

Process 2: A Context-Discovery Process

Step #	Step	Done?
1.	Understand the lifecycle process(es) used in your organization for system development, maintenance, or acquisition, including any planned or on-going process improvement initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Study whatever testing, test-related and quality-related documentation, data and metrics exist, such as test plans, bug reporting databases, field failure data, test systems, and so forth. Understand who created these items, why they did so, why they did it the way they did it, and what was going on in the organization that led to all those decisions and forces that influenced the outcomes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Discuss with other participants what testing activities they're doing – and what they'll continue to do now that you're on the scene.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Identify your peer-level stakeholders in the testing process. Talk with them to understand their current relationships with the people doing testing now, their expectations of how testing can add value, past disappointments or conflicts with the testing process or people involved in testing, and so forth.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Clarify with your managers and other senior managers what value they expect the test team to add, and especially to what extent your role involves quality assurance as distinct from testing.	<input type="checkbox"/>