“It's hard enough to find an error in your code when you're looking for it; it's even harder when you've assumed your code is error-free.”

– Steve McConnell
Integration Testing

Anti-Patterns:
- Skipping unit test to do system test
- No traceability from integration test to High Level Design
- Integration test “pass” criterion based on system function, not interfaces

Testing component integration:
- Exercise all component interfaces
  - Correct responses to input sequences?
  - Handle all types of data on interfaces?
- Ensure modules match HLD and SDs
  - Assume unit test has vetted each component
  - Concentrate on component interactions
Integration Test Approaches

Exercise all interfaces
- All inputs result in correct outputs
- Every component interface exercised
  - With all relevant values
  - With all relevant timing & sequencing
- Use SDs and HLD info drive testing
  - Pass/fail: does it match SD?

Integration test coverage:
- All arcs on all SDs exercised?
- Off-nominal behaviors tested?
  - Invalid sequencing and extraneous inputs?

Integration Test IT-1a:
1. Initialize modules
2. Test setup: CoinCount to zero
3. Insert coin (1a)
4. Observe CoinIn(true) (1b)
5. Observe CoinIn(false) (1c)
6. Observe mCoinCount == 1 (1d)
Observe module interactions
- Set up test
  - Meet SD preconditions
- Feed input arcs to modules
- Observe intermediate arcs
- Observe output arcs
- Find a way to observe documented side effects (e.g., final CoinCount)

Integration test “pass” is not just based on final output
- Do all the arcs appear in expected sequence?
- Is timing appropriate?
Integration Tests and Messaging

- Interfaces often look like “messages”
  - Categorical values (enums)
  - Data structures
  - Network packets

- Integration testing should exercise “message” structure
  - All types of messages
  - Valid and invalid field values
  - Timing, exception handling
    - e.g., bad checksum, bad sequence number

- HLD will have a message dictionary
  - Defines message types, formats, etc.
  - Accompanied by a validation test suite

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OBDii Parameter ID message dictionary (CAN Network Messages)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OBD-II_PIDs]
Integration Test Best Practices

**Trace Integration tests to HLD**
- Exercise all arcs on every SD
- Cover all modules; all interfaces
- Cover all message types and fields

**Integration test pitfalls**
- System testing alone misses system integration corner cases
  - Sometimes a misbehaving system appears to work at system test
  - Can be difficult to exercise off-nominal SDs at system level
- If you skip HLD, you have nothing to trace Integration Tests to