**PAPER PRESENTATION**

**ON**

**POKA-YOKE**

**ABSTRACT**

Poka-yoke is a quality assurance technique developed by Japanese manufacturing engineer Shigeo Shingo. The aim of poka-yoke is to eliminate defects in a product by preventing or correcting mistakes as early as possible. Poka-yoke has been used most frequently in manufacturing environments.

Hewlett Packard currently develops its Common Desktop Environment software to run in twelve locales or languages. Traditional testing of this localized software is technically difficult and time-consuming. By introducing poka-yoke (mistake-proofing) into our software process, we have been able to prevent literally hundreds of software localization defects from reaching our customers.

This paper describes the poka-yoke quality approach in general, as well as our particular use of the technique in our localization efforts. Poka-yoke is providing a simple, robust and painless way for us to detect defects early in our localization efforts.

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