

There are lots of templates for test plans on the Net. Here is one of them:

<http://members.tripod.com/~bazman/testplancontents.html>

Bazman's page is well-visited and many people think highly of it, so it is a fair target for our review.

Your task:

Work through the template and give me a list of 50 (that's right, fifty, all of them different) comments on it.

A *comment* identifies some aspect of the template that you consider a strength or a weakness *and explains why you consider it a strength or a weakness*.

- Something is a *strength* if it will benefit the user of the template
- Something is a *weakness* if it will in some way hurt the user of the template, for example if providing this information will cost more than it is worth.

You may identify any aspect of the template other than its formatting. In particular, you may make a separate comment on each type of information that the template suggests you provide.

For some types of information, you might decide that it is a strength under some circumstances and a weakness under others. This is good. Say so in your comment and explain the differences among the circumstances that lead one way or the other.

Along with commenting on specific pieces of information, you could comment on:

- general or specific expectations or assumptions reflected in the template, or on
- practical issues / benefits associated with the use of a larger section or on
- the document as a whole.

My intention is to give you a lot of flexibility.

Teamwork

I suggest that you work on this in a team of up to 4 people. You can do it alone (submit 50 comments) or as a pair (submit 50 comments) or as a triple or quad (still just 50 comments).

Here are some rules for working as a team:

- Every member of the team **MUST** contribute some comments that are used in the final document
- Every member of the team **MUST** review every comment and give feedback to the person who wrote the comment.
- It is entirely OK (a good thing, actually) for members to disagree and to extend a comment by having one person say X is good because and the other person saying X is bad because. This doesn't increase the number of comments, but it increases the quality of that comment, and probably enhances your understanding of the issues.

Some people are very interested in this evaluation. If it was published, most of the 500 subscribers to the software-testing mailing list would probably read it, as would many others (perhaps hundreds) from qaforums.com and the software-quality mailing list--along with many people who are following this course on the Internet. I would like to be able to post some of this material on my website, under a Creative Commons "Attribution and Share-Alike" license. I might create one document that compiles the best comments from

everyone (everyone who agrees) or publish separate answers. In either case, I would list you (if you agree to let me post the work) on the document, as one of the authors. You are not required to agree to allow this and your decision will not affect the grade you receive in any way.

IF YOU AGREE, then in the assignment text itself, you must say that you agree that I can publish it on my website under a Creative Commons "Attribution and Share-Alike" license and you must list your names under that agreement.

Additional, Optional Bonus Points Assignment

If you submit a good bonus assignment, I will send a copy of it to Bazman. In the assignment text itself, you must say that you agree that I can publish it on my website under a Creative Commons "Attribution and Share-Alike" license and you must list your names under that agreement.

Up to 3 people can work on this together. Each person can earn a maximum of 5 bonus points.

I will accept submissions of this project from two groups. Please announce yourselves in class, so that we don't have a 3rd group doing the work for no credit.

Part 1 -- 1 point, for each person of the group working on this bonus assignment (up to 3 points total).

Download the test plan template, copy or import it into MS Word and create an attractively formatted version.

This assignment is good enough if Bazman thanks me when I send it to him and agrees to post it on his website, or if I decide that it is worth posting. It is not good enough (zero points) if it does not satisfy this criterion.

Part 2 -- 5 points (spread across the group however you tell me to spread them)

Compare the wording of the template to IEEE Standard 829.

- Make a printout of this template and a photocopy of standard 829.
- Use a highlighter to show every place where this template is
 - Identical to some part of 829 (mark the template and 829 in the same color, perhaps yellow)
 - Very similar to 829 (mark the template and 829 in some other color, perhaps blue or green)

The purpose of this part is to help me understand whether I would be infringing on IEEE's copyright if I posted a copy of the template on the web. Bazman gives permission for this, but I need to satisfy myself that there is no potential problem with IEEE.

This is either clearly enough done and carefully enough done that I can trust the work and draw a trustworthy conclusion about the similarity of the documents (full points) or it is not (zero points).

Part 3 -- 7 points spread across the group however you tell me to spread them.

Would it be fair to describe Bazman's template as a template that implements IEEE standard 829 or is it something different?

Contrast the requirements of IEEE 829 with those of this template.

- What does 829 request or suggest that this template does not?
- What does this template suggest or request that 829 does not?
- Is there a difference in structure or organization of this template from a template that would closely follow 829?

For each contrast, tell me which you prefer, 829 or this one, and why.