



The independent software testing specialists

## ***Welcome to IV&V Australia Testing Newsletter***

This e-newsletter provides a practitioner's view of how to manage and perform SOFTWARE TESTING in today's world.

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### ***Managing Your Test Lifecycle***

In the previous IV&V Australia Newsletter, Testing was discussed as being an integrated business process. This brief article aims to outline the process of managing the Testing Lifecycle. Whilst most organisations are aware of the Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC) which includes development, testing and release processes, each of these areas should also have their own individual lifecycles. Although it is generally accepted that Testing will result in improved software quality, a well defined Test Lifecycle will greatly improve the quality of the various test activities and provide further confidence in a successful application release.

So what should you consider when thinking about the Testing Lifecycle? Here are some of the very basic concepts and planning ideas for implementing successful Test Lifecycles.

- Test Activities should be planned well in advance of the software being released to the Test team. This includes somebody from the Test team (likely a Test Manager) being involved in planning and system/functional requirement reviews.
- The test planning phase should include such aspects as scope of testing, the purpose of testing, any risks or threats and creating/reviewing all associated test documentation.
- Planning should outline the deliverables and identify the Test exit criteria and handover procedures for the application release.
- The Test Lifecycle should take in to account or provide budgets in regards to both financial and resource allocation/scheduling.
- The Test Lifecycle has an appointed manager who regularly meets with development managers, project planners and/or other stakeholders.

- During Testing regular reports and status updates are provided with intent to analyse trends and identify risk.
- Upon completion the test team should conduct a post-test review to discuss what went well and what could be improved in future testing.

By not having a well defined Test Lifecycle, it is possible you may find yourself in a situation where development work is complete and you discover testers are not available due to other projects, or testing does not have enough resources allocated. Another issue that may arise is there is limited technical knowledge amongst the testers of a project as it has simply been rushed through and dropped into 'Test' at the last minute. You may even start finding it difficult to allow enough time for adequate testing to be conducted as deadlines loom and budget constraints start to take hold.

Improving and understanding the Test Lifecycle will greatly improve the overall test approach. And as we know, better testing can only result in better applications.

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### ***IV&V Australia celebrate anniversary with Australian Computer Society Professional Partnership Program***

IV&V Australia is pleased to announce our first anniversary as a member of the Australian Computer Society (ACS) Professional Partnership Program. The Australian Computer Society is the public voice of ICT in Australia and the guardian of professional ethics and standards for ICT in Australia. By becoming a professional partner with the ACS IV&V Australia are recognised as meeting the high ethical and professional standards expected of the Australian Computer Society. In addition, IV&V Australia has access to ACS resources and the ability to attend and provide feedback at a wide range of ICT forums and conferences Australia-wide. This in turn ensures IV&V Australia and our staff are familiar with the latest industry standards and techniques.

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### ***How IV&V Australia can help you***

IV&V Australia has over 13 years experience testing a range of application from CRM, Client/Server and desktop applications through to defence, biomedical applications and clinical devices. So, at IV&V Australia, we not only understand that faulty software can result in loss of clients and revenue, but can often result in far worse.

As such, IV&V Australia are able to provide any of the following services catered to your needs:

- ***Test Team Services*** – working with your development team providing hands-on testers, test management or mentoring.
- ***Test Process Improvement*** – helping to improve your software testing and test management capabilities
- ***Product Testing*** – conducting an independent end-of-lifecycle test of your application in our accredited Test Lab.
- ***Software IV&V Activities*** – reviewing a project's testing and development activities on behalf of a project office, prime contractor, system purchaser, or investor.
- ***Training*** – provide training for staff in the fundamentals of software testing

So feel free to contact us for more information on the full range of services available from IV&V Australia.

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### ***Thought of the day – The Glass***

- To an optimist, the glass is half full
- To a pessimist, the glass is half empty
- To a good software tester, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

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### ***FEEDBACK***

Have you found this issue useful? We want to hear your comments and suggestions. Email us at [info@ivvaust.com.au](mailto:info@ivvaust.com.au).

For more information about IV&V Australia, visit our web site at <http://www.ivvaust.com.au>.

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