

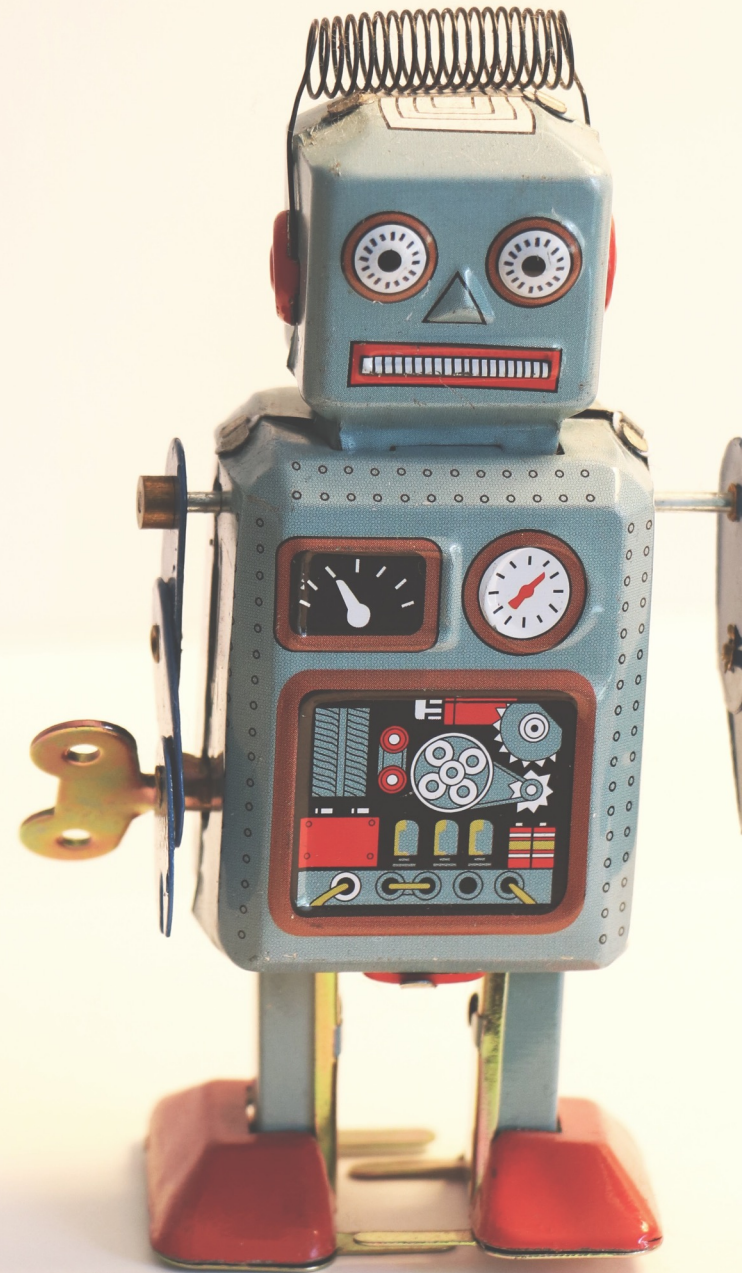
Is test automation suitable for you right now?

Test automation evaluation guide

VALA

Testautomation?

Test automation is not suitable for all situations; it's not always cost efficient or even necessary. On the other hand, it can achieve significant cost savings. Check the questions in this guide and find out whether test automation would suit your situation!





Checklist



Is testing time consuming?



Are you ready to invest?



Is something already automated?



Is the amount of testing increasing in the future?



Are your test cases easily repeatable?



Do you have the needed experts?



Do you have a new development project starting?



Is your project long term / continuous?



Do you have challenges with test monitoring and/or measurability?



Have you set clear goals for the quality of your software?



Is your development rather small-scale?



Is your testing time consuming?

Manual regression testing is time consuming. Automation is the backbone of testing. It is a predictable, easily repeatable and dependable workhorse, which releases time from manual testing to more complex cases that can't be automated. The increased speed of running tests also helps with keeping up with the deadlines.

Test automation eases the pressure from manual testing. However, it's important to note that it doesn't eliminate the need for exploratory testing performed by humans!





Are you ready to invest?

Implementing test automation is always an investment. The initial costs can appear larger than the possible benefits in the short term – the tool itself can cost, the implementation takes time, and the users of the tool might need training. Also, automating existing test cases or planning them from the beginning, takes time. Not to forget also the maintenance costs of automation.

On the flip side of the coin is the time saved in the future. The more there is to test and the more frequent or comprehensive the testing is, the more automation saves time compared to manual testing. Saved time can mean saved money or more time to do other things.

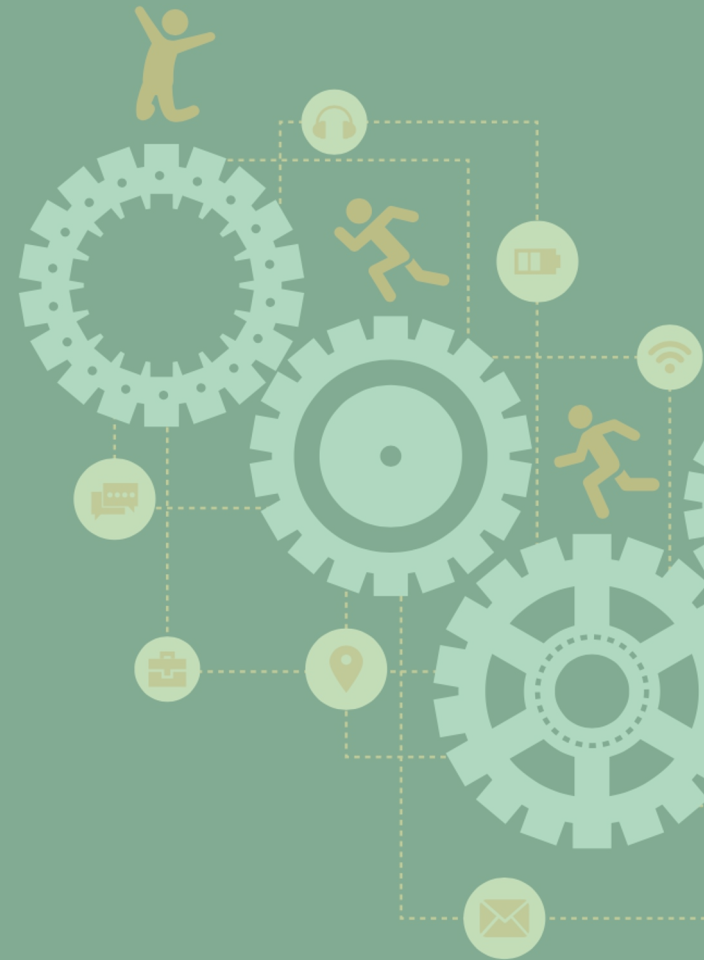
Testing itself never produces profits. Its gains are measured in the quality and reliability of the software.





Is something already automated?

If your development environment already includes partly automated solutions like CI or CD, agile methodologies or DevOps, then test automation should be on the menu too. Existing automation solutions are easily expendable to match current quality assurance needs. For example, an automated release system needs automated integration tests beside it so that the developers can get immediate feedback.

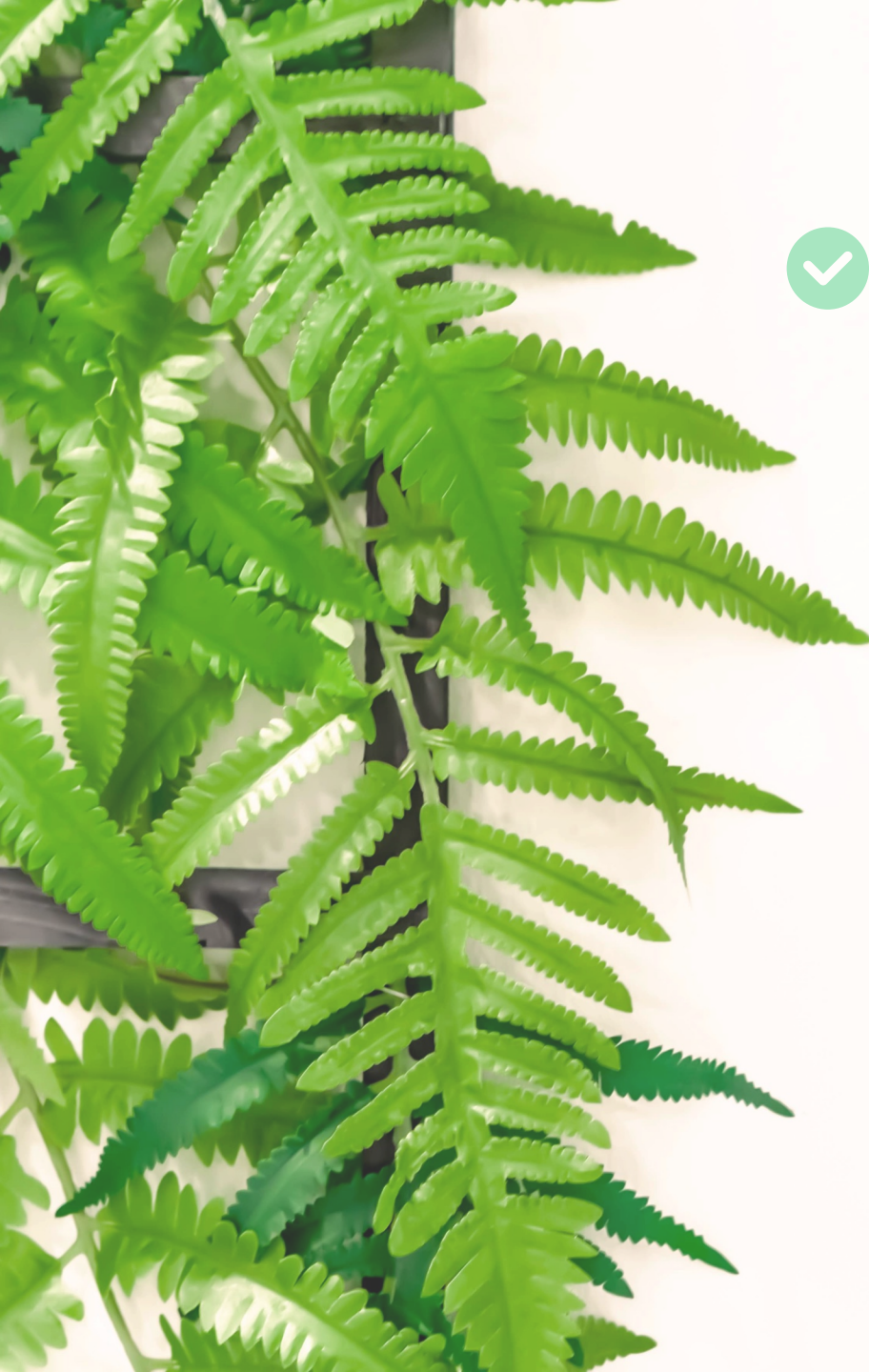




Is the amount of testing increasing in the future?

Can you see the amount of testing increasing in the future? Are the expectations towards quality increasing? If yes, automation can help.

Manual regression testing takes more and more time and resources when test cases increase over time. Test automation can reduce the run time of regression cycles from weeks to days or from days to hours.



Are your test cases easily repeatable?

Test automation is worth considering if manual test cases are easily repeatable and executed frequently. All "mechanic" manual work only takes time off from doing something smarter.

If the existing test cases are well documented, the transition to automated cases is usually rather easy. On the other hand, if test cases are described only at a very high level and cases rely on tester's on domain knowledge, it might require some test case documentation work in order to have them ready for automation. In this case, coincidence plays a too big role when too much trust is put on testers working in an exact similar fashion and thinking about the outcome from a similar perspective.



Do you have the needed experts?

You need experts to build and manage your automation. Worth noting however is that you can very well find the required knowledge from your own experts. Even though you initially feel that you don't have the experts, ask around and do your research.

For example, you might well have developers who would like to do something different for a change. Moreover, there are tools that don't require extensive training and can be used without programming skills.



Do you have a new development project starting?

A first thought might be that automation would slow down a beginning project. However, you definitely should at least consider implementing it right from the beginning. When time passes, you will feel good about the decision as more and more time is saved and developers and testers feel better about their work.

It's not impossible to implement automation later on but it requires careful planning and commitment to change from all team members. You should also keep your expectations at reasonable levels since only after some test cycles can you witness improved efficiency.



Is your project long term / continuous?

Short term projects might not need automation. When you have several production cycles and continuous development, automation makes sense. Development and feedback loops get faster and your product becomes more reliable.

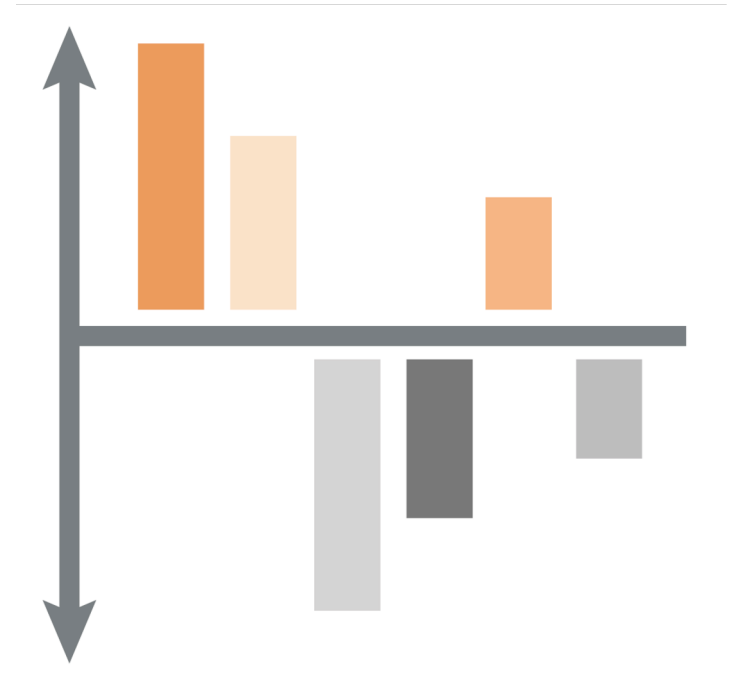




Do you have challenges with test monitoring and/or measurability?

One of the strong points of test automation is the enhanced predictability. You will know precisely when testing will be ready. This eases the reporting practices with the customer and enables better timing of the work of different development teams.

Continuous regression testing provides a clear image of the current situation, and a vision of where the development is heading. This enables faster reacting when errors appear. At the same time, measuring test coverage becomes more visible and possible needs to change testing focus can be detected earlier.





Have you set clear goals for the quality of your software?

Have you recognized and documented goals for the quality of your software? Functional and non-functional. Do you have a set of clear use cases of what your product has to achieve and how end users will use it. If not, do these first. Then prioritize what cases are the most crucial based on your goals and think what can be automated and what not.



Is your development rather small-scale?

If your development is rather small scale, or your development environment is highly dynamic, test automation might not be needed. Or at least it won't be needed on a large scale.

However, a changing and dynamic environment too is based on a plan. And it too can have potential spots for automation, just not in all phases. In addition, in the case of a small-scale project, test automation can be used in automating a few really important test cases that are the backbone of the application.



Thanks!

Contact us if you want to know more about test automation.



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