

A Survey of Unit Testing Practices

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What Does It Mean In Practice?

1. What do people refer to as unit testing?
2. What are the strengths regarding unit testing in industry?
3. Which are the problems regarding unit testing?



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Participants:

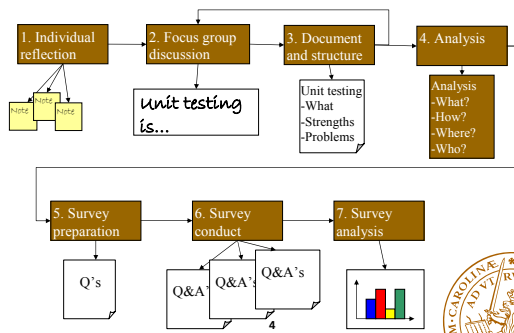
SPIN-syd of Southern Sweden

- 19 companies
 - Telecom
 - Automation
 - Case tools
 - Information systems
 - Banking
 - Health care
 - Consulting
 - Transportation
- 17 participants in focus group
- 15 in questionnaire



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Survey Procedures



Key Findings on Unit Testing

- **What?**
 - Technical!
 - Specified or not?
- **How?**
 - Structure-based
 - Not formally
- **Who?**
 - Developer (team)
 - Not test or QA
- **When?**
 - Each build/day/week
 - Takes seconds to hours to run
- **Why?**
 - Assuring functionality



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Further Use of the Survey

- Clarify unit test definition in your company
- Lightweight assessment of unit testing practices
 - Benchmark
 - Improve



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Read more...

... in IEEE Software July/August 2006

... or come to EuroSTAR 06 in Manchester

The image shows the cover of an IEEE Software journal article. At the top left, the word "focus" is written in a large, light blue font, with "software testing" in a smaller, dark blue font below it. A dotted line extends from the end of "software testing" across the page. Below this, the title "A Survey of Unit Testing Practices" is written in a bold, dark blue font. Underneath the title, the author's name "Per Beremark, Lund University" is printed in a smaller font. On the right side of the cover, there is a circular seal of Lund University, featuring a figure and the Latin motto "SIGILLUM UNIVERSITATIS LUNDENSIS". On the left side, there is a small text box that reads "Companies participated in a survey to define unit testing and". The main text of the article begins with a large blue letter "U" followed by "nit testing is testing of individual units or groups of related units." The rest of the text is partially obscured by the image's resolution.