

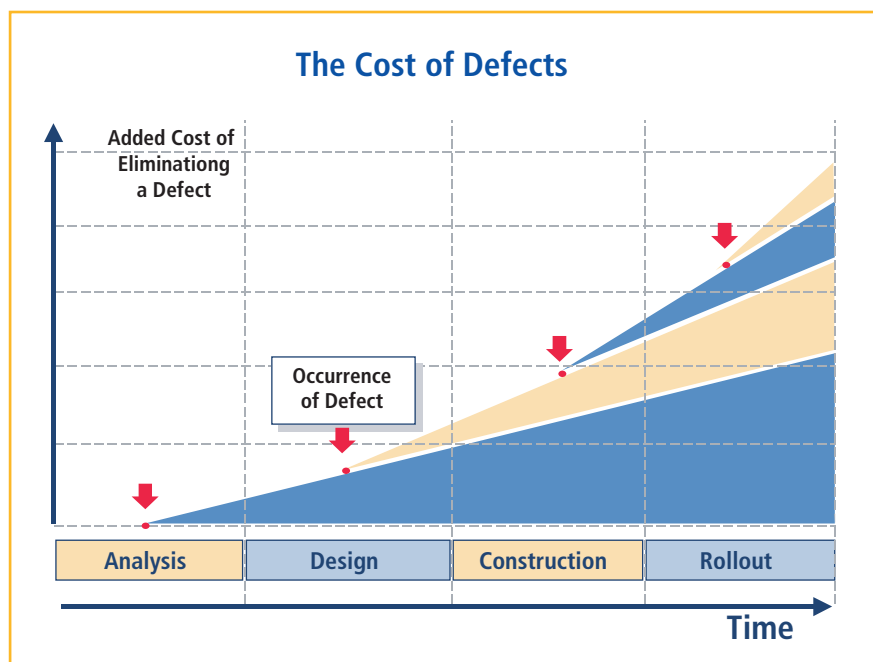
The Gartner Group estimates that through 2000, driven by the complexities of multi-layer architectures and component/plug-in technology, Internet-based applications have the potential to deliver 2 to 5 times as many defects on average, compared to traditional, two-tier client/server applications. This is a forewarning that development is getting more complex and thus, more error-prone.

At Information Balance, our approach to quality assurance and testing incorporates effective [risk-based management](#) and [quality assurance](#) processes. These processes are key to successfully delivering software projects in the 21st century. Whatever development approach is used, one prevailing requirement is to develop skills that allow software to be rapidly and economically constructed and tested. The only way this is possible is to consider software assembly from adapting or extending pre-written components rather than the development of the program from scratch.

Information Balance Inc. continues to work with many of its clients in areas of development and testing efforts. Our experience proves that the use of pre-written components aids testing activities, since there is less new code to test and therefore fewer locations in which bugs can occur.

How can a project's success be guaranteed? What practices and efforts can be gathered to create quality software that is more reliable, has fewer faults, contains fewer errors, and is less costly to maintain? The answer to these questions is to [follow software testing principals and practices](#). Information Balance's testing process, IB-TestSphere™ promotes an approach that focuses on tracing requirements throughout the life cycle, beginning at the requirements stage. This approach ensures that business and technical requirements are front and centre in the testing of the software system.

As shown in the chart below, the relative cost to fix a defect escalates as we move toward production release. It costs 10 times as much to remove a defect in the Construction stage than in the Requirements stage. It costs 40-100+ times as much to remove the defect once it is in production.



IB-TestSphere™ is a unique template-driven, comprehensive approach to resolving an organization's testing challenges. IB-TestSphere™ uses templates and samples that are proven to speed the completion of the testing task. A template is a pre-written boilerplate that outlines the typical content (tables of contents, suggested topics) for a particular testing deliverable, while a sample is a completed testing deliverable that is used as an example or reference for developers and testers. While a template does not contain specific project details, a sample does. It is sometimes easier for a developer or tester to visualize the testing deliverable's contents from a completed sample product.

IB-TestSphere™ provides *over 100 templates* covering each stage of the development cycle in detail. All of the templates, samples, checklists and deliverables can be viewed and managed using the web-based IB Test Portal tool. The tool provides a single location for accessing and managing testing and QA components, and included are links to third party test tools and web testing resources. IB-TestSphere™ was developed using the best practices available in order to provide a progressive approach to testing and quality assurance, and referenced and utilized the Software Engineering Institute's Capability Maturity Model (SEI CMM) and the Quality Assurance Institute's Capability Maturity (QAICM).

Some of the other unique features of IB-TestSphere™ are:

- 1 **Quality Focused:** we are committed to the goal of defect prevention throughout the development life cycle.
- 2 **Sensitive to all needs:** IB-TestSphere™ is characterized by its sensitivity to the needs of developers, test / QA groups and management. These groups must be able to collaborate in order to achieve a successful testing practice.
- 3 **Tool Independent:** IB-TestSphere™ works with any testing tools; it is not dependent on any one tool or tool-set.
- 4 **Non-Intrusive:** Our approach works with your existing development methodologies; it augments your existing development practices.
- 5 **Multiple Platforms and Project Types:** This process supports all key platforms and project types commonly in use in software development today. We are also committed to remaining current with the latest trends in software development and the corresponding testing requirements.

The key results from IB-TestSphere™

- 1 Reduced costs
- 2 Reduced delivery time; fewer late projects
- 3 Reduced risk
- 4 Increased customer satisfaction due to fewer post-release problems.

The IB-TestSphere™ Offering

IB-TestSphere™ is offered a stand alone product containing the templates, checklists and samples, and works very well within an organization with a dedicated QA, QC or testing group. Our "KickStart" program provides the base product and assistance from an IB Consultant (7 - 13 Days) to get the implementation off to a good start. Our "RollOut" program is the most complete package. This option includes the base product, and more extensive consulting (13 - 27 Days) to assist with an assessment of existing QA/Testing practice, development of an implementation plan, installation and customization of IB-TestSphere™ , training, and the implementation of a pilot project.

The objective of Information Balance's testing process (IB-TestSphere™) is to improve QA and testing practices, and to retain a repeatable process that can be used over the long term. IB-TestSphere™ includes a systematic process, plus proven templates and checklists that allow deliverables to be created more quickly with less re-inventing for each project.

The goal is to do the exact amount of testing to lower the business risk to an acceptable level.



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