Test automation helps in reducing the high cost of manual software testing and can increase software reliability. This presentation provides an overview of the state of the art in automated support for software testing. The main focus is on the practical support that automation provides in business and commercial software development. We compare manual and automated testing and discuss the benefits of automated testing. A number of commercial testing tools are available in the market. We present one such tool, named “Quick Test Professional”, and use this tool to illustrate the typical benefits of test automation.