

Test Analyst Skills

Job 1:

In this section you can see what the role of a test analyst includes. Reading the job description and typical role of a test analyst below will give you a better understanding of whether you would like to pursue a career in this branch of IT and what skills you may require to do so.

The Test Analyst job description:

- Makes certain that products are at the expected and required standard that a business is trying to achieve.
- Ensures that products will perform at a high standard by testing products for durability as well as computer “bugs.”
- Tests products to make sure they perform all the functions that they are meant to.
- Tests all applications and ensures all issues are accurately logged, tracked and resolved.
- Builds and maintains regression test suites for both manual and automated testing for all the applications supported.
- Provides first line support for all of the client intelligence applications, resolves user issues and where necessary escalates them to the development teams, tracks all of the issues and makes sure that where there are repeat problems the issues are correctly logged to make the necessary enhancements.

Skills a Test Analyst may have are:

- ISO (main standard used by testing and calibration laboratories) 9001 and ISO 15504.
- Documentation of testing approach/strategy for new developments.
- Documentation of test scripts/test cases and test data.
- Execution of test scripts.
- Experience of using Oracle SQL, PL/SQL, MS Project, Clearquest and Remedy.

Job 2:

Software Testing

To be responsible for software testing, including the maintenance and expansion of the Rational Functional Tester automated test suite.

To be responsible for carrying out functional and user acceptance testing to ensure that high quality standards are achieved at all times for all software releases.

To be responsible for ensuring that user acceptance testing is carried out in line with the development programme, that agreed criteria and process checkpoints (gates) are completed, that feedback is provided early in the development cycle to support efficient project delivery, and that relevant release documentation is attached before release to the customer to ensure that quality standards are maintained.

To assist with the preparation of test plans and test scripts and demonstrate the scenario condition, recording software defects and provide thorough technical descriptions and evidence, and to provide feedback and regular updates to the team and Release Manager to ensure that high quality and accuracy is maintained throughout the software test life cycles, including interfacing to our Indian Test teams for non-urgent testing projects, including regression testing, fault fix and full release test projects,

To be responsible for planning, writing and executing test cases, working with team members to troubleshoot any problems with systems in production and ensuring that all relevant personnel are kept informed of progress.

• To create high quality handover and test case document for our Indian test teams to run required test routines.

To ensure the delivery of high quality releases on time, the UAT and approval of releases and patches, following the testing and release calendar and release plans and tracking project and release risks and issues.

To provide assistance to the Release Manager in planning and co-ordinating testing activities, with UK and Indian test teams, to ensure successful deployment of all releases and patches to the live customer environment.

To identify test requirements and best approach based on user requirements to ensure that customer needs are met.

To produce effective documentation of software issues and enhancement requests so that accurate test records are maintained and tasks can be easily assigned to team members ensuring effective utilisation of development resources.

To engage with projects in early phases to ensure alignment with the overall release calendar, providing information to the QA / Release Manager on release schedules and plans, building relationships with host providers / partners or third parties if required.

To identify and define opportunities for improvement, measurements for those improvements and the implementation and roll out process to ensure that overall quality standards and customer expectations are met or exceeded.

Customer Service

To provide professional and effective services to internal and / or external customers, to meet customer expectations, particularly in terms of Quality and Timeliness in line with departmental standards, procedures and guidelines.

To communicate courteously with internal and / or external customers by telephone, email and face to face, building positive relationships, investigating, responding to and progressing issues and queries to a successful conclusion at the earliest time.

To speak positively and enthusiastically about the company and its products and services to ensure that a professional company and brand image is provided at all times to customers and colleagues.

Teamwork

To work as part of a team to achieve the departmental standards.

To work together with other departments and divisions within the organisation to identify any process improvements and improve standards, efficiency and profitability.

Knowledge

To ensure that a good level of understanding and knowledge of organisations products and services, which is improved and maintained at all times, ensuring that customer queries can be dealt with accurately and appropriately and supported by the department.

To take responsibility for own personal development in line with agreed annual performance objectives.

To be willing to list to and support colleagues and team members with professional problems, devoting time to impart expertise, infusing confidence and expressing positive expectations regarding the team's and company's performance.

Essential Skills

Proven experience of functional and / or user acceptance testing with strong base test skills and experience of working through a number of full lifecycle projects.

Familiarity with defect investigation and isolation and the importance of reliable means of defect reproduction.

Basic skill development in .net or java (eg forms, control flow, parameter passing, basic exception handling, etc) The purpose of this knowledge is to enable the candidate to use and expand the automated test scripts which are driven using basic Visual Basic.net

Able to explain differences in test types and when each type is applicable.

Familiarity with key testing axioms.

Good comprehension of or enthusiasm for gaining automated testing process knowledge and is able to evidence this.

Regular use of a defect management system such as Test Director, Mantis etc.

Able to demonstrate awareness of the importance of test process collateral (scripts and other deliverables) and the requirement for testing to feedback information to management.

Able to demonstrate a strong grasp of the test lifecycle within the development lifecycle.

Able to demonstrate technical ability – eg Principal Windows desktop family administration skills such as basic familiarity with services, task manager, basic networking etc.

Competencies Required

Strong commitment to quality and a thorough approach to responsibilities.

Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Good attention to detail with a focus on quality and continuous improvement.

Excellent time management and planning and organisational skills.

Excellent interpersonal skills and customer service orientation.

Good problem solving skills and the tenacity to stay with an issue until it is resolved.

Excellent team-working skills.

Self-motivated, proactive, enthusiastic and committed to a testing career track.

Desirable skills

Core SQL server administration skills eg backup / restore, troubleshooting user / application connections.

Defect management – able to evidence knowledge of best practice approaches to managing the defect lifecycle.

Experience managing a DMS advantageous eg Test Director, Mantis etc.

Familiarity with SDLC variants and the role in each for testing.

Experience in beta programme management and experience of customer contact.

Awareness of relational DB structure, SQL useful occasionally.

Job 3: DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Analyze, document, and submit issues discovered during testing. Verify and close issues resolved during the release cycle.
- Analyze product specifications, software requirements specifications, and software prototypes, and interact with software developers to plan and develop test cases.
- Create and update test cases when appropriate to reflect changes in product functionality or requirements.
- Actively participate in planning, estimation, and prioritization processes to ensure successful execution of testing activities.
- Partner and build effective relationships with others throughout the quality, software development , and product development organizations.
- Develop, execute, and support automated tests.
- Keep abreast of current methodologies, technologies, and tools, and proactively seek ways to incorporate them into testing efforts.
- Effectively contribute and implement new ideas to improve the software testing process.

Qualifications

REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Develop and maintain custom Java or C# applications to drive testing.
- Do unit testing must have experience in JUnit or NUnit
- Develop and execute test cases/suites for enterprise applications developed using various technologies including distributed Internet technologies (.NET, Java/J2EE, web services, etc.).
- Basic knowledge of databases concepts and working knowledge of Oracle
- Analyze, document, and submit issues discovered during testing. Verify and close issues resolved during the release cycle.
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- Keep abreast of current methodologies, technologies, and tools, and proactively seek ways to incorporate them into testing efforts.
- Effectively contribute and implement new ideas to improve the software testing process.
- Strong technical aptitude, organization, analysis, and problem solving skills.
- Ability to work on multiple projects with multiple priorities and ability to thrive in a fast-paced, complex, global, and dynamic environment.
- Ability to work proactively and collaboratively as part of a team on a large project.
- Ability to pay attention to details and to follow through on commitments.
- Interest in keeping abreast of current trends in software development and testing, especially as they relate to the technologies being used.
- Working knowledge of the software development life-cycle.
- Effective written and oral communication skills as well as strong interpersonal skills. • Effectively contribute on white box testing using Junit
- Exposure to Agile methodologies- Experience in Manual testing (System/Regression).
- Experience in API Testing
- Experience in Perl/Shell Scripting
- Experience in Coding Java, Fitnesse and Junit.
- Experience in Test Plan preparation, estimation and status reporting
- Should have worked on Onsite-offshore model.
- Strong working knowledge on Database testing.
- Experience on automation tools such as Selenium and Test Partner.