

Is it Rocket Science?

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Is System Test necessarily rocket science? We know what we want from system test, or do we?

Consider chip testing: to a first approximation we understand what we need/want to do - other factors can, of course come into play preventing us from doing this including ignorance...but it's do-able!

Then some poor board test engineer gets this board with a chip on it and has to test it. How much test information is provided for this chip, let alone if this test-related information has been actually used by the board designer.

So the board gets tested and sent somewhere else to be integrated into a system. Then the system needs to be tested. Let's assume your supplier is good, so the boards are assumed good, so here

we might only test for presence of the board and a gross functional test.

But what if we need to do more? High integrity system, high value system? How is it to be done, and in a quick efficient manner?

What about field service, for either 'commodity' parts like pc's, or higher end items. Either way, quick and accurate diagnostics is the key to maintain a cost effective solution and good customer satisfaction.

This last one gives me a real problem as being one serious issue. It is the real time-critical, get it right the first time to reduce field service engineer time, to reduce false failures, to reduce spares pipeline, to reduce inventory, dispatch costs.

I still think it's not rocket science...