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## Software and systems engineering — Software testing —

### Part 2: Test processes

*Ingénierie du logiciel et des systèmes — Essais du logiciel —  
Partie 2: Processus des essais*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO/IEC documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives) or [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs)).

IEEE Standards documents are developed within the IEEE Societies and the Standards Coordinating Committees of the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Standards Board. The IEEE develops its standards through a consensus development process, approved by the American National Standards Institute, which brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve the final product. Volunteers are not necessarily members of the Institute and serve without compensation. While the IEEE administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the consensus development process, the IEEE does not independently evaluate, test, or verify the accuracy of any of the information contained in its standards.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <https://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html). In the IEC, see [www.iec.ch/understanding-standards](http://www.iec.ch/understanding-standards).

ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119-2 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and systems engineering*, in cooperation with the Systems and Software Engineering Standards Committee of the IEEE Computer Society, under the Partner Standards Development Organization cooperation agreement between ISO and IEEE.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119-2:2013), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- The definition of the test design and implementation process (8.2) has been updated. In the first edition, this process was based on the use of test conditions. Feedback on use of the standard highlighted a problem with users' understanding of 'test conditions' and their use for deriving test cases. This second edition has replaced the use of 'test conditions' with 'test models'. [Annex E](#) provides more detail on this change.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html) and [www.iec.ch/national-committees](http://www.iec.ch/national-committees).

## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to define a generic process model for software testing that can be used by any organization when performing any form of software testing. It comprises test process descriptions that define the software testing processes at the organizational level, test management level and dynamic test levels. Supporting informative diagrams describing the processes are also provided. ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119 (all parts) supports dynamic testing, functional and non-functional testing, manual and automated testing, and scripted and unscripted testing. The processes defined in this document can be used in conjunction with any software development lifecycle model. Each process is defined using the generic process template that is provided in ISO/IEC TR 24774, and covers the purpose, outcomes, activities, tasks and information items of each test process.

Testing is a key approach to risk treatment in software development. This document follows a risk-based approach to testing. Risk-based testing is a best-practice approach to strategizing and managing testing, as it allows testing to be prioritized and focused on the most important features and quality attributes.

This document uses the traditional concept of organizations and projects, but some organizations, especially those using an agile approach, do not organize their development in terms of projects; instead, they run product development based on more long-lasting product teams. Users of this document can substitute the term 'product' for 'project' where appropriate.

The concepts that support ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119 (all parts) are defined in ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119-1. Templates and examples of test documentation that are produced during the testing process are defined in ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119-3. Software test design techniques that can be used during testing are defined in ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119-4.

ISO/IEC/IEEE 29119 (all parts) aims to provide those responsible for software testing with the information required to manage and perform software testing in any organization.

Users of ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 perform several activities and tasks which are related to software testing. [Annex B](#) provides a mapping for such users between the clauses and subclauses of ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 and the clauses and subclauses of this document.

Users of ISO/IEC 17025 perform several activities and tasks which are related to software testing. [Annex C](#) provides a mapping for such users between the clauses and subclauses of ISO/IEC 17025 and the clauses and subclauses of this document.

Users of BS 7925-2 perform several activities and tasks which are related to software component testing. [Annex D](#) provides a mapping for such users between the clauses and subclauses of BS 7925-2 and the clauses and subclauses of this document.

# Software and systems engineering — Software testing —

## Part 2:

## Test processes

### 1 Scope

This document specifies test processes that can be used to govern, manage and implement software testing for any organization, project or testing activity. It comprises generic test process descriptions that define the software testing processes. Supporting informative diagrams describing the processes are also provided.

This document is applicable to testing in all software development lifecycle models.

This document is intended for, but not limited to, testers, test managers, developers and project managers, particularly those responsible for governing, managing and implementing software testing.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207, *Systems and software engineering — Software life cycle processes*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO, IEC and IEEE maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>
- IEEE Standards Dictionary Online: available at <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpls/dictionary.jsp>

**NOTE** For additional terms and definitions in the field of systems and software engineering, see ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765, which is published periodically as a “snapshot” of the SEVOCAB (Systems and software Engineering Vocabulary) database and is publicly accessible at <https://www.computer.org/sevocab>.

#### 3.1

##### **actual results**

set of behaviours or conditions of a *test item* (3.42), or set of conditions of associated data or the *test environment* (3.34), observed as a result of *test execution* (3.38)

**EXAMPLE** Outputs to screen, outputs to hardware, changes to data, reports and communication messages sent.

#### 3.2

##### **completion criteria**

conditions under which the *testing* (3.61) activities are considered complete

### 3.3

#### **dynamic testing**

*testing* (3.61) in which a *test item* (3.42) is evaluated by executing it

### 3.4

#### **expected results**

observable predicted behaviour of the *test item* (3.42) under specified conditions based on its specification or another source

### 3.5

#### **exploratory testing**

type of unscripted experience-based *testing* (3.61) in which the tester spontaneously designs and executes tests based on the tester's existing relevant knowledge, prior exploration of the *test item* (3.42) (including the results of previous tests), and heuristic "rules of thumb" regarding common software behaviours and types of failure

### 3.6

#### **incident**

anomalous or unexpected event, set of events, condition, or situation at any time during the life cycle of a project, product, service, or system

### 3.7

#### **incident report**

documentation of the occurrence, nature, and status of an *incident* (3.6)

Note 1 to entry: Incident reports are also known as anomaly reports, bug reports, defect reports, error reports, issues, problem reports and trouble reports, amongst other terms.

### 3.8

#### **organizational test practices**

documentation that expresses the recommended approaches or methods for the *testing* (3.61) to be performed within an organization, providing detail on how the testing is to be performed

Note 1 to entry: The organizational test practices is aligned with the *organizational test policy* (3.52).

Note 2 to entry: An organization can have more than one organizational test practices document to cover markedly different contexts, such one for mobile apps and one for safety critical systems.

Note 3 to entry: The organizational test practices can incorporate the context of the test policy where no separate test policy is available.

### 3.9

#### **organizational test process**

*test process* (3.55) for developing and managing *organizational test specifications* (3.10)

### 3.10

#### **organizational test specification**

document that provides information about *testing* (3.61) for an organization, i.e. information that is not project-specific

EXAMPLE The most common examples of organizational test specifications are the *organizational test policy* (3.52) and the *organizational test practices* (3.8).

### 3.11

#### **performance testing**

type of *testing* (3.61) conducted to evaluate the degree to which a *test item* (3.42) accomplishes its designated functions within given constraints of time and other resources

### 3.12

#### **product risk**

risk that a product can be defective in some specific aspect of its function, quality, or structure