

NEWSLETTER

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Vesak Poya මහ මස මෙහෙයුම



Vesak is a religious and cultural festival in Sri Lanka. It is celebrated on the day of the full moon in the month of May.

Vesak Day is one of the biggest days of the year and is celebrated by Buddhists all over the world. Buddhists commemorate the important events that took place in the life of Lord Buddha on this day. First comes the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini in Nepal which took place under the arbor of Sat trees where queen Mahamaya gave birth to him. The second event was Siddhartha Gautam's supreme attainment as the Buddha, the Enlightened One. The third event was Lord Buddha's Parinibbana over 2500 years ago at Kusinagar.

Apart from Sri Lanka, many Asian countries including India, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan celebrate Vesak. Many religious activities are organized during this period in Sri Lanka such as Sil campaigns, Bodhi Poojas, Dansalas (Freely giving foods, coffee, tea from people), Vesak devotional songs (Bakthi Gee), pandols (thoran) and lanterns.

Many temples get filled with devotees and pilgrims all over the country to mark this great event. In temples Buddhists worship, offer flowers, light lamps and burn incense. These traditional observances, in essence, have their value in satisfying the religious and emotional needs of the people.

Buddhists generally wear a white dress and go to the temple and participate in the traditional ceremonies. Many of them spend the whole day in the temple and reaffirm their determination to follow the teachings of Buddha.

On this holy day the 'Dana' (alms giving) plays an important role. This is a sign of sharing joy and peace with people. During the Vesak Festival week, the selling of alcohol and flesh is usually prohibited, with abattoirs also being closed.

Other than the exclusive religious aspects of the festival, the Buddhists of Sri Lanka, decorate their houses and public places and arrange for various cultural events.

Birth of Siddhartha Gautam



The Siddharth or lord Buddha, the divine creature inquired about five affairs before expiring for the final birth. The inquiries are the: right time, right area, right continent, right caste and right mother.

Then, as any Buddhists know, the fully mindful divine being entered the womb of Queen Mahamaya. A prince was born on a Vesak Poya day to the Queen and King Sudhodana and was named Siddhartha, one who has found meaning of existence. The Queen passed away seven days after the prince's birth.

Attainment as Lord Buddha



Gautama Buddha was trained in various mental skills under many teachers, only to get disillusioned that they do not have the truth he looked for. The right way to achieve the truth dawned on him one day. He directed his mind in the path of meditation. Moments later he reached enlightenment and conquered the world of sorrows on Vesak Poya day.

Lord Buddha's Parinibbana



80-year old Gotama Buddha then announced His passing away, Parinibbana, would take place on the third watch of the night at Sal grove of Malla royal family, and it happened to be a Vesak Poya day.

Vesak Pandols (Thorana)

In Vesak Season in electrically lit Vesak pandols called thoranas are erected island wide at public places, being mostly sponsored by donors, religious societies and welfare groups. Each pandol illustrates a story from the 550 'Jathaka Katha' or the 550 Past Life Stories of the Buddha.

The entire structure and the individual sections within it are illuminated by hundreds of coloured blinking lights. The story, which always has a moral attached to it.



Vesak Lanterns

Vesak lanterns called Vesak koodu are lit in most of the homes in Sri Lanka on Vesak poya day. The lighting signifies an offering to the memory of the Buddha who delivered the message of Dhamma. In ancient times, people used their clay oil lamps for illumination. When candles became popular, colourful lanterns were made in different shapes and colours were used. The true creative talents of the people in this island emerge during this time as every lantern or 'kudu' is unique, and produced with dedicated devotion and piety. In recent years competitions have been organized by private and state institutions to judge the best 'kudu', and a very significant feature of these contests has been the innovative use of natural materials such as twigs, jute and leaves, veering away from the common practice of using paper when making these decorations.



Dansal: Free food and drinks for all



Dansal or alms-giving stalls are another popular sight all over Sri Lanka during Vesak, rendering an

immense service to the people. Dansal or alms-giving stalls are another popular sight all over Sri Lanka during Vesak, rendering an immense service to the people. These roadside stalls offer anything from soft drinks, ice cream, coffee, rice and curry to noodles and fruit salad, all free of charge. The food is bought and prepared using donations of money and dry rations from devotees, and everyone is welcome at these stalls. Operating a dansala and providing free food and drink is considered one of the most meritorious acts one can engage in during the



Ensuring Data Security Strategies for Organizational Safeguarding

Protecting data within an organization involves implementing various strategies, policies, and technologies to safeguard sensitive information from unauthorized access, theft, or loss. Here are some key measures organizations commonly employ to protect their data.

Data Encryption

One of the most basic and important ways to secure your data is to encrypt it, both at rest and in transit. Encrypting data ensures that even if unauthorized parties gain access to it, they cannot read or use it without the encryption key. For example, you can use symmetric or asymmetric encryption, public key infrastructure (PKI), or secure sockets layer (SSL) to encrypt your data.



Access Control

Implementing access controls ensures that only authorized individuals or systems can access certain data. This involves user authentication (like passwords, biometrics, etc.) and authorization (assigning appropriate access privileges based on roles or permissions).

For example, you can use role-based access control (RBAC), which assigns access rights based on the role or function of the user, or attribute-based access control (ABAC), which assigns access rights based on the attributes or characteristics of the user, data, or environment. Access management can help you enforce the principle of least privilege, which means granting the minimum amount of access necessary for a specific task or purpose.



Regular Data Backups

Regularly backing up data ensures that even if data is compromised or lost, it can be restored from a secure backup. Backup data should be stored securely and preferably offsite to protect against physical threats like fires or floods. For example, you can use full, incremental, or differential backup, or cloud-based or on-premise backup.

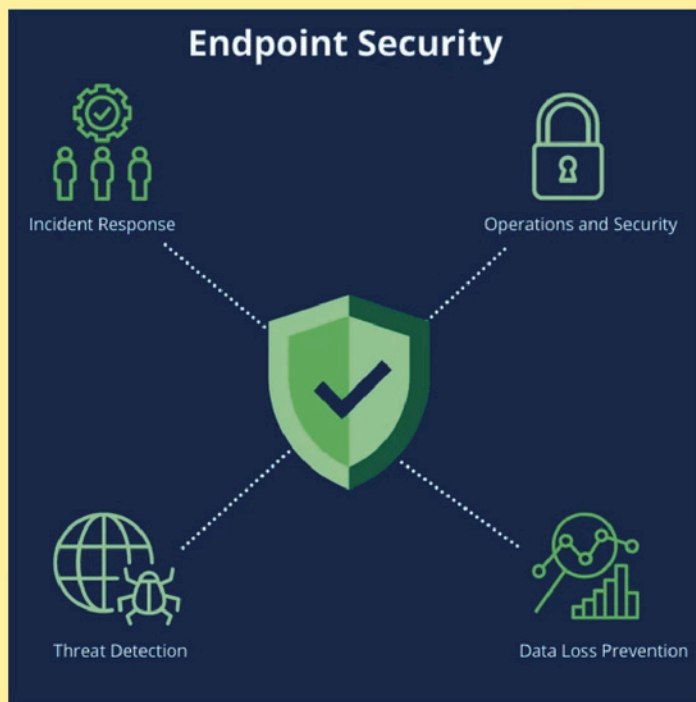
Audit Sensitive data

The best way to secure sensitive data is to audit sensitive data, which means monitoring and recording the activities and events related to your data. Auditing can help to track and verify the source, destination, and usage of organization-sensitive data, as well as detect and respond to any anomalies, errors, or violations. Auditing can also help organizations comply with legal and regulatory requirements, standards, and best practices for

data security and privacy, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), or ISO 27001. There are different types of audit methods and tools available, depending on the type and complexity of sensitive data. For example, organizations can use manual or automated audit, log analysis, or data lineage tools.

Endpoint Security

Ensuring the security of devices (endpoints) such as laptops, desktops, and mobile devices is crucial, as these endpoints are often targeted by cyber attackers. This involves deploying antivirus software, password policy implementation, keeping systems up-to-date with patches, and implementing device encryption.



Physical Security Measures

Organizations employ various physical security measures to safeguard their data. These include restricted access to server rooms, the use of surveillance cameras, and the installation of alarm systems to prevent physical theft or tampering with hardware. Additionally, implementing clear screen and clear desk policies ensures that sensitive information is not left unattended and vulnerable to unauthorized access.

Firewalls and Network Security

Firewalls monitor and control incoming and outgoing network traffic based on predetermined security rules. Additionally, network security measures such as intrusion detection/prevention systems (IDS/IPS) can help identify and mitigate potential threats.



Employee Training and Awareness

Educating employees about data security best practices and potential threats (like phishing attacks) can significantly reduce the risk of accidental data breaches.

Incident Response Plan

Having a well-defined incident response plan in place enables organizations to respond effectively to data breaches or security incidents, minimizing the impact on operations and mitigating further damage.

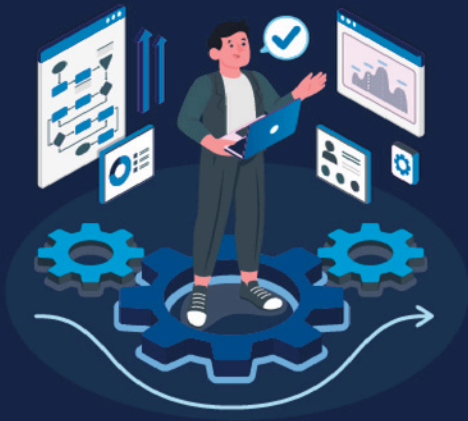
In conclusion, by implementing a comprehensive array of physical, technological, and procedural safeguards, organizations can effectively secure their sensitive data, mitigating risks and ensuring the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of their valuable assets.

Compliance with Regulations

Organizations must comply with relevant data protection regulations and standards (such as GDPR, HIPAA, SOC2 etc.) applicable to their industry or jurisdiction.

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According to the MarketsAndMarkets report, the anticipated growth of the global automation testing market is significant, projected to increase from USD 24.7 billion in 2022 to USD 52.7 billion by 2027, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.4%. To stay abreast of the dynamic testing landscape, it is essential to stay updated and informed about the latest automation testing trends.

01. Blockchain Testing

The objective of blockchain testing is to verify the security and dependability of the interconnected ledger system that links various blocks. Each block contains distinct software applications associated with a specific node within a group. In addition to addressing security concerns, blockchain testing extends to evaluating the load capacity and scalability of blockchain databases and ledgers.

Few Benefits of Blockchain Testing

- Identifying and eliminating defects in a decentralized ledger.
- Validating all entities within the system.
- Ensuring the proper functioning of the developed blockchain ecosystem.
- Facilitating the secure building and utilization of blockchain technology and its associated infrastructure by organizations.

02. Widespread Adoption of Hyper Automation

Hyper Automation, a combination of tools like AI, ML, Natural Language Processing (NLP), and Robotic Process Automation (RPA), is used to harness the benefits of AI-driven decision-making. These tools elevate human productivity by automating routine processes that do not necessitate human intelligence.

Few Benefits of Hyper Automation

- Increased test coverage
- Efficient test case generation
- Dynamic test scripting
- Reduced test maintenance

03. QAOps

QAOps, which is the combination of IT operations and Quality Assurance, is one of the emerging trends in software testing.

QAOps adopts a DevOps-oriented strategy to attain top-notch software quality. It integrates key principles from continuous testing in DevOps, including CI/CD, fostering collaboration among teams within the pipeline. In this methodology, the Operations

team primarily engages in communication and collaboration with the QA team to guarantee the continuous delivery of products. The primary objective is to uphold the application's quality in terms of performance, scalability, functionality, security, usability, and other essential aspects.

Few Benefits of QAOps

- Good collaboration and communication between teams
- Faster release cycle
- Continuous testing



04. Geolocation Testing

It is crucial to guarantee that applications operate effectively across various time zones and languages. Geolocation testing validates global compatibility, overcoming the challenges presented by diverse user bases.

Few Benefits Geolocation Testing

- Validates the efficiency and performance of the application across diverse geographical locations.
- Enhances productivity.
- Multi-platform compatibility



05. Camera Image Injection Testing

This advanced testing approach evaluates applications utilizing camera images to ascertain their resilience against potential attacks. In 2024, this trend will play a key role in strengthening application security.

Few Benefits of Camera Image Injection Testing

- Camera image injection testing helps verify the functionality of an application that relies on camera input.
- Ensuring the quality of image-related functionalities is critical. Testing helps identify and address issues related to image quality, resolution, and clarity.



06. IoT Testing

The widespread adoption of IoT devices necessitates a thorough testing strategy. Testers should confirm smooth connectivity, data integrity, and user experience across a variety of devices, scenarios, and environments.

Few Benefits of IoT Testing

- their interactions.
- Interoperability testing
- Performance optimization

07. Scriptless Automation Testing

Scriptless automation testing, also known as codeless automation testing, is an approach where testing activities are performed without the need for scripting or coding skills. In traditional test automation, testers typically write scripts or code to automate test cases. However, scriptless automation tools provide a graphical interface or a set of predefined actions that allow testers to create automated tests without writing code.

Few Benefits of Scriptless Automation Testing

Scriptless automation tools often provide a user-friendly interface that allows testers to create automated tests more quickly compared to traditional scripting.

Wrapping Up!

In 2024, the top automation testing trends discussed above are marked by the integration of AI, cutting-edge technologies, and transformative shifts in testing methodologies. Keeping pace with these trends is essential for QA professionals to uphold software quality standards. Embracing these trends offers a competitive advantage for testing professionals, organizations, and teams.

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