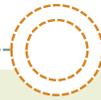


The Software Tester's Most Valuable Tool



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STEP-AUTO 2011
Bangalore, India



@nkelln

#StepAuto #testing #qa



Software Testing Industry



- The software testing industry in North America is changing. Testers and organizations are realizing that we need different approaches and tools to effectively test computer software.
- Testers need to adapt and make changes to the way they are testing software.
- For some testers this will mean harness the power of a new tool.



Testers – Stand up!



- Are you in one of the following roles:
 - Software Tester
 - Test Engineer
 - Quality Assurance Analyst
 - Quality Control Analyst
 - Software Engineer
 - User Acceptance Tester
 - Test Lead
 - Quality Assurance Lead
 - Anyone who is a position where they run tests and report defects in a software system.



Revealing the Most Valuable Tool – The Brain



- Fascinating brain facts:
 - Information can be processed as fast as 120 meters/sec (268 miles/hr).
 - Without words the brain can determine someone else's mood just by their body language and facial expressions
 - Each time we blink (20,000 time a day) our brain keeps things illuminated so our world doesn't go dark.



Facts from:
<http://www.nursingassistantcentral.com/blog/2008/100-fascinating-facts-you-never-knew-about-the-human-brain/>



What is testing?



- Our community sees testing as exploration, discovery, investigation and learning. *
- Testing is a sapient – thinking – process.
- Good software testing is a challenging, intellectual process that involves learning our systems and investigating how they work or do not work.
- Good testing requires the tester to be engaged with their product.
- Engagement requires thinking.
- A good tester asks – “Is there a problem here?”

* Context Driven Testing Community (James Bach, Cem Kaner, Michael Bolton)
James Bach & Michael Bolton, Rapid Software Testing Course

How is this Sapient Testing?



Test Script: Make Text Bold in Microsoft Word

Step #	Instruction	Expected Result	Actual Result	Comments
1	Open up the Microsoft Word application.	Microsoft Word opens.	Pass	For this test, we are using MS Word 2003.
2	Create a new blank document.	A new blank document is displayed.	Pass	
3	Type the following sentence into the document: "This is what bold text looks like."	The sentence is displayed in the document.	Pass	
4	Highlight the word "bold".	The word "bold" is highlighted.	Pass	
5	Click the bold "B" button on the top toolbar.	The word "bold" is bolded.	Pass	



Dangers of Scripted Testing



- Scripted testing is prescriptive, rather than investigative.
- It is expensive and time consuming.
- It does not allow for thoughtful interaction.
- It can led to inattentional blindness.
- Time to maintain and update scripts takes away from time testing.
- It is dehumanizing.
- It locks away the human mind.



An Awareness Test



- Testing Inattentional Blindness
 - <http://www.dothetest.co.uk/basketball.html>



Consider this?



If you are doing this....



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Most Valuable Tool – The Brain



So how do we change?



- Understand how using our brains is different in testing.
- Learn the application under test.
- Train and practice the software testing craft.
- Communicate with our test leads and managers the value of thinking sapient, testing and the risks to not doing it.



Resources for Learning



- **Literature**
 - Websites, blogs, books, Twitter
- **Training**
 - Association for Software Testing courses, Rapid Software Testing Course
- **Hands on Testing**
 - Weekend / Weeknight Testing sessions
 - Skype coaching – James Bach, Michael Bolton
- **Networking with Other Testers**
 - Peer workshops
 - Local testing groups – Bangalore Testers Meet Up
 - Skype discussions



Why bother?



- The industry is changing and demanding that testing change.
- Good testing is an amazing and interesting career.
- Investigating and learning is healthy for your physical and mental health.



Questions?



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References Page



- **Websites:**

- The Context Driven School of Testing (<http://www.context-driven-testing.com/>)
- The Software Testing Club (<http://www.thesoftwaretestingclub.com/>)
- Association for Software Testing (<http://www.associationforsoftwaretesting.org/>)
- Weekend Testing (<http://weekendtesting.com/>)
- Quality Perspectives (<http://qualityperspectives.ca/resources.html>)

- **Blogs**

- James Bach (<http://www.satisfice.com/blog/>)
- Michael Bolton (<http://www.developsense.com/>)

- **Books**

- Perfect Software by Gerald M. Weinburg
- Lesson's Learned in Software Testing by Cem Kaner, James Back, Bret Pettichord
- The Fred Factor by Mark Sanborn

- **Peer Workshops**

- Bangalore Workshop on Software Testing, BWST
(<http://testertested.blogspot.com/search/label/BWST>)

