
**Information technology — Software
and systems engineering — Tools and
methods for product line testing**

*Technologies de l'information — Ingénierie des systèmes et du logiciel
— Outils et méthodes pour tester une gamme de produits*



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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and systems engineering*.

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Introduction

The main purpose of this document is to deal with the capabilities of methods and tools of software and systems product line (SSPL) testing. This document defines how methods and tools can support the software and systems product line-specific testing processes.

Product line engineering sets up a common product line platform including identified key variability and develops individual systems on top of the platform. Variability realizes flexibility among member products, and it is closely related to the purpose of the product line reuse. In addition to the verification and validation of commonalities, domain testing generates reusable test artefacts, so as to minimize test efforts in application testing. However, variability continues throughout the product line life cycle, and its resolution phase is diverse. Thus, the complexity of product line testing becomes high. Testing in product line engineering differs from testing in the single system development in the following aspects:

- there are two testing life cycles, domain testing and application testing;
- test cases generated during domain testing can be incomplete due to unresolved variability;
- integration and system testing should be executed in the absence of non-functioning components because even complete test cases can interact with components or subsystems that include unresolved variability;
- application testing should be performed by reusing domain test assets and avoid retesting what has been tested during domain testing;
- test cases including variability are executable at different stages because the binding times of variabilities differ; and
- regression testing is performed in both domain testing and application testing. In application testing, when variability bindings are conducted, regression testing is performed as necessary.

This document addresses the product line-specific testing processes with the guidance of a set of tools' and methods' capabilities for supporting testing in software and systems product lines.

This document is intended to benefit the groups of people that acquire, supply, develop, operate and maintain tools and methods of testing for software and systems product lines. This document can be used in one or more of the following modes:

- by an organization intended to implement product lines – to understand, adopt and enact the processes, tools and methods of testing for product line. This also helps the organization evaluate and select relevant tools and methods based on business and user-related criteria;
- by a tool vendor who facilitate or leverage product line engineering practices – to provide a set of tool capabilities that should be embodied in a tool for supporting testing of a product line.

The ISO/IEC 26550 family of standards addresses both engineering and management processes and capabilities of methods and tools in terms of the key characteristics of product line development. This document provides processes and capabilities of methods and tools for product line testing. Other standards in the ISO/IEC 26550 family are as follows:

ISO/IEC 26550, ISO/IEC 26551, ISO/IEC 26555, ISO/IEC 26557, ISO/IEC 26558 and ISO/IEC 26559 are published. ISO/IEC 26552, ISO/IEC 26553, ISO/IEC 26556, ISO/IEC 26560, ISO/IEC 26561, ISO/IEC 26562 and ISO/IEC 26563 are planned International Standards. The following list provides an overview of the series:

- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for domain requirements engineering and application requirements engineering are provided in ISO/IEC 26551;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for domain design and application design are provided in ISO/IEC 26552;