software meets the proper quality standards.

What is Testing?

In typical software development practice, once a piece of software is developed, it will not be deployed for usage until it has passed through a set of rigorous testing to ensure accuracy, correctness and compliance to quality standards. Testing involves executing the software in a test environment, using test data in a simulated environment and comparing the test results with the expected results. The test results are examined for errors or software bugs before being mitigated in a planned manner.

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