

Test Case Specifications

A test plan is neither not related to the details of testing units nor it specifies the test cases to be used for testing units. Thus, test case specification is done in order to test each unit separately.

Depending on the testing method specified in a test plan, the features of the unit to be tested are determined. The overall approach stated in the test plan is refined into two parts: specific test methods and the evaluation criteria. Based on these test methods and the criteria, the test cases to test the unit are specified.

For each unit being tested, these test case specifications describe the test cases, required inputs for test cases, test conditions, and the expected outputs from the test cases. Generally, it is required to specify the test cases before using them for testing. This is because the effectiveness of testing depends to a great extent on the nature of test cases.

Test case specifications are written in the form of a document. This is because the quality of test cases is evaluated by performing a test case review, which requires a formal document. The review of test case document ensures that test cases satisfy the chosen criteria and conform to the policy specified in the test plan. Another benefit of specifying test cases in a formal document is that it helps testers to select an effective set of test cases.