

Naughty and Nice

Software Testing Habits

Naughty

1. Not questioning, or choosing to ignore, product features that are unusual or inconsistent
2. Not asking for help when you need it
3. Using negative language, such as pointing out flaws and telling a developer they did badly, instead of proposing improvement suggestions for the feature; or telling a client that it can't be done instead of presenting circumstances or resources that can make their requests possible
4. Closing a bug without verifying that it's been fixed
5. Executing unplanned or unauthorized performance and security tests
6. Accidentally performing your tests in a production environment
7. Violating privacy and security by using real data containing personal information to conduct your testing
8. Opening a shared document and forgetting to close it before leaving for the weekend, or for vacation
9. Asking your co-workers simple questions that you could have quickly answered yourself through an easy internet search
10. Failing to complete an activity that has been delegated to you, thereby letting down your team

Nice

1. Taking the time to find out how and why people use the system you are testing
2. Calling out and identifying risks when you see them
3. Asking a coworker how you can help when you see that they might be struggling to meet a deadline
4. Passing on positive feedback to someone who is doing a good job, especially when you have received it yourself
5. Querying the bug database thoroughly prior to logging a defect to prevent duplicate entries
6. Providing detailed reproduction steps and screenshots with your defect reports
7. Creating a reusable document template and sharing it with the team
8. Using the shared drive to store testing artifacts, rather than keeping them in your personal documents
9. Letting people know well in advance if you are unable to meet a commitment or deadline
10. Sending a weekly status report email so that others can read the update at their convenience; or scheduling a quick meeting instead when you know everyone is extremely busy and may not have time to read a report