



BEST PRACTICE Reporting Test Results

Reporting test results should be a continuous process. Whenever significant problems are encountered they should be reported to the decision-makers who can determine the appropriate action. Testing reports should also be prepared at pre-defined checkpoints and at the end of testing.

In preparing test reports testers should answer these questions:

- What information do the stakeholders need?
- How can testers present that information in an easy-to-understand format?
- How can I present the information so that it is believable?
- What can I tell the stakeholder that would help in determining what action to take?

The following aspects of test reporting are covered in this section:

- Current status test report
- Final test reports

The test reports indicating the current status of reporting, or interim test reports are needed for project management. Those responsible for making project decisions need to know the status from the tester's perspective throughout the project. These interim reports can occur in any phase of the life cycle, at pre-defined checkpoints, or when important information needs to be conveyed to developers.

The final test reports are prepared at the conclusion of each level of testing. The ones occurring at the end of unit and integration testing are normally informal and have the primary purpose of indicating that there are no remaining defects at the end of those test levels. The test reports at the conclusion of system testing and acceptance testing are primarily for the customer or user to make decisions regarding whether or not to place the software in operation. If it is placed in operation with known defects the user can develop strategies to address potential weaknesses.

References

Guide – CSTE Common Body Of Knowledge, V6.1