

TEST STRATEGY CHECKLIST

Some of these things you want to include in your test strategy, or at least think about.

Content	Explanation	Questions
the obvious	what you know is important, and needs to be covered in the strategy	Would your strategy capture things that absolutely can't go wrong?
		Is the obvious obvious to everyone?
testing mission	the reasons testing is being performed	Are the testing missions anchored in management, and in testers?
		Aren't there more reasons to test?
stakeholders	persons affected by the product and the testing	What are the names of the stakeholders?
		How would conflicting interests be handled?
test methods	clarifications about how the testing will be done	What do the methods mean to you?
		Can you justify your choices?
		Have you considered other options, more variations?
oracles	mechanisms to recognize a problem or not	Have you googled "FEW HICCUPPS"?
		Which oracles are strongest?
information sources	inputs to testing	Do you also include people as information sources?
		Should you investigate some of them before settling on a test strategy?
models	simplifications that visualize what will be tested, at the same time as it limits our thinking	Can you see the whole picture? Can you analyze details?
		Which invisible, mental models will be used?
quality characteristics	relevant keywords and quality objectives for this specific project	Can you be a bit more specific for your unique situation?
		Have you considered testability improvements the developers can help with?
risks	product risks or test project risks not covered elsewhere	Are all these really relevant to testing?
		What is the boss afraid of?
testers	who should perform different parts of the strategy	Do you need help from others, how do you cooperate?
		Which parts are best performed by humans or machines?
test phases/levels	named test activities with different purposes	Should you rather do this sooner or later?
motivations	why we do what we do	Are your arguments good enough?
test ideas	important examples of things to test	Do you need to have these in the strategy?
		Is there something you must not forget?
test tools	means to facilitate testing	Have you named names?
		Are you mentioning tools you need?
how testers think	guidelines for the test effort	Will the strategy make testers better?
		Are you aware of individuals' thinking diversity?
omitted	what will not be tested	Do stakeholders agree on what to skip?
		Are you unaware of holes in your test strategy?
difficulties	the biggest challenges for the test project	Are you completely honest?
		Do you start testing what is most difficult?
priorities	what we will spend most and least time on	Are these important decisions thought through, be several persons?
logistics	test plan stuff like time plan, competence, test environment etc.	Have you focused too much on this, taking time from strategizing?
explanations	terminology and more that readers need to understand	Is it clear without patronizing the reader?
		Is the strategy good PR for testing?
reporting	information to communicate, and how	Who will be using the information, for what?
		Is some kind of knowledge transfer necessary?
<i>Rikard Edgren</i> v1.1 march-2015 This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivative License		Are your assumptions correct?
		Will it be too expensive?
		Is the strategy diverse enough?
		Can we change as we learn more?