Test Strategy in a Day

19 February; 9 April; 21 May; 16 July; 16 July; 10 September; 22 October; 10 December 2013

Test strategy is one of those nebulous things that every project needs. The problem with test strategy is that there isn't a single agreed definition of what it is or how to create one.

This practical, case-study-based workshop will help you and your team to devise an appropriate strategy for the testing and assurance of your software project in the context of a business programme.

Some people treat Test Strategy as a document: "A high-level description of the test levels to be performed and the testing within those levels for an organization or programme". So - a strategy could range from one to hundreds of pages of text. All we need is a document template! Not quite.

Over the last twenty years, almost all of the Test Strategy documents we have read and reviewed have been "copy and edits" of documents for previous projects. All that changed was the names of projects and systems, the timescales, and dates. And all of these documents were read by precisely … no one.

This tutorial suggests that rather than being a document, **test strategy is a thought process**. The outcome of the thinking might be a short or a long document, but most importantly**, the strategy must address the needs of the participants inside the project as well as the customers of the product to be built**. It needs to be appropriate to a short agile project or to a 1000 man-year development. It has to have the buy-in of stakeholders but most importantly, it must have value and be communicated.

This tutorial presents a practical definition of a Test Strategy, provides a simple template for creating one and describes a systematic approach to thinking the right way. This will be an interactive session. **Bring your test strategy problems with you - we'll try and address them during the day.**

Course Overview

In summary, the value of this course is to enable you to assess the information needs of your testing stakeholders and devise a strategy to deliver the information they require to make project or programme decisions with confidence. We will **discuss and practice how to deliver a test strategy fit for purpose**.

- Discuss how stakeholders need information from their business and IT project to be delivered through testing
- Recognise that testing delivers intelligence about the status of project goals (achievement) and risk
- Understand the context of test strategy and how it can help projects to deliver high quality systems on time.

This course is delivered in workshop format. Most of the workshop time will be spent working through the case study exercise.

You will Learn

Specifically, topics you will learn about include:

- What is test strategy?
- Test axioms as thinking tools
- Testing in staged projects
- The goals and risk network and how to design the test process to align with it
- Goals, risks and coverage-based test reporting
- Communicating test strategies
- Case study exercise
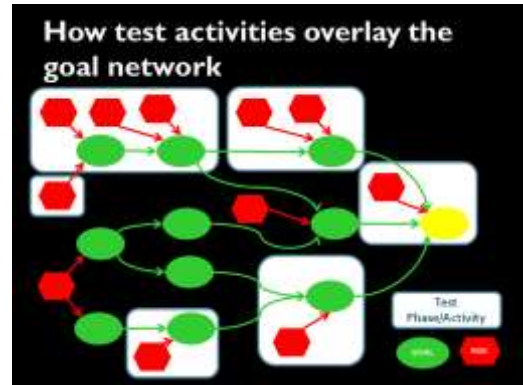
Course Materials

Course materials include all slides and the Test Strategy workbook. You will also receive a copy of "The Tester's Pocketbook", written by Paul Gerrard.

Who Should Attend?

This workshop will be valuable for any practitioner or manager having an interest in testing, system procurement, assurance or project governance in general:

How test activities overlay the goal network

- project and test managers
- business sponsors
- auditors
- project stakeholders

As an individual you can attend our public one day courses – see www.unicom.co.uk for the complete listing.

As a team, you can learn together and build your own test strategy in a day. We'll tailor the exercises using your own project materials to provide an excellent learning experience for a multi-skilled team. The output from the course can form the basis of your test strategy.

Course Fees

The public course is one day and uses a case study as the basis of the exercises.

The fee includes the course materials (slides and workbook) and a copy of The Tester's Pocketbook. The in-house course fee includes the tailoring required to use your own project materials.

Public courses (1 day):   £550 per person plus VAT.
In-House courses (1 day):   Price on application.

Dates

The public course dates available for booking in 2013 are:
19 February; 9 April; 21 May; 16 July; 10 September; 22 October; 10 December.
Public courses are based in London. In house training for your team is available at your own location, or a location of your choice.

Tutor

This course is delivered by Paul Gerrard, of Gerrard Consulting.

Paul Gerrard is a consultant, teacher, author, webmaster, programmer, tester, conference speaker, rowing coach and a publisher. He has conducted consulting assignments in all aspects of software testing and quality assurance, specialising in test assurance. He has presented keynote talks and tutorials at testing conferences across Europe, the USA, Australia, South Africa and occasionally won awards for them.
Educated at the universities of Oxford and Imperial College London, in 2010, Paul won the Eurostar European Testing excellence Award. In 2012, with Susan Windsor, Paul recently co-authored "The Business Story Pocketbook".
He is Principal of Gerrard Consulting Limited and is the host of the UK Test Management Forum and the UK Business Analysis Forum.

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