



# Create a risk map

**Not all parts of an application are as well tested as others. Part of a testers job is to determine which parts of an application should be thoroughly tested because they pose a high risk, and which parts can be tested less intensively. Participants of this activity will create a risk map of an application to determine testing priorities. In doing so they will consider different angles of approach.**

## Activity in one sentence

Create a risk map of an application to determine testing priorities.

## Goal

To identify high risk areas of an application which are more important to test thoroughly than low-risk areas.

## Target group

Team members who would like to improve on identifying high-risk areas which are a priority to testing.

## Necessities and perquisites

- 2 to 6 participants, preferably team members
- A room with a projector, blackboard or equivalent, enough tables to accommodate participants
- Big, white sheets of paper
- Colored pens and pencils
- Camera to record the session, if desired

## Steps

1. Instruct the participants to sit or stand around one table
2. Place a big, white sheet of paper on the table
3. Instruct the participants to discuss different angles of approach. These can be the quality characteristics of an application, stakeholders of an application etc.. Examples are: user, product owner, developer, time, money, technical, functional, integration, portability, performance, flexibility
4. Instruct the participants to choose a few angles of approach to work with
5. Instruct the participants to identify areas of the application which pose a risk form a chosen angle of approach
6. Instruct the participants to draw these risks areas creating a map
7. Instruct the participants to indicate the level of risk using the pencils



8. Instruct the participants to identify and add relations between area's to the map
9. Instruct the participants to further add details to the map
10. Instruct the participants to repeat step 5-9 for another angle of approach

## Outcomes

Participants discussed the areas of risk of an application and thereby identified which areas require thorough testing.

## Notes

- The discussion taking place during this activity is more important than the map itself. However, the map is a strong visual tool which enables discussion and development of a common language. As an instructor, you are advised to guide the discussion by asking questions

## Variations

- Determine which angles of approach to use beforehand
- Instruct participants to divide themselves into teams of two, and have each team analyze from an angle of approach
- This activity can be expanded by a session of exploratory testing on the identified risk areas
- Draw parallels to priorities in development based on risks