Verify all stations

An application has different states. I can be turned off in the beginning, show a login screen after turning on the application and show yet another screen after clicking a button. Turning the application off makes it return to its original state. We can compare these states to train stations that can be travelled to. In this activity participants will answer two questions: 'How can we check whether all stations between the start and end point exist?' and 'How can we check whether all routes between stations can be travelled between the start and end point?'. In order to solve these questions a tester would apply test design techniques to define efficient logical and physical test cases.

Activity in one sentence

Define logical and physical test cases to verify the existence of stations and verify all routes between stations by applying test design techniques.

Goal

To experience the application of different test design techniques to define test cases.

Target group

Team members who have limited experience defining and performing test cases and would like to improve on this.

Necessities and perquisites

- 2 to 6 participants, preferably team members
- A room with a projector, blackboard or equivalent, enough tables to accommodate participants
- A map of train stations visualized as a collection of states of an application on a poster, blackboard, screen etc.
- Camera to record the session, if desired

Steps

1. Instruct the participants to sit or stand around one table
2. Place the map of stations on a table, blackboard, screen etc.
3. If needed, explain the analogy between stations and states on the map to the participants

4. Pose the first question: 'How can we check whether all stations between the start and end point exist?'
5. Instruct the participants to discuss their strategies and encourage them to questions each other's strategy
6. Instruct the participants to draw the desired train routes on the map or visualize them otherwise
7. Repeat step 4 to 6 for the second question: 'How can we check whether all routes between states/stations can be travelled between the start and end point?'
8. Apply the test design techniques to a real-life example

Outcomes

Participants discussed different methods to verify the existence of train stations between the start and end point. They have applied test design techniques to construct logical and physical test cases.

Notes

- As an instructor, you are advised to guide the discussion by only offering additional explanations if needed and asking questions. You are not advised to provide solutions all too soon as the discussion is an important aspect of this activity

Variations

- Instead of train stations, use metro stops, bus stops, airports etc.

Example map

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