TIP SHEET

Mobile App Testing: The Do's and Don'ts

With all the intense conversation around whether and what to automate in QA testing, a few simple guidelines would seem to be in order...

The Do's

1. Automate repetitive test cases — the more repetitive the better the automation project ROI

2. Automate data-driven cases that run the same test with divergent data inputs to exercise the maximum value spans and graceful error recovery

3. Automate complex test setup requirements, particularly prepared database records, that support manual tests

4. Develop automation right alongside the production code to get best script fits to the features being tested

5. Automate regression tests and sanity checks to verify what you think already works and launch them from the release management system

6. Automate back end tests, such as API operations and database record manipulations

The Don'ts

1. Don't select tools that are too expensive or difficult to use to allow for a reasonable automation ROI

2. Don't start without management's buy-in to full up script development and maintenance costs and personnel allocations

3. Don't automate UI tests that require human perception and intuitive use responses

4. Don't automate exploratory tests that predicate the progression of test cases on the results of prior tests or have no specified order

5. Don't automate test lists that create results arrays too massive to be properly reviewed by QA

6. Don't automate tests of code that changes regularly, intermittently or especially both

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