

Standard Glossary of Terms Used in Software Testing

Version 3.3

Introduction

International Software Testing Qualifications Board



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Introduction to the ISTQB® Glossary

Scope of the ISTQB® Glossary

The ISTQB® Standard Glossary of Terms Used in Software Testing contains the definitions of testing terms used in the different ISTQB® Syllabi. This includes all terms stated as keywords in the ISTQB® Syllabi, as well as other terms of major importance.

The ISTQB® Glossary focuses on terms that have a specific meaning in testing. Some related non-testing terms are also included if they play a major role in testing, such as terms used in software quality assurance and software lifecycle models. However, most terms of other software engineering disciplines are not covered in the glossary document, even if they are used in various ISTQB® syllabi.

Purpose of the ISTQB® Glossary

The ISTQB® Glossary has two main objectives:

- Support the ISTQB® Syllabi by defining the terms used in the various syllabi consistently;
- Support communication within the international testing community and with its stakeholders by providing a standard testing vocabulary.

In compiling this Glossary, the ISTQB® Glossary Working Group has sought the views and comments of a broad spectrum of opinion in industry, commerce and government bodies and organizations, with the aim of producing an international testing standard that would gain wide acceptance. Total agreement will rarely, if ever, be achieved in compiling a document of this nature. Contributions to this glossary have been received from testing communities from all over the world.

Being written in English, the current version of the Glossary is designed to also support other languages. ISTQB® Member Boards are encouraged to incorporate their translations.

Structure of the ISTQB® Glossary

The ISTQB® Glossary is stored in a database. The basic entities are the terms in English. For each term in English, the following attributes are stored and shown where applicable:

- Name;
- Definition;
- Synonyms:
Some terms are preferred to other synonymous ones, in which case, the preferred term appears as an entry, with the synonyms indicated.
- See also:
These entries contain cross-references to related terms. Such cross-references are indicated for relationships such as broader term to a narrower term and overlapping meaning between two terms.
- Reference:
Without the addition of “after”, e.g., ISO 25010, this means that the exact definition of the reference is used. In case of minor changes used to adapt the definition to the context of the ISTQB® Glossary, the addition “after” is used, e.g., Ref: After ISO 25010. The complete list of references used in the ISTQB® Glossary is listed below in the reference chapter.
- Version:
A term may change over time and has a version number as an attribute. Versions are numbered, 1 being the oldest one. Usually, only the latest version is active. In some cases, earlier versions of a term remain active in parallel with the latest version for a limited amount

of time. This is justified if an active Syllabus that has been issued before the latest change of the term is using the term in the version that has been active at that time.

- Used in Syllabus:
This relationship shows which version of the term is used in which Syllabus version, and whether the Syllabus is referencing the term as a keyword.
In addition, the ISTQB® Glossary also contains translations of the English terms to several languages. The translations are maintained under the responsibility of the respective ISTQB® Member Boards.

The ISTQB® Glossary is accessible online via the Glossary App. Some features of the Glossary App are:

- Simple search, showing the terms with their attributes in the latest active version;
- Advanced search, including filters and multilingual displays;

In addition, the web version of the Glossary App can generate various reports in pdf format:

- All terms, with their attributes in the latest active version
- All terms used in a specific Syllabus, with the correct (latest or older) versions;
- Various reports on term changes over time.

Most features are available both for English and for translations.

Acknowledgements

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At the time the current version of the ISTQB® Glossary was completed the Glossary Working Group had the following members (alphabetic order):

Armin Beer (Austria), Armin Born (Switzerland), Mette Bruhn-Pedersen (Denmark), Ernst Rolf von Düring (Norway), Matthias Hamburg (Chair, Germany), Tamás Horváth (Hungary), Leanne Howard (Australia), Ian Howles (United Kingdom), Marek Majernik (Slovakia), Gustavo Marquez Sosa (Spain), Gary Mogyorodi (Vice-Chair, Canada), Meile Posthuma (Netherlands), Adam Roman (Poland), Lucjan Stapp (Poland), Karolina Zmitrowitz (Poland).

It is our concern to recognize the pioneering merits of Erik van Veenendaal who has designed the first version of this Glossary and who conducted the Glossary Working Group during many years, from its beginnings until 2014.

Our special thanks go to Judy McKay for designing and to Nicholas Humphries for implementing the interactive application.

Many more people, who are not mentioned here by name, have contributed to different versions of this Glossary. The editors would like to thank them all for their contributions.

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Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
V1.3	31 May 2007	Maintenance version
V2.0	2 December 2007	Missing terms used in the Foundation Level and Advanced Level syllabi added. Maintenance based on change requests raised by users.
V2.1	1 April 2010	New keywords from the Expert Level syllabus Improving the Testing Process added. Missing terms used in the Advanced Level syllabus added. Some inconsistencies resolved.
V2.2	19 October 2012	New keywords from the Expert Level syllabus Test Management added. Updates to support the new version 2012 of the Advanced Level syllabi. Maintenance based on change requests raised by users.
V2.3	28 March 2014	New keywords from the Foundation Extension Agile Tester syllabus added. Maintenance based on change requests raised by users.
V2.4	4 July 2014	New keywords from the Expert Level Test Automation – Engineer syllabus added. Document reformatted to ISTQB® standard format. Verbiage in 0.x sections clarified and edited.
V3.0	26 March 2015	Migration from paper-based to database storage for the Glossary. Implementation of syllabus-based reporting. Additional words for the ETM syllabus have been added and the keywords for the MBT syllabus have been added. Cleanup has been performed for consistency in hyphenation and formatting as well as spelling corrections.
V3.01	27 May 2015	Technical revision: Re-alignment with syllabus usage.
V3.1	18 March 2016	Additional terms supporting the new Advanced Security syllabus added. The definition of the term ‘fault attack’ has been generalized to include non-functional faults, e.g. security vulnerabilities, as well.
V3.2	04 June 2018	Major revision of all terms used in the new CTFL 2018 Syllabus, including alignments to the current international standards and change requests received from users and from training providers.
V3.3	11 Nov. 2019	Major update supporting the new Syllabus versions: CTFL 2018 v3.1, CTAL-TA, CTAL-TTA and CTAL-ATT. Many updates in the references