

# Should you automate that test?

Test automation is imperative for the fast-paced agile projects of today. Testers need to continuously plan, design, and execute automated tests to ensure the quality of the software. But the most important task is to decide what to automate.

The next time you're trying to decide whether it's worth automating a particular test or suite of tests, ask yourself these 9 questions first. Treat them as "rules of thumb" for deciding which tests you should or should not automate.



## Is it a high-priority feature?

**If so, you may consider automating.**

Designing, maintaining, and running effective automated tests takes time. Automating high-priority tests makes your automation efforts more valuable, helps ensure consistency, and reduces the chances of human error.



## Is it a Regression or Smoke Test Suite?

**If so, you may consider automating.**

These test suites are the ones that generally cover the breadth of the entire product in some capacity, so automating them will give you a quicker way of assessing the quality of the entire software.



## Do you need to run the test with multiple datasets?

**If so, you may consider automating.**

Automating once and repeating the same steps with different data minimizes the chances of misses or errors.

## Could you adequately test this with your current automation tooling?

**If so, you may consider automating.**

Doing a feasibility analysis of your test automation also requires you to see if it is even possible to perform that specific test automation using your current set of tools.



## Is the test going to be repeated?

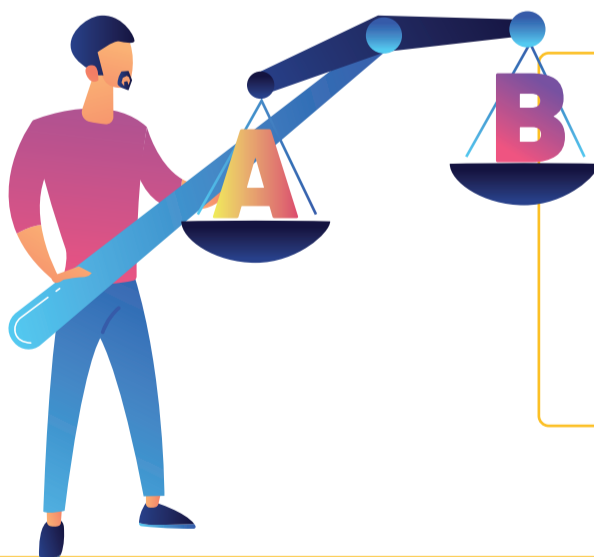
**If so, you may consider automating.**

Automating a test case will be worthwhile if it is going to be repeated multiple times during test execution.

## Are you doing it only for the reports?

**In this case, you probably shouldn't automate.**

Just looking at the red or green status results of the test reports might not be the best way to assess the software quality. You will need to spend time analyzing the tests that failed, why they failed, and what needs to be corrected.



## Is it a Random Negative Test?

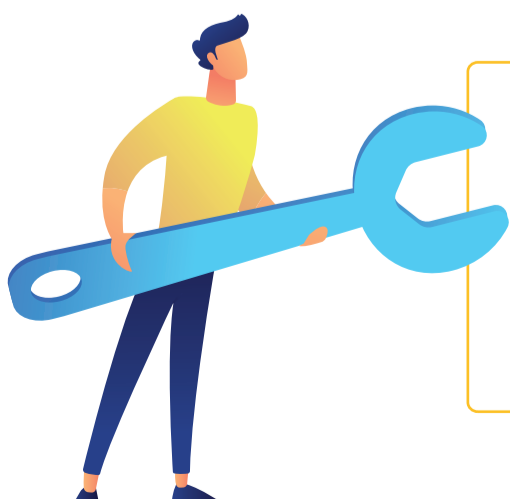
**If so, you probably shouldn't automate.**

We know we need to perform negative tests in order to test the sturdiness of a feature. However, trying to automate random negative tests might not be the best use of automation.

## Can these tests only be executed in sequential order?

**If not, you probably shouldn't automate.**

If your tests are such that they will end up only being executed in a certain sequential order, you could still automate them, but you would not be making the best of your efforts.



## Is it prone to change?

**If yes, you probably shouldn't try to automate.**

If the test you are considering automating is prone to change, it might not be worthwhile to spend your effort on that just yet.