

# Myths of Non-Functional Testing

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Non-functional testing covers the testing of a broad range of attributes that often make or break software-intensive systems. Performance, security, usability, maintainability, and reliability are some of the most ‘popular’, although there are many other aspects that may need to be considered such as portability, compatibility, interoperability and recoverability. Perhaps because of this wide variety of system qualities and the consequent mix of specialist skills required to test them, non-functional system testing has long been misunderstood (or often ignored) by project managers, developers, users and even the functional test teams. This talk will give you an insight into the growing importance of this area.

The talk uses case studies and analogies from other engineering disciplines to look at some of the myths surrounding non-functional system testing, and explains why the following statements are wrong:

- “non-functional testing is part of the system testing phase”;
- “the testing of safety-critical software should not be subjective”;
- “reliability testing is a type of non-functional testing”;
- “all system testers should be trained in security testing”;
- “safety-critical software’s reliability can be tested”.

By attending this talk you will gain a fresh perspective on the recurrent problem of systems that do not meet customers’ quality requirements.