



Cutting the Mustard

Lessons Learned in Striving to Become a Super Star Tester



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Agenda



- Cutting the Mustard
- What is a Super Star Tester?
- Let's Meet Fred
- Lessons Learned
- Pitfalls on the Journey
- Summary

DISCLAIMER



WARNING: The materials within this presentation are based on my experience as a software tester. I am sharing what has worked for me. Since all testers are different, not everything I share may work for you or you may have other ideas on how to cause the same effect in your role. My goal is to have you look at your role in a different light and see how you can make a difference for yourself and your team in your role as a tester.

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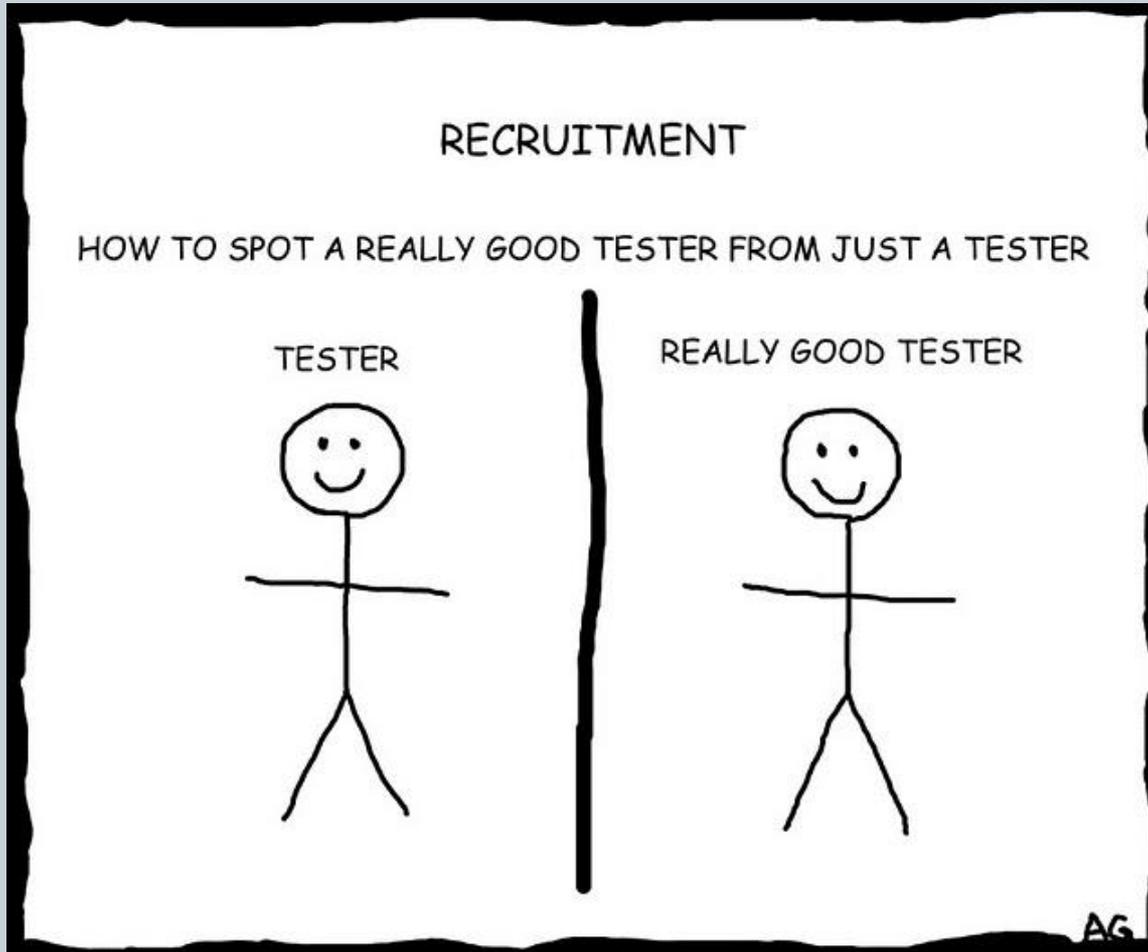
Cutting the Mustard



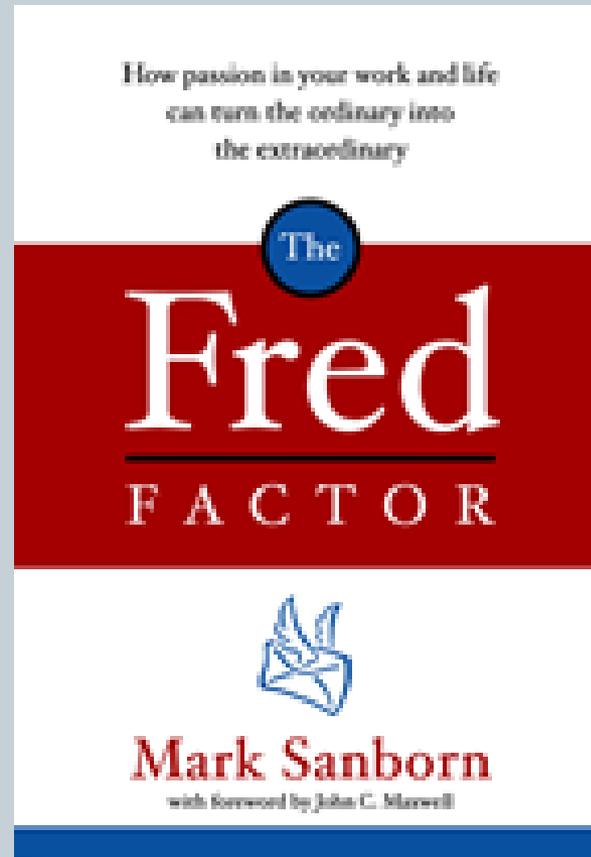
- To succeed; to perform to expectations.
- Do you “Cut the Mustard” as a tester?



What is a Superstar Tester?



The Story of Fred



Lesson 1 - Passion



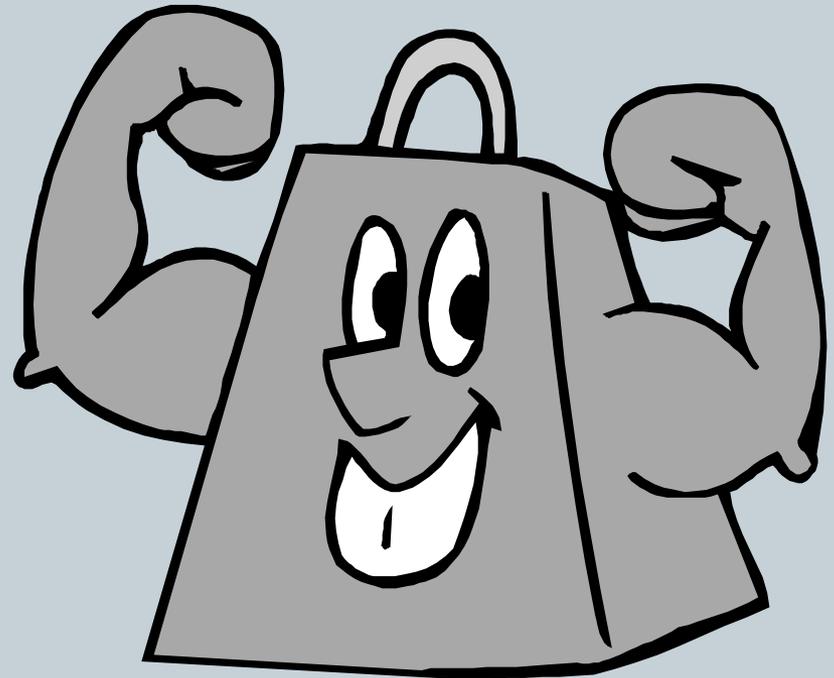
- Do you love what you do?
- How does having passion effect your role?
- Passion is the fuel to super-stardom

“Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion” (Hegel, 1832).

Lesson 2 – Focus on Your Strengths



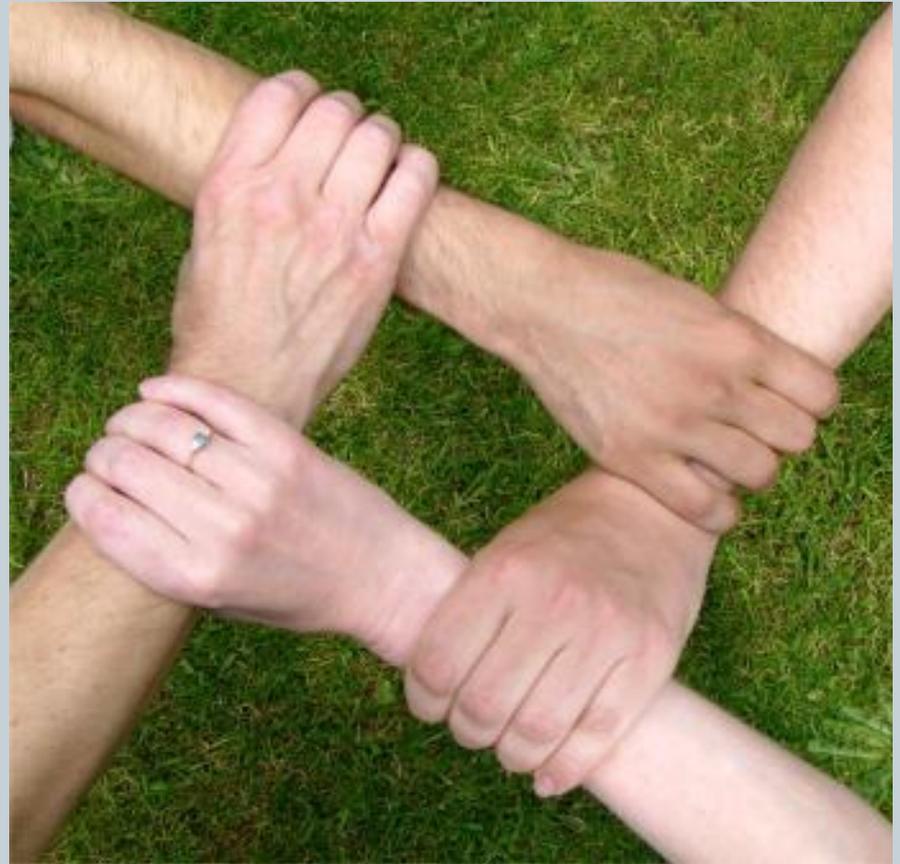
- What makes you a great tester?
- What makes you a unique tester?
- Strengths of superstar testers:
 - Problem solving skills
 - Attention to details
 - Think outside the box



Lesson 3 - Build Meaningful Relationships



- Tester's build many relationships
- Transform working relationships from ordinary to extraordinary
- The 7 B's of Relationship Building



Lesson 3 – Continued – The 7 B's



The 7 B's of Relationship Building

- Be Real
- Be Interested
- Be a Better listener
- Be Empathic
- Be Honest
- Be Helpful
- Be Prompt

Lesson 4 – Leverage Interpersonal Communication



- Testers love to communicate
- Effectively communicate the testing needs, progress and concerns
- Tailor communication based on the audience and message



Lesson 5 – Be an Outstanding Service Provider



- Testing is a service, and testers are service providers
- Be enthusiastic and passionate about what you do
- Understand how to serve the various members of your team



Lesson 6 – Continuous Personal Improvement



- Get outside of the confines of your day to day job.
 - Read books & blogs
 - Attend training & conferences
 - Network with other software testers
- Do personal improvement on your own time!

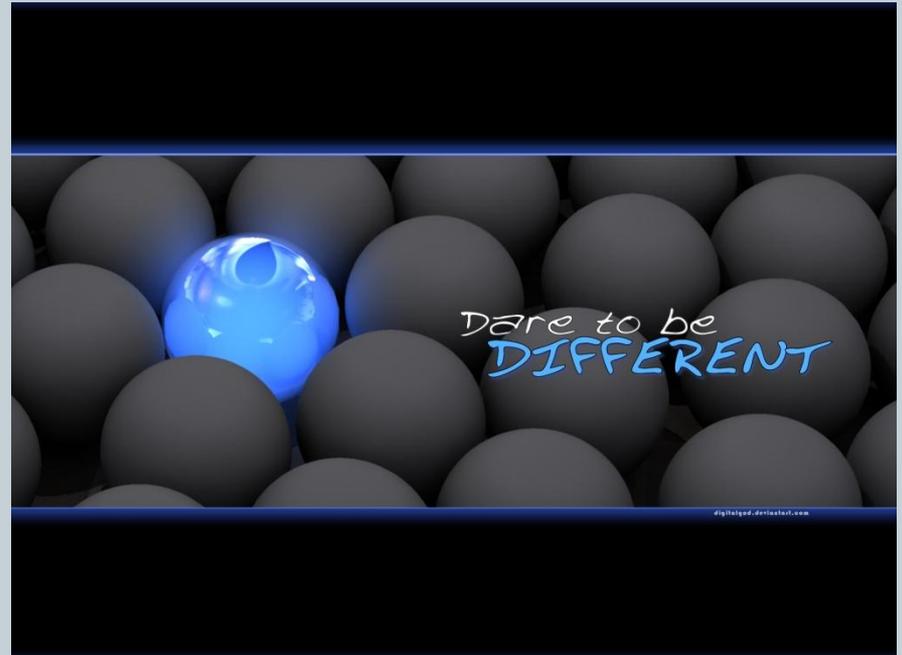
**what would you attempt to do
if you knew you could not fail?**

(unknown)

Lesson 7 – Be Different



- Think outside the box
- Ask the questions no one else asks
- Don't take what you hear or see at face value
- Step outside your comfort zone



Lesson 8 – Champion the Testing Effort



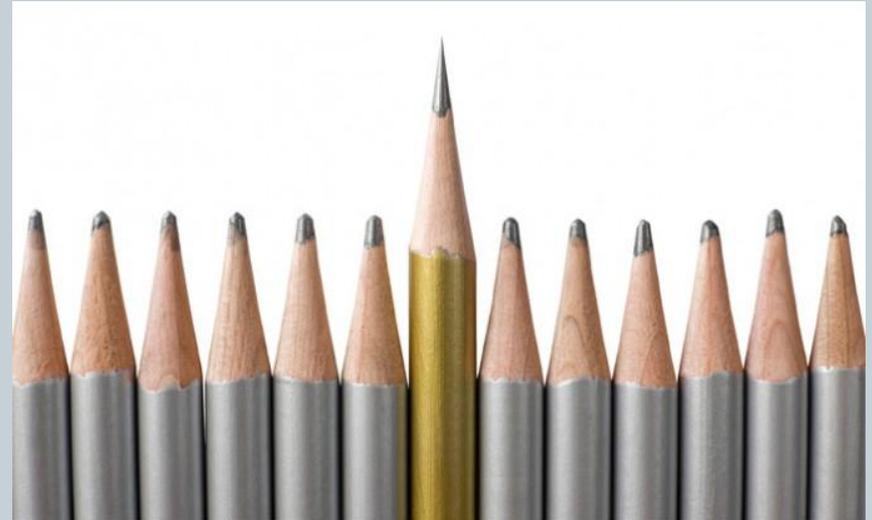
- Get involved
- Challenge traditional views
- Understanding what testing is all about



Lesson 9 – Sharpen Your Testing Skills



- Continually learn, grow and challenge yourself
- Diversify your testing approaches
- Push your boundaries



Sharpen Your Testing Skills -A Challenge



- The Man Who Left Home
- “A man leaves home. He travels a specific distance then turns left. He travels the same distance and turns left again. He travels the exact same distance and turns left again. He travels the exact same distance and returns home where he meets a man in a uniform waiting for him. What is the man who left home doing?”

IF YOU HAVE HEARD THIS BEFORE AND KNOW THE ANSWER PLEASE DON'T TELL.

The Bumpy Road to Superstardom



- Striving to become a superstar tester can be:
 - Exhausting
 - Frustrating
 - Overwhelming
- You can become a hot commodity
- Experience burn out

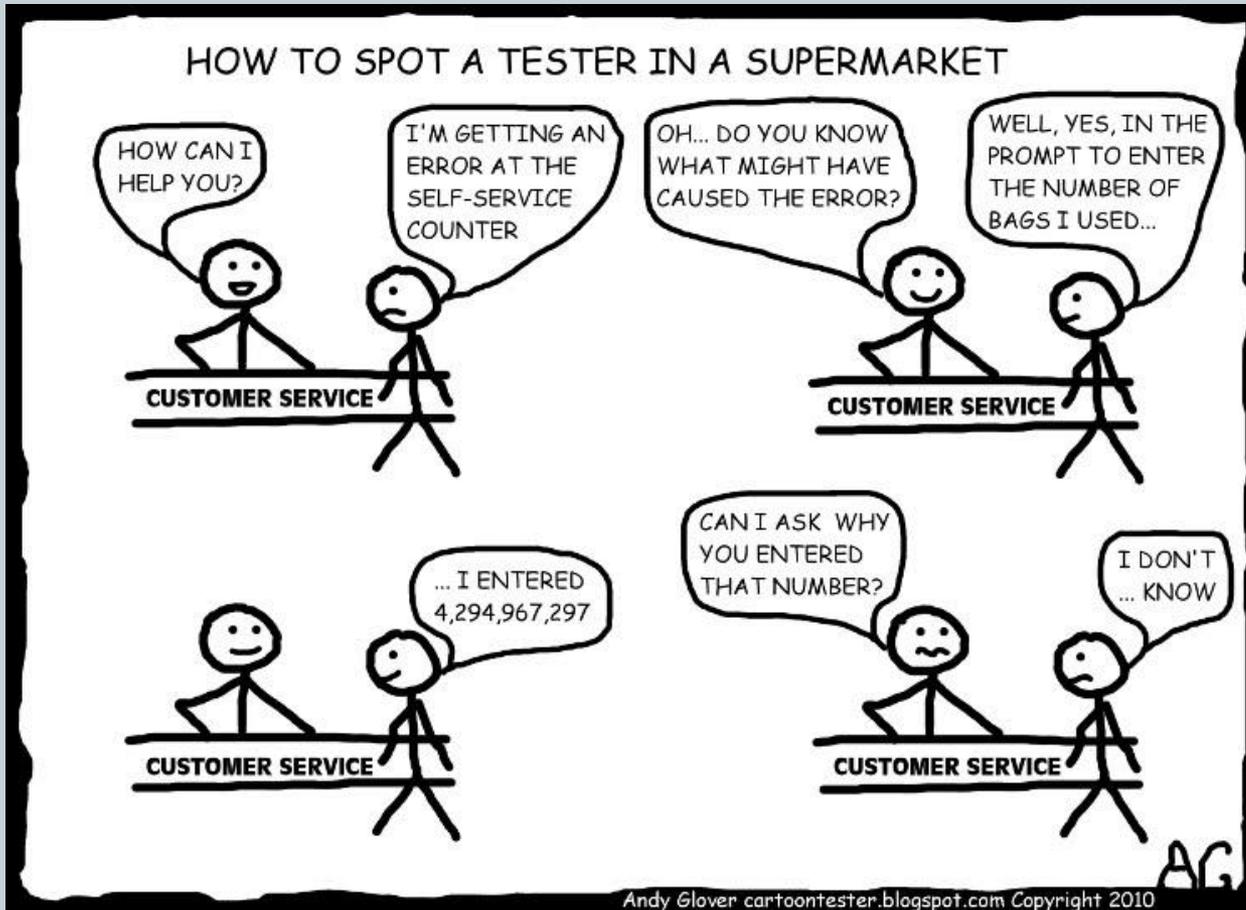


Summary



- Becoming a super star tester means turning our critical analysis on ourselves.
- We need to continually fuel our passion and feed our drive.
- Get involved in the testing professional community locally or virtually.
- Do the best job you can every day and never give up!

Questions?



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