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Introduction to portability testing: Portability testing is a non-functional test methodology that determines how easily or difficult as a software component or application can be moved from one environment to another. The test results from Portability Testing help determine how easily a software component from one environment can be used in another environment. The term environment refers to moving from one operating system to another operating system, a browser to another browser or from a database version to another database version. An important rule of thumb for portability testing is that it should be used only if the software component is to be moved from one environment to another environment. A measure of portability is the effort required to move the software component from one environment to another environment. One unit of portability measurement is the cost of adopting a software to the new environment in relation to the cost of rebuilding the software. This tutorial gives you a complete overview of the meaning, goals, attributes, checklist, advantages and disadvantages of portability testing along with some practical examples easy for your simple understanding. The difference between portability and compatibility testThe following will briefly distinguish the differences between portability and compatibility.> Compatibility deals with whether two or more components can be run in the same environment at the same time without adversely affecting each other's behavior. For example, a word processor and a calculator running on the same operating system, such as Windows 10, can be said to be compatible with each other, as running one application will not affect the behavior of the other application.> Portability deals with moving the component from one environment to another. Example: A game running on Windows XP is said to be portable if the same game can run on Windows 7 without any change in the behavior of the game.> In short, portability testing deals with software components across multiple environments, while compatibility testing deals with testing of two different applications in the same environment. Target The following are the goals of this testing:Determine whether a system can be ported to each of its environment properties, such as processor speed, disk space, and RAM, screen resolution, OS and browser versions. Find out if the look and feel of the application in terms of user interface and functional features is similar to multiple OS and multiple browsers. This testing helps determine whether the

system can be ready for release, especially when there is an awareness that customers of the product will use multiple operating systems with multiple browser versions. This testing is typically performed against a predefined set of portability requirements, which helps determine the missing errors as part of the device and integration testing of the application. Missing found in this This testing is usually carried out in an incremental manner throughout the software development lifecycle. The AttributesSoftware testing board has defined certain major attributes of this testing. They are: InstallabilityAdaptabilityReplaceabilityCompatibility or Coexistence #1) Installability:Installability is performed on a software that must be installed in a target environment. The following properties are validated as part of installation testing:Operating system requirements for installation. Browser requirements for an application use. Memory or RAM requirements. Installation procedure. Uninstallation procedure. Installation interruption exceptions. Prerequisites for software installation.#2) Adaptability:Adaptability testing is the process of validating if the system is adaptable to each of the target environments. The use of common communication standards between multiple systems can help improve the system's adaptability as a whole. Customization testing includes the following characteristics: Hardware dependency. Software addiction. Standard language.Communication of system with each of the target environments. Addiction encapsulation. Dependency representation across multiple systems.#3) Replaceability: Replaceability is the ability to replace one software component with the other. The component that replaces the previous component must provide the same results as the previous component on all target environments. Ideally, it should serve the same purpose as the component being replaced. Competitive products of the same domain will be the ideal candidates for interchangeability as the product being replaced can be much cheaper than the existing product by a competitor.#4) Compatibility or coexistence: Compatibility is the ability of two or more components to the existing one in the same environment without adversely affecting the behavior of each other. This testing is especially useful in large systems that include multiple subsystems as part of it. Ideally, the subsystems share a common stack area and memory. As a result, an exception may occur on one subsystem can easily transfer to the second subsystem causing the entire application to crash. Changing the existing component, upgrading to a new component, adapting a new interface to the existing component are all the problems that software systems face as time passes. Components that do not meet compatibility test requirements have a profound effect on the entire system, and thus each component must be thoroughly tested for the effect on the common resources. Get others on the list:Apart from these main attributes, portability testing can also contain several other attributes, such as interoperability testing and localization testing. (i) Interoperability: Interoperability testing helps determine whether two or more components can interact with each other without communication problem. For Data transfer via Bluetooth between a Windows 10 PC and an Android-based smartphone can be recorded for Interoperability testing. (ii) Localization: Location testing is done to ensure whether the developed software can be understood in the local language in which it is used. This type of testing is also known as Internalization testing. For example, the software must be tested in various international languages such as Chinese, Italian, Russian etc. Checklist for portability Testing Checklist contains the requirements to be tested as part of portability Test.Before continuing to prepare a checklist, it is important to make sure that all the individual components of the system are thoroughly tested and integrated with each other to form one large system. All the goals of Portability testing should be remembered that the checklist should be efficient and effective. This testing must meet all portability requirements. Testing of the application on multiple operating systems must be performed. Testing of the application on multiple browser versions must be performed. This testing can be automated for continuous regression testing. This testing must be done in an incremental and iterative manner throughout the life cycle of software development. Benefits and ConsPortability Testing have their own advantages as well as demerits like all other tests. Let's take a look at them. Benefits:It helps in identifying the dependencies between multiple components. This testing is especially useful in large systems, which have multiple subsystems that interact with each other. This testing is preferred when customers of a product use multiple operating systems with multiple browser versions. Errors that are missed during device and integration testing can be detected using this testing. Installation and uninstalling software can also be tested as part of this testing. The response and performance of an application can be tested across multiple browsers and multiple operating systems. The appearance and feel of the application on multiple browsers and multiple operating systems can be validated using this testing. This testing helps determine whether the functionality of the application is as expected on multiple operating systems and multiple browsers. It also helps to eliminate the propagation of bugs between several systems. Cons:This testing is usually not preferred when there is a time limit on the software test cycle. This testing requires a lot of budget from your organization, as it requires multiple configurations for testing, such as multiple operating systems and multiple browsers. All installation hardware configurations must be available for portability testing to be performed. This means that an organization must pay to provide support for maintenance of the installation hardware configurations. Portability Testing is a repetitive process that means testers may lose focus during testing. Automation of portability testing is a tedious task and requires skill and testers to be implemented. Running portability tests in a multi-user environment can be very difficult. It also requires a lot of data workload for testing to succeed. Storage space for host environments can be costly for an organization. Examples of portability testingGivened below are few classic examples: Software designed to run on both Windows 7 and Macintosh operating systems. Applications designed to run on Apple iOS and google Android devices. Software designed to be compatible with Microsoft Edge browser and Google Chrome browser. Video games designed to run on Windows 10 and Apple Macintosh operating systems. Software designed to run on Windows 7 MySQL server and Macintosh Oracle database. Installation of software on Windows 10 and Windows XP operating systems. Uninstalling software on Macintosh and Linux operating systems. ConclusionPortability Testing is usually preferred when there is a requirement for the software component to be moved from one environment to another environment. This testing helps to uncover the errors that are not identified as part of device testing and testing of system integration. A major drawback of portability testing is the amount of budget to be allocated to this testing since it requires the use of multiple hardware configurations. Maintaining and supporting these hardware configurations can be a very tedious and time-consuming task. Therefore, portability testing is generally preferred when the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Hope you would have clearly understood the concept of Portability Testing through this excellent tutorial! Tutorial!

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