Test Automation for the Non-Technical Tester

Understanding Automation’s Value
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“Scripted manual tests are immoral”


Medical Devices
Mindless repetition of scripts?

Poor value for company
Automation frees testers to do higher value work
Exploratory Testing:

Use testers’ skills and knowledge
Why do testers avoid automation?
Fear, Uncertainty, Doubt

(FUD)
“Automation is going to take away my job!”
“I don’t know how to write code!”
“There’s too much to learn!”
“If you dislike change, you’ll dislike obsolescence even more”

-- General Eric Shinseki, Chairman, US Joint Chiefs of Staff
Don’t fear automation, learn where you can use it to add more value
Automation "checks" software,
People "test" software

-- Michael Bolton, 2009
Automated tests “check” for regressions...
They’re fast, repeatable, and specific
Automation can give rapid feedback
...but there’s much they can’t see
Types of automation
Unit Tests
Integration Tests
Functional (UI) Tests
Performance / Load, Security
Testing Pyramid -- Permission from Lisa Crispin
HOW

automation is used
Unit Tests

Run locally (constantly!) by developers
All Types

Regularly or scheduled on build/testing server
Where can testers collaborate with developers on automated tests?
Developers write “shallow” or “Happy Path” tests
Testers bring different views to project
Testers help extend coverage of automated tests

(But focus on valuable tests!)
Automation is only part of an overall quality approach.
“Testing is dead”
No, it’s not -- but it is dramatically changing!
Developer/Tester collaboration is *critical* for a project’s success
Whole Team Approach
Testers are pessimists and look for negative testing
Automation shouldn’t be feared
Automation checks, good testers test
Automation brings more value to the customer
Automation frees testers to be creative and use their skills
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