



**When** *Good Enough*  
**is** *Not an Option*

**Why Test Management**  
**Is Critical**  
**For Small Companies & Startups**

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## What is Test Management?

Test management provides an integrated repository of an organization's test assets and processes. It becomes the basis for managing the entire testing operation. A typical test management implementation encompasses:

- Developing and maintaining test requirements, test plans and test cases.
- Platform for collaboration and resource planning.
- Platform for data analysis, presentation and sharing.

## What happens if we Don't have Test Management?

In most small operations, test management resides in spreadsheets – not suited for tracking test cases, analyzing data or reporting results. Potential issues include:

### Lack of Reusability

- Testers maintain their own spreadsheets - leading to inconsistent formats. These tests are difficult to share & reuse.

### Inefficiency

- Test Leads or Project Managers spend significant portion of their time summarizing test results and developing status updates.
- Test case versioning becomes impossible to track.
- No integrated view of automated and manual test efforts. Results have to be viewed separately or merged manually – a time consuming process.
- No automatic reporting - for day-to-day operations or critical notifications.

### Lack of Visibility

- Spreadsheets are good at recording pass/fail results, but limited in tracking details, e.g. how many times a test was run before it passed.
- No easy way to track dependency between one test and another.
- No easy way of determine the workload on each test resource.
- Difficult to track performance of offshore teams.

### Decision Making During Crunch Times

- Lack of real-time reports requires guesswork for many critical decisions e.g. ship/no-ship decisions.
- No integrated view that maps requirements to test cases to defects.

### Strategic View (The Big Picture)

- No easy way to track the efficiency and performance of various test teams.
- No automatic way to track quality improvement over time or releases.

## Why Test Management Is Critical For Small Companies & Startups

# Key Elements of a Good Test Management Implementation

A contemporary test management system is like an *ERP System* for the software testing effort. It encompasses the managing of all testing assets and processes. Specifically, a good test management system will include:

## Work Flow Capabilities

- Infrastructure to design, develop and run tests.
- Resource planning.
- Collaboration - automated reporting/notification.
- Consolidated status from all resources including automated testing.

## Database

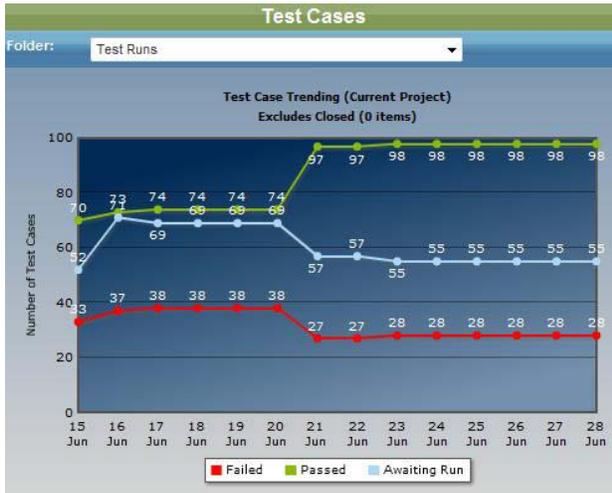
- Repository for
  - Test requirements.
  - Test plans and suites.
  - Test cases and variations.
  - Maintain multiple test suites – by customer, release, patch release, etc.
  - Defects.

## Analysis and Reporting

- Flexible reporting engine that provides real-time status in a variety of areas.
- Facilitate day-to-day decision making
  - Is there adequate test coverage to ensure desired quality?
  - Defect Status.
  - Time and efforts each area takes to test.
  - Resource allocation and constraints.
  - Real-time testing status. Will my software ship on time?
  - Auto alerts/email on nightly builds/integration test results.
  - What's causing the delays - a specific group, a specific module, a specific resource, inadequate planning etc.
- Provide long-term results.
  - Bug trends from release to release.
  - Overall defect rate and quality metrics on a daily /quarterly/yearly basis.
  - Highlight and focus on high defect rate software areas.
  - Long-term resource planning

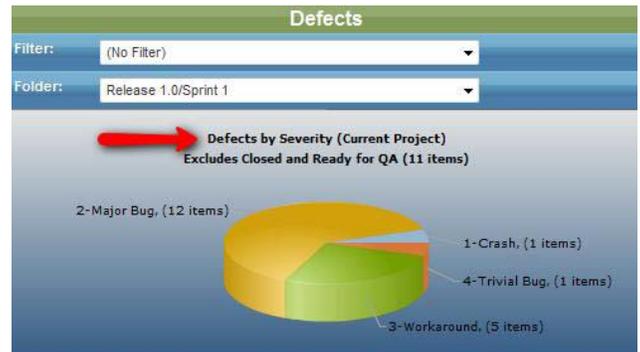
# So What can Test Management Provide for Me?

Let us examine some critical information that test management can provide.



- Real-time status for
- Test cases passed
  - Test cases failed
  - Test cases awaiting

Real-time bug status



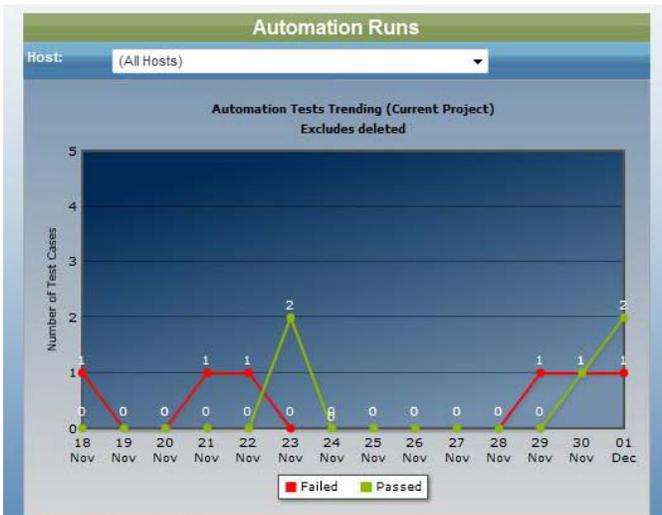
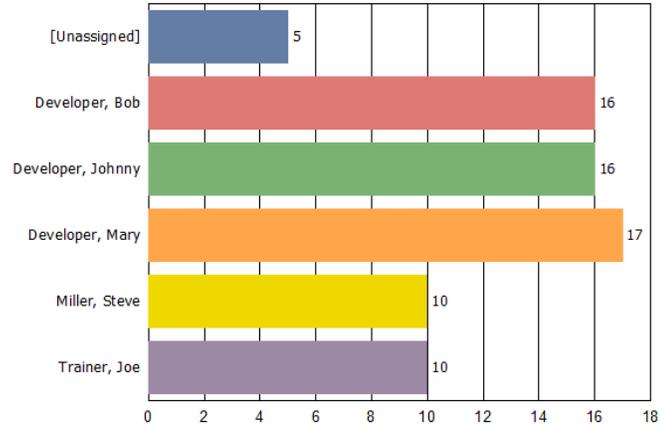
Real-time status for the current sprint



## Why Test Management Is Critical For Small Companies & Startups

Resource allocation

**Defects by Assignee**



Integrated view of automated test results

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## Summary / FAQs

Let's summarize the key value proposition for test management for small companies.

### **Will it Make my Software Quality Better?**

In a nutshell – yes.

- It will allow you to focus on problem areas and resources constraints.
- It will provide real-time information for day-to-day operations and critical decisions such as go/no go.
- It will provide intelligence for long-term planning and quality improvement.

### **Will it Shorten my Time-to-Market?**

Yes. For example, when time is short, you can focus on critical and important tests. It will also improve your collaboration with offshore and virtual teams.

### **Will it slow down my short / agile release cycle?**

Not really. Most test management tools today are quickly customizable. Also, most solutions come as hosted software for quick implementation.

### **Do I have to Buy Expensive Tools?**

Not anymore. There are now many robust & powerful tools that don't cost a bundle. BayTech testing services include the use of test management tools at no extra charge.

### **Will it take Long to Train my People?**

You can get started in a matter of hours and be fully trained in a matter of days. BayTech Services include the use of a test management system – there is no training required on your part.

### **Will it Cost a Lot to Migrate to this Process?**

Not really. If required, BayTech can provide cost effective services for this migration.

### **The Bottom Line**

A test management system will provide you with real-time access to all testing information to help make better decisions and improve your software quality.



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