HOW DO YOU IMPROVE YOUR TESTING PROCESS?

Testing is often seen as a troublesome and uncontrollable process. As it is often performed, it takes too much time, costs too much, and does not contribute to product quality.

Testing can become merely an exercise in identifying how bad the product will be in the field. However, with appropriate processes, it can be brought under control and can add significant value to the development process.

If you want to improve your testing process, here are a few basic tips:

1. Understand your current position.

To improve your testing process, it is essential that you start off by understanding your current process. For example, what kind of planning do you do, how does testing fit into the development lifecycle, and how are testing and test results managed. If you understand your current maturity level, you will have a much better chance of progressing up to the next one.

2. Gain a common understanding.

You may think that you know what your current position is, but often other people on your projects have a different perspective. The key is to gain a common understanding among all stakeholders as to how you really do things. From there, you can start to improve.

3. Improve gradually.

To see lasting results, we recommend that you improve your process gradually. Start by bringing your weakest (and most troublesome) test process areas up to the level of the others. Having brought everything to the same level, you should improve the more fundamental areas next (eg, Test Strategies and Test Specification Techniques) on your way up to the next maturity level.

4. Do not revert.

You should not consider a test process area to be improved unless you stick to the process even during a crisis. That is, you do not revert back to traditional techniques of success through heroics and superhuman effort.