

SOFTWARE TESTING CAREER PACKAGE

A SOFTWARE
TESTER'S
JOURNEY FROM
GETTING A JOB
TO BECOMING
A TEST
LEADER!



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Software Testing Career Package

A Software Tester's Journey from Getting a Job
to Becoming a Test Leader!

*A Complete Manual Testing Course with Practical Tips on Job
Hunting, Career Planning and Skill Improvement!*

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Introduction

There are a large number of testing books out there, some really good while the others pretty mediocre. But one thing is very common among these books -- most of these books are quite narrow in the topics they cover and the level of detail they present. This eBook **presents software testing as a practical engineering activity**, essential to producing high-quality software.

It doesn't matter if you are an undergraduate or graduate student or a fresher looking for a job in software testing or a professional working as a test engineer or a senior QA lead or a test manager, this eBook is designed to be used as the primary textbook and an all-in-one resource for software test engineers and developers.

This **eBook introduces a novel perspective on software testing** by covering the generic models as well as the coverage criteria essential for all software life-cycle processes.

This eBook strives to strike a perfect balance between **theoretical concepts**, which are covered rigorously as well as **practical contexts** thus allowing the readers to build a solid foundation in key methodologies, techniques, tips and tricks in the field of software testing.

This eBook takes an innovative approach to explaining the process of software testing: it describes various aspects of software testing and the process of applying some of the best and well-defined test criteria for software development. The structure of this eBook incorporates the latest innovations in testing, including techniques to test modern trends of software such as SOA, web applications, banking systems, OO, and embedded software.

This eBook is meant to act like a comprehensive, **step-by-step guide** to the most effective tools, techniques, and methods for software testing. Using numerous case studies of successful industry implementations, this eBook presents everything you need to know to successfully carry out software testing in a small to large infrastructure.

This is a great eBook for learning the **art and the science of software testing**. The clear terminology definitions and comprehensive real-life examples provide an easy way to master various software testing techniques.

After reading this eBook you should be able to get started in software testing, learn great tips on how to be an effective tester who finds critical bugs in the application under test, learn how to deal with the developers during uncomfortable project meetings, master the art of how to become a good test team leader/manager and more.

Chapter 2

Getting Started in Software Testing - Testing Skills Improvement!



What Testing/QA Process Should Be Introduced On a New Project?

Software testing should not be an uncontrolled process. Uncontrolled processes often result in high cost and time with low quality output or even situations where the output cannot be measured. To avoid this, testing should be done in a highly controlled environment and it should be a planned process in every single stage of STLC (Software Testing Life Cycle). At the end of the testing cycle, there should not be any uncertainties regarding any aspects that were tested.

Who is responsible for setting up a testing process?

Generally the test manager set up testing process on a project. But in some companies, which have very small test teams this can be set by the test lead or even by the team members after extensive discussion within team.

The purpose of controlled testing process is – improved quality, testing cost and testing time.

Here are some **QA best practices and methodologies** with set of rules to setup a testing process or a new testing department in an organization:

- Set process to create and maintain test plan and test strategy documents.
- Get testers involved in earlier stages i.e. right from requirement gathering phase. This will help to find the defects in early stage of development, thus bringing down the cost of fixing them in the product life cycle.
- Setup proper communication channel with project management and stakeholders. This will ensure you and stakeholders are on same page in terms of expectations and test output. This will also ensure that testing is in alignment with your organizational priorities.
- If your test starts with a new build then set-up processes and rules to get new build when required. E.g. the rule can be – get new build every day in the morning or weekly on a pre-decided day and time.
- Set-up a process for build deployment. Tasks like who should deploy the build, where the build should be deployed, how to deploy it, what should be done if build deployment fails etc. should be decided in advance.
- Set process for BVT (Build Verification Test). Identify some smoke tests to be executed on every new build. Automate these smoke tests as far as possible and run this BVT on every new build. Build should be rejected if smoke test fails. Test process should define whom to inform and how to inform (by email, by logging a defect etc.) upon BVT failure.
- Set process to write and manage test cases. Type of test cases to be covered, how to write test cases (any specific format to be followed), and test management tool to be used (e.g. HP Quality Center, TestLink, TestRail, Rally etc.)
- Process to use test management tool – how to manage test cases, test cases priorities, test cases keywords, requirements, test case assignments, how to update test cases with results, how to manage failed test cases, how and when to mark test cases as blocked etc.
- Define the defect management process – using defect management tools (like JIRA, Bugzilla etc.), adding new defects (defect summary, steps to reproduce, expected result, actual result, assumptions, notes etc.), assigning defects, setting defect severity and priority, process to update defects (status, assignee etc.) after verification.
- Set process for internal team reporting and format of reporting – who will report to whom, reporting frequency (daily, weekly etc.), what to report (issues, obstacles, daily status etc.)
- Process for test effort estimation – how to estimate, estimate considerations
- Using automation tools – which automation tools to use, how to use those tools, how to write and maintain test scripts, defining manual and automation tests

- Building and using test environment – build test environment that is an exact replica of the production environment. Test environment should be periodically updated from production environment. Set process for updating and maintaining test environment including test infrastructure, test data, DB backups etc.
- Team skill assessment and improvement – QA team skill assessment needs to be performed periodically in order to identify strengths and weaknesses so training can be offered if needed. Conduct QA performance reviews and appraisals.
- Team induction – Process to train new members on board (who will train new members, what topics should be covered, duration, training evaluation etc.). Process to train new team member should be efficient enough to have less training time and mentor's involvement.

It's important to review the test process at regular intervals to identify and work on key improvement areas. You must also define the maturity levels (initial, controlled, efficient, and optimized) of all the key areas so that at any given point you can identify which key areas need further improvement and processes which are in optimization phase.

Testing process is a continuous process to improve tester's efficiency, effectiveness and most importantly quality of the end product.

Best Certifications in Software Testing

It's not mandatory to have any software testing certifications but if your employer prefers having one then you can go for it. However, to increase your understanding of testing methodologies and processes you can take any of the available certifications. Some companies prefer candidates with certifications like ISTQB, CSTE and HP QTP. Getting these certifications can also increase your confidence while working on live projects.

Taking any of the testing certification can help you improve in your career but it depends how you take this certification. Don't just memorize answers for the sake of exam. Take those seriously and work on how you can use those testing practices in your daily activities.

Below are some of the well-known testing certifications you may want to take:

1) HP QTP Certification



QTP certification by HP is meant for QuickTest Professional. This is for the professionals who wish to gain mastery in testing tools by HP called QuickTest Professional (QTP). Since 2012, HP has come up with the HP QTP Certification v11.0 (Exam HPO-M47 – HP QTP 11.0 Software).

How to apply:

HP manages all their certification programs through Pearson VUE org. Listed below are the steps to apply for HPO-M47 (or any other HP) certifications:

- Get you HP learner ID on [this page](#). This is a unique id required for all certifications. You can create your account on above page to get this learner ID.
- Create new Pearson VUE profile at [this page](#) using HP's Learner ID you received in above step.
- Once you create your account you can apply for the QTP certification by making direct payment or purchasing a payment voucher at [this page](#).

2) ISTQB

Bonus Chapter 7

Freelance Testing Opportunities to Earn Extra Money!



Freelance Software Testing Opportunities – Work from Home Jobs for the Testers

With recession still wreaking havoc in many countries and jobs getting tougher, more and more testing professionals are looking for opportunities outside of regular day jobs and freelancing is one such avenue that has gained a lot of traction, of late.

Working as freelance tester always provides you financial support and moreover it also help to keep your technical skills sharp.

How to maximize chances of getting a work from home job?

Here are few tips before you start working for any of the freelancing websites offering work from home job opportunity:

Note: These tips are applicable for freelancing sites like oDesk, Elance, Freelancer etc. only.

- Initially apply for small projects with lowest possible bid. This is necessary for you to get started with at least one positive feedback. You can increase your hourly rate at any time later.
- There are limitations on number of free bids you can place on projects. To utilize this quote effectively make sure to apply for relevant jobs where you are the best fit. Also apply for at least one relevant job per day. This will keep your profile active which will help you get steady work flow. Even considering a 10% success ratio you will have to apply for at least 10 jobs to get your first contract.
- Look for profiles of other testers/QAs working on software testing projects. Study their profiles and see how they present their skills and apply for new projects. Prepare your detailed profile with your expertise, experience and other soft skills.
- Application cover letter should convince how you are the best fit for their requirements and how you can complete this job efficiently. Also do not use same cover letter while applying for multiple jobs.
- Avoid looking desperate for getting a job. Looking desperate shows that you don't have professional experience.
- Take all tests related to software testing skills. Be well prepared for these tests and score in top 10%.
- Communicate constantly with clients. Make sure you understand the project requirements clearly. Also contact them whenever you have queries while working on the project.
- Be willing to provide extra services until the client is 100% satisfied.
- Stick to deadlines. This is important for getting long term quality contract.

Work from Home opportunities for Software testing professionals

Where to find freelance testing opportunities? This is one of the most frequently asked questions to me. Here are some great resources for you to earn some extra money working from home as a software tester:

Note – I've prepared this list from my own experience and partly with the help of our readers who are doing great working from home. This does not mean it will work for everyone. You need to try different opportunity and see what works best for you. To avoid scams, you need to be very careful to make sure that work from job is legitimate before joining or providing any personal information.

Donanza.com

This is a freelancing jobs aggregator site which notifies you for all jobs posted on the Internet for your selected categories or keywords. Follow this site if you want to get notifications for all freelance testing jobs from almost all popular freelancing sites including oDesk, Elance and Freelancer. But this

is just a job aggregator site meaning you will have to visit the original job posting site for the job application.

Tips – Create account and select job category as software testing/QA. This will show you all freelancing jobs from this category on your account dashboard and you will be also notified by email. You don't need to search testing jobs on different freelancing sites once you start using this service.

Check out some latest freelancing jobs for testing [here](#).

Similar freelance testing job aggregator site:

- [WhyDoWork](#)

[uTest.com](#)

This is by far the most popular site for finding software testing opportunities for almost all manual and automation testing skills. Using uTest you will get opportunity to work on top quality products before they are released to the market. Also there is huge learning opportunity for testers. You get chance to view and learn from the bug reports submitted by top rated testers. It's truly amazing experience working with top companies which you won't get by working with one company on a single project as a full time tester.

How does it work?

End of this sample PDF eBook

Enjoyed the preview?

[BUY NOW](#) to read all information-packed 132 pages of this incredible software testing resource!