Press Release — ISTQB® Certified Tester Usability Testing

ISTQB® Releases Updated Usability Testing Certification with New Coverage of Agile, Tools, and AI

ISTQB® has released an updated Certified Tester Usability Testing (CT-UT) certification, version 2.0, providing testers with a focused approach to evaluating how effectively, efficiently, and satisfactorily users can interact with software. The new syllabus updates the existing Usability Testing certification while adding significant new coverage of usability testing in Agile development and the tools that can support usability testing activities, together with consideration of the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in usability testing.

The updated CT-UT v2.0 reflects how usability testing is increasingly performed within iterative and Agile development environments, where usability activities and feedback need to be incorporated throughout development rather than treated primarily as a separate evaluation activity. New coverage addresses the role of tools in supporting usability testing and considers how AI can assist usability testing activities, together with the limitations and risks that testers need to recognize when using AI-assisted approaches. These additions are complemented by refinements to the existing syllabus content on usability concepts, requirements, reviews, testing methods, planning, execution, analysis, and reporting.

The update also creates a clearer distinction between usability testing and digital accessibility testing. Accessibility content previously included within the Usability Testing syllabus has been moved to the new stand-alone ISTQB® Certified Tester Digital Accessibility Testing (CT-DAT) v1.0 certification. This enables CT-UT v2.0 to maintain a stronger focus on usability while CT-DAT v1.0 provides the substantially broader treatment that digital accessibility now warrants. Together, the two certifications recognize the complementary—but distinct—roles of usability and accessibility in delivering high-quality software experiences.

The updated CT-UT v2.0 combines established usability testing practices with new coverage reflecting today's Agile development environments, evolving testing toolsets, and the growing use of AI, while the introduction of CT-DAT v1.0 gives digital accessibility the dedicated focus its increasing importance requires.

CT-UT — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Why has the ISTQB® Usability Testing certification been updated?

The updated Certified Tester Usability Testing (CT-UT) v2.0 syllabus modernizes the certification to better reflect current software development and testing practices. The most significant additions address usability testing in Agile development and tools that support usability testing. The syllabus also considers the growing use of AI in usability testing, while refining and updating the established usability testing content.

What are the most significant changes in the new CT-UT syllabus?

Three areas are particularly noteworthy:

Agile: The syllabus provides greater attention to incorporating usability testing into iterative and Agile development, allowing usability feedback to contribute throughout development.

Tools: New content addresses tools that can support usability testing activities and how they contribute to an overall usability testing approach.

Artificial intelligence: The syllabus recognizes the increasing use of AI to support usability-related activities while addressing the limitations and risks associated with AI-assisted approaches.

Other existing usability topics have also been updated and refined.

What happened to the accessibility content previously included in CT-UT?

It has not been eliminated. Instead, it has been expanded into its own stand-alone ISTQB® certification: Certified Tester Digital Accessibility Testing (CT-DAT) v1.0. The previous CT-UT syllabus introduced accessibility alongside usability. The importance and scope of digital accessibility now justify substantially greater treatment than could reasonably be provided as one part of a usability testing certification.

Does removing accessibility make CT-UT narrower?

It makes CT-UT v2.0 more focused. Moving accessibility to CT-DAT v1.0 allows the updated UT syllabus to concentrate on usability concepts, requirements, reviews, testing approaches, planning, execution, analysis, and reporting while adding important new material on Agile, tools, and AI. At the same time, CT-DAT v1.0 can address accessibility at the depth the subject now requires.

How are usability testing and digital accessibility testing different?

Usability testing examines how effectively, efficiently, and satisfactorily users can accomplish their goals when interacting with software. Digital accessibility testing focuses on identifying and evaluating barriers that can prevent people with disabilities from accessing or using software. The disciplines overlap and complement one another.

Why has Agile been added to CT-UT?

Usability evaluation increasingly takes place within iterative development rather than only as a separate activity performed against a completed product. The updated syllabus recognizes the need to integrate usability activities and feedback into Agile development so that usability can be considered and improved throughout development.

Why has more content about tools been added?

Tools increasingly support the collection, observation, analysis, and evaluation activities associated with usability testing. Testers therefore need to understand not simply that such tools exist, but where they can contribute and where human judgment and direct evaluation remain necessary.

How does AI fit into usability testing?

AI can assist certain usability testing activities and may help testers work with information, observations, or analysis more efficiently. However, AI-generated results require appropriate human judgment and validation. The updated syllabus therefore treats AI as an emerging capability that can support, rather than replace, sound usability testing practices.

Is CT-DAT intended to replace CT-UT?

No. They address different but complementary competencies. CT-UT v2.0 focuses on usability while CT-DAT v1.0 focuses on digital accessibility. Depending on their role and responsibilities, testers and organizations may benefit from knowledge in one or both areas.

Why release the updated CT-UT and the new CT-DAT together?

The two releases provide a clearer structure for these related areas of software quality. Accessibility can now receive the dedicated treatment its growing importance warrants, while usability testing can evolve independently with stronger coverage of Agile practices, tools, and AI. Together, CT-UT v2.0 and CT-DAT v1.0 provide more focused learning paths for professionals responsible for creating software that people can both access and use effectively.