Preface

For a long time now, Logica has had its own individual vision regarding testing, which clearly distinguishes between test policy, test management, test preparation and test execution. The book ‘TestGrip: Gaining Control of IT Quality and Processes through Test Policy and Test Organisation’ (Marselis et al, 2007) focuses on test policy, while the book ‘Successful Test Management: An Integral Approach’ (Van de Burgt, 2004) addresses test management. This book covers the preparation and execution of tests, based on the open method for structured testing that Logica has developed: TestFrame®.

TestFrame is organised, logical, standardised and measurable. Nevertheless, the method is very flexible and can be applied in combination with numerous development methods, for example, the waterfall method and iterative and agile development. The testware that it produces is reusable and maintainable. The method is suitable for both manual testing and automated testing with the latest testing tools. Furthermore, TestFrame allows the test manager to control costs and manage time more effectively.

This testing method has been described in the book ‘Integrated Test Design and Automation Using the TestFrame Method (Buwalda, 2002), the first publication in Dutch of which was released in 1999. Developments progress rapidly, particularly in the fields of testing and IT, so the method has been adjusted based on practical experiences and current developments, particularly technological developments. This has also established a base for future developments.

We wrote this book for anyone who has an interest in a practical approach towards manual and automated testing of information systems, as well as for anyone who seeks to benefit from Logica’s broad experience in the field of testing, particularly:

- test analysts,
- test coordinators,
- working foremen.

Chapter 1 begins the book with a general introduction to testing. This is followed in Chapter 2 by an introduction to the TestFrame method and its position within the test management process. These two introductory chapters are particularly suitable for test coordinators and working foremen that wish to acquire a good oversight of
what testing is all about and, more specifically, what the testing method TestFrame
is all about.

Chapters 3, 4 and 5 are aimed at test analysts. These chapters give an explanation
of the matters that must be addressed during the test analysis phase, specifically the
arrangement of test clusters, test conditions and test cases.

If the test analyst has established the test products, test execution can take place.
This is the subject of Chapter 6. This test execution can be done manually or auto-
matically. Chapter 7 gives a short introduction to test automation. The final chapter
concerns test data, testware management and testing areas. Chapters 6, 7 and 8 are
written with the test analyst in mind, but can serve just as well as a reference book
for test coordinators and working foremen.

General comments

Before reading this book, you should read the following general comments:

• In this book we use various terms to describe the test item. For example, we use
the terms ‘system’, ‘application’ or ‘software’ to describe the system under test.
In a number of cases, we intentionally use the term ‘information system’, as an
information system is more than just an application; it can comprise of multiple
applications, as well as their interfaces and related procedures.

• ‘Successful Test Management: An Integral Approach’ (Van de Burgt, 2004)
describes the process of issue management. However, the ISTQB standards
define this process as incident management (ISTQB, 2007). Since we conform
to these standards, we use the term incident instead of issue.

• We use the term ‘tester’ to refer to a person who acts as a ‘test analyst’, ‘test
executor’, ‘test manager’ or ‘test coordinator’. In appendix A you can find a de-
scription of the tasks, responsibilities and authorities that are applicable to these
positions. Of course, the case may be that your organisation delegates different
roles to one particular position.

• Female readers need not feel overlooked when reading the book, despite the
fact that we use the word ‘he’ throughout the book. Every time the word ‘he’ is
mentioned, the word ‘she’ is equally applicable.

Naturally, we have not written this book alone. In order to compile as many
practical experiences as possible, you require input from many people who are ac-
tive in the field of test analysis. To make an initial inventory of the alterations and
additions that the existing version of the book required, we held a brainstorming
session, which provided us with a fantastic amount of subject matter. We compiled
this subject matter and recorded it in a rough outline, which was then sent to be
reviewed by all participants of the brainstorming session. After approval, and, of
course, after any necessary changes were made, the actual writing could commence.

We would like to thank the following people for their input and feedback.
In alphabetical order: Albert Badoux, Maarten Bek, Michel Caviet, Yüksel Dal,
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If we have neglected to mention anybody, we are truly regretful and would like to offer an immediate and humble apology to that person.

We have also received helpful and useful contributions from a number of clients. Thanks to Bart van der Zee (Achmea) and Henk van Merode (KLM).

There are also several people that have given us particularly vital support during the compilation of this book. In particular, Remco de Jong helped us out of a tight spot when we started to battle against the clock. Rik Marselis read the entire manuscript from cover to cover at the end of the writing process and was instrumental helping us cross the t’s and dot the i’s. Anneke Duijts also deserves an honorary mention. She helped us on our way at the beginning of the writing process, kept us on our toes with ‘tricky’ questions, and continually kept us going towards the end. Thanks for editing this book, Anneke! Last, but not least, our project managers Martijn Visscher and Marcel Bakx. As project manager, Martijn continually brought us to heel and ensured that we fulfilled the agreements with the publishers. You ruled with a somewhat iron fist, but without your inspirational leadership, this book would not exist. Halfway through the writing process, Marcel took up the baton. He also helped ensure that the book eventually made it to the publisher.

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Happy reading!

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