

The Whole Team Approach to Agile Testing

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Two-Day Course

Abstract

This two day course explains how testers can become valued agile team members, how they contribute to delivering a continuous stream of business value, and ways to overcome common cultural and logistical obstacles in transitioning to an agile development process. It describes the values and principles that help testers adopt an agile testing mindset, and how the whole team contributes to the success of any testing practices, including automation.

Students will be shown how to complete testing activities in short iterations, and how testers contribute on a daily basis during each iteration and release cycle. Processes such as ATDD (Acceptance Test Driven Development) will be stressed throughout the course. Through interactive exercises and group discussions, participants will discover good strategies for driving development with both executable and manual tests. The course is filled with real-life examples of the many ways agile testers add value.

The course is aimed at anyone on who wants to learn what testing means on an agile team. All team members will benefit from understanding their contribution and the interaction with testers on the team. Test/QA and development managers, who work with testers, will also find the course valuable. Basic agile knowledge is recommended so the participants can actively contribute with questions and shared experiences.

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Program

Each module includes small group exercises and discussions in addition to the major exercises listed.

DAY 1

Brief Intro into Agile & How Testing Fits in – Module 1

- Overview of agile terminology
- Agile principles - what does it mean to a tester
- SDLC - Introduce agile testing activities and approach
- The whole-team approach

Adapting to Agile - Module 2

- Collaboration & Communication
- Overcoming common obstacles
 - Cultural Issues; mini-waterfalls
- How to deal with defects

Test Automation - How Testing “Keeps Up” with Short Agile Iterations

- Using Automation So Testing “Keeps up”
 - Value of automation
 - Barriers to Automation
- Developing an Agile Automation Strategy
 - Using the Test Automation Pyramid for maximum ROI
 - What to should and shouldn't be automated
 - Using The Agile Testing Quadrants for automation
 - Applying agile principles
 - “Thin slice/steel thread” approach
- Evaluating tools
- Managing automated tests

DAY 2

Release Planning in Agile Projects – Module 4

- Approach to release planning
- Levels of precision / detail
- How testers contribute

Test Planning in Agile Projects - Module 5

- Using the Agile Testing Quadrants to determine tests needed
- Plan to stay on track
 - Alternatives to heavy test plans
 - Release-level test plan matrix
- Thinking about continuous delivery (new)

An Iteration in the Life of a Tester – Module 6 (1:00 – 5:00)

- Iteration Pre-Planning
- Iteration Planning
 - ATTD (Acceptance Test Driven Development)
 - How testers contribute in planning, estimating

- During the Iteration - Coding & Testing
 - How do testers keep up
- The iteration review and demo
- Retrospectives - improving your process
- Celebrating success

The End Game Module 7

- What is the end game?
- Release retrospective

Key Success Factors & Wrap-Up - Module 8

- Seven Factors for Agile Testing Success
- Wrap-Up; Discussion back to original problems that participants are experiencing