
Foreword

In the foreword to the German first edition of *Software Testing Foundations*, we asked if more books on software testing were needed. Since both the first and second German editions quickly sold out, we consider the answer to our question to be a resounding “Yes!”. The German second edition was translated to English and this English edition also sold out surprisingly fast.

There has only been one internationally recognized syllabus published since 2005 for the ISTQB® Certified Tester, Foundation Level, and the two existing compatible syllabi by the Information Systems Examinations Board (ISEB) [URL: ISEB] and the German Testing Board (GTB) have been combined and updated.

The current syllabus

This second English edition of *Software Testing Foundations* conforms to the International Software Testing Qualifications Board Foundation Level Syllabus (ISTQB) [URL: ISTQB], which was published in July 2005. The book includes additions to the syllabus with respect to the two earlier versions.

Found in the syllabus, and therefore also in this second English edition, is some new content (such as the test first approach and risk-based testing), and you will find that the formulation of learning objectives is the basis for a new learning dimension. Explicit learning objectives help the reader to remain oriented. These learning objectives also clarify the knowledge and the depth of knowledge that is expected from an ISTQB Certified Tester, Foundation Level. This means, for example, that at the lowest level of the learning objectives the glossary definitions of all marked key terms of the syllabus are relevant for the examination.

*What is new in the new
ISTQB Syllabus?*

“The terms are no longer defined in the new ISTQB Foundation Level Syllabus, but can be found in the ISTQB Glossary of Testing Terms [URL: ISTQB] and its national equivalents. The new ISTQB Foundation Level Syllabus, on the other hand, provides a detailed explanation of Best Practices of Software Testing, not relying on outside sources such as national standards. Analogous to the Advanced Level, the content relevant for the

examination (i.e., test management) has now been structured in the same way for the Foundation Level. Thus, the Foundation Level creates the basis for the additional knowledge required for the Advanced Level” (Horst Pohlmann, German Testing Board, Working Party Foundation Level).

Certification

The education and certification for the Certified Tester have been very well received worldwide. At the end of 2006, there are already more than 40,000 certified testers (i.e., those who passed the exams organized worldwide by several national testing boards) [URL: ISTQB]. Approximately Eighty percent of the examined people passed the exam and received the certificate. The official exam questions are currently being updated so they match the new ISTQB Syllabus. New examinations are now run only based on the most current syllabus. Several companies have been accredited to hold training seminars for the Certified Tester examination. Thus, qualified training is available in Europe, the USA, and India.

ISTQB members

Currently, the following countries have national testing boards in the ISTQB: Australia/New Zealand, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chinese, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Netherlands/Belgium, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, and the Ukraine. There are also testing boards for Latin America and South East Europe.

In response to the international interest in software testing and Certified Tester education, we also published a Dutch edition of *Software Testing Foundations* in 2004. Translations into Polish and Romanian are currently under way. At the 2nd level, there are currently two schemes and two syllabi: ASQF/iSQI Advanced Level (developed by the German Testing Board) and ISEB Practitioner Level (developed by the UK Board). Both are recognized by ISTQB as professional qualifications for testers, as they have gained a respect in the testing community over many years. ISTQB intends to have these two 2nd level schemes integrated into a single unified 2nd level “ISTQB Advanced Level” qualification, which should supersede both existing schemes. Seminars for advanced topics (i.e., test management, test methods) are already being offered and these seminars are well attended. We are currently busy writing the literature to match this syllabus. The German book “Praxiswissen Softwaretest – Testmanagement” was recently published and covers parts of the syllabus for these topics. In spring 2007 there will also be an English edition of the book »Software Testing Practice – Test Management«. Books about »Test Methods« and the topics for the yet to be defined Expert Level shall follow.

The next qualification level

Use at universities and colleges

We are pleased to note that this book has been adopted at universities and colleges, and lectures with attached examinations are being offered at

the technical universities of Munich and Darmstadt, the University of Dortmund, the universities of applied science in Cologne and Bremen, as well as the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, and the University of Graz, Austria. Students of these classes were able to take the exam for the Certified Tester, Foundation Level.

We want to thank our readers for their helpful comments, which have contributed to corrections and clarifications in the first and second German editions of this book. We would like to extend a further thank you to our colleagues in the GTB and ISTQB, without whose great work there would be no Certified Tester scheme. We especially want to thank Horst Pohlmann for his excellent contributions when composing the syllabi, examination questions, and the Certified Tester glossary.

Thank you notes

We want to cordially thank Martin Pol for his translation of the book to Dutch. Rex Black has also given us many valuable comments, as well as his foreword for the first English edition.

Andreas Spillner, Tilo Linz and Hans Schaefer
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