**What is Alpha Testing?**

Alpha testing takes place at the developer's site by the internal teams, before release to external customers. This testing is performed without the involvement of the development teams.

**Alpha Testing - In SDLC**

The following diagram explains the fitment of Alpha testing in the software development life cycle.

![Diagram of SDLC with Alpha Testing fitment](http://www.tutorialspoint.com/software_testing_dictionary/alpha_testing.htm)

**How do we run it?**

In the first phase of alpha testing, the software is tested by in-house developers during which the goal is to catch bugs quickly.

In the second phase of alpha testing, the software is given to the software QA team for additional testing.

Alpha testing is often performed for Commercial off-the-shelf software COTS as a form of internal acceptance testing, before the beta testing is performed.