

Standard Glossary of Terms Used in Software Testing

Introduction

Version 3.5

International Software Testing Qualifications Board



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Edited by:

ISTQB® Glossary Working Group, Matthias Hamburg (Chair), Armin Born (Vice-Chair), 2020.

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 various ISTQB® Syllabi. This includes all terms stated as keywords in the ISTQB® Syllabi as well as other terms of major importance to testing.

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 development lifecycle models. Many terms within other software engineering disciplines are not covered in the Glossary, 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 within the syllabi in a consistent manner;
- Support communication within the international software testing community and with its stakeholders by providing a standard software 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 Glossary. Contributions to this Glossary have been received from software testing communities from all over the world.

The current version of the Glossary is written in English but it is designed to 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, 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 a Glossary entry, with the synonyms indicated.
- See also:
These entries contain cross-references to related terms. Such cross-references are indicated for relationships such as a broader term to a narrower term, or an overlapping meaning between two terms.
- Reference:
When the exact definition of a term from another standard is referenced, the name of the standard, e.g., Ref: ISO 25010, is used. In case minor changes are made to adapt the definition to the context of the ISTQB® Glossary, the addition of “after” is used, e.g., Ref: After ISO 25010. The references used in the ISTQB® Glossary are listed below in the Reference Section.
- 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 a Syllabus has been issued before the latest change of a term is made and is using the term in a sense that was 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 contains translations of the English terms to several languages. The translations are maintained by the respective ISTQB® Member Boards.

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 in English and for translations.

The ISTQB® Glossary is also 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;
- Flash cards for memorizing terms and their definitions

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 (Vice-Chair, Switzerland), Renzo Cerquozzi (Switzerland), Jean-Luc Cossi (West Africa), Ernst Rolf von Düring (Norway), George Fialkovitz (Brazil), Wilson Gumba (Kenya), Matthias Hamburg (Chair, Germany), Tamás Horváth (Hungary), Leanne Howard (Australia), Ian Howles (United Kingdom), Johan Klintin (Sweden), Gustavo Marquez Sosa (Spain), Gary Mogyorodi (Canada), Ana Paiva (Portugal), Meile Posthuma (Netherlands). Adam Roman (Poland), Lucjan Stapp (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 Glossary App.

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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ISTQB® Syllabus Acronyms

CTFL	Certified Tester Foundation Level
CTAL-TA	Certified Tester Advanced Level Test Analyst
CTAL-TM	Certified Tester Advanced Level Test Manager
CTAL-TTA	Certified Tester Advanced Level Technical Test Analyst
CTEL-ITP	Certified Tester Expert Level Improving the Testing Process
CTEL-TM	Certified Tester Expert Level Test Management
CTFL-AT	Certified Tester Foundation Level Agile Tester
CTAL-ATT	Certified Tester Advanced Level Agile Technical Tester
CTFL-Act	Certified Tester Foundation Level Acceptance Testing
CTFL-AuT	Certified Tester Foundation Level Automotive Software Tester
CTFL-GT	Certified Tester Foundation Level Gambling Industry Tester
CTFL-MAT	Certified Tester Foundation Level Mobile Application Testing
CTFL-MBT	Certified Tester Foundation Level Model-Based Tester
CTFL-PT	Certified Tester Foundation Level Performance Testing
CTAL-SEC	Certified Tester Advanced Level Security Tester
CTAL-TAE	Certified Tester Advanced Level Test Automation Engineer

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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
V3.4	14-May-2020	Major maintenance update focusing on improvements for terms that are not used as keywords in current ISTQB Syllabi.
V3.5	10-Oct-2020	Minor maintenance update containing alignments with the IREB Glossary and removing some non-testing terms.