endurance testing	A type of performance testing conducted to evaluate the stability of the system over a time frame specific to the system's operational context
spike testing	A type of performance testing conducted to evaluate the abiltiy of a system to recover from sudden bursts of peak loads and return afterward to a steady state
performance objective	A goal for the various performance aspects of a system that can be verified through conducting tests in a controlled environment
batch processing	The execution of a series of jobs or transactions grouped together in a set and executed off-line
concurrency	A measure of the number of simultaneous or parallel threads of execution
performance test script	A simulation of user or component activity that contributes to the load on the system under test
protocol	Protocols define a set of communications rules between computers and systems.
ramp down	The act of decreasing the load on a system in a measurable and controlled way
ramp up	The act of increasing the load on a system in a measurable and controlled way
service virtualization	A method to emulate the behavior of specific components, services, of a system
stakeholder	A party that has an interest in the activities of a project, system or organization
system throughput	The amount of data or data items passing through a system or process
think time	The amount of time required by a user to determine and execute the next action in a sequence of actions
transaction	A set of activities performed by the system from the point of initiation to the point at which one or more processes have been completed
virtual user	A simulation of the activities that would be performed by a user according to the operational profile
load generator	In performance testing, a tool used for the creation of a defined set of activities to be submitted to a target process or system
management console	In performance testing, an interface to a load generation tool that provides the control to start and stop the load generation
performance testing tool	A tool to support performance testing that usually has three main facilities: load generation, a management console that provides an interface to a load generation tool, and a monitoring tool. (see also load generator, management console, monitoring tool)