

Exploratory Testing in the Enterprise

CQAA

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A STORY

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- 3 testers instead of 15
- 66% (or \$200,000) cheaper than budgeted
- two-week shorter window for testing
- delivered on time
- no serious defects in production

HOW?

“Simultaneous learning, test design, and test execution.”

- James Bach

pure scripted

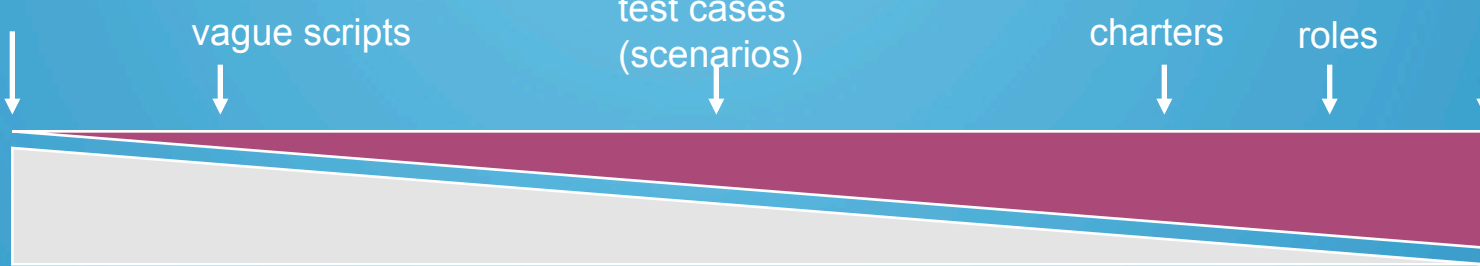
vague scripts

fragmentary
test cases
(scenarios)

charters

roles

freestyle exploratory



-image from Jon Bach

the tester, the way they work,
and their ability to work in the future, is
as important as
the product being tested

What makes them “exploratory?”

Self Management

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Developing Ideas

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Examining the Product

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There's always **resistance**

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A desire for visible,
track-able, progress

It's difficult to quantitatively
measure **coverage**

There's extraordinary pressure for
"reuse" and "cost control"

Session Based Test Management

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- charters

- charters
- time-boxed

- charters
- time-boxed
- session notes

- charters
- time-boxed
- session notes
- debriefs

- charters
- time-boxed
- session notes
- debriefs
- team prioritization

- charters
- time-boxed
- session notes
- debriefs
- team prioritization
- ad-hoc test documentation

- charters
- time-boxed
- session notes
- debriefs
- team prioritization
- ad-hoc test documentation
- ad-hoc test automation

- charters
- time-boxed
- session notes
- debriefs
- team prioritization
- ad-hoc test documentation
- ad-hoc test automation
- dynamic metrics and reporting

Sample Project Dashboard.xls

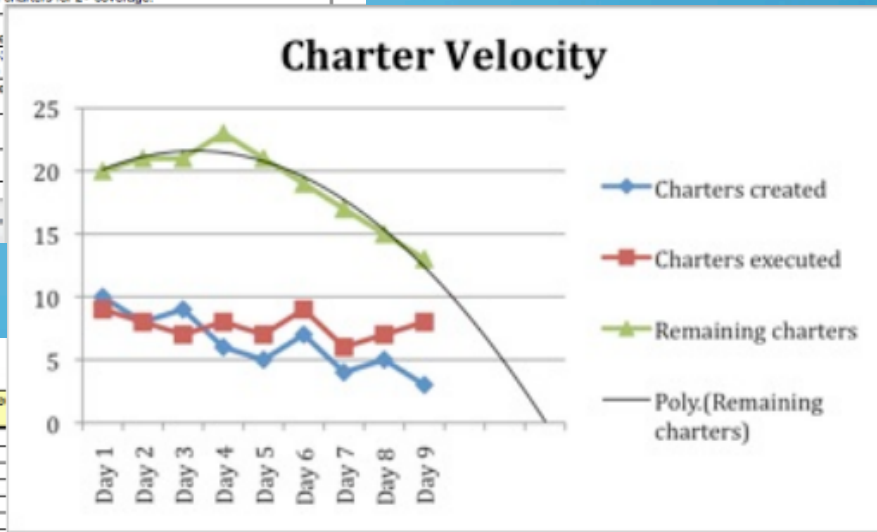
New Open Save Print Import Copy Paste Format Undo Redo AutoSum Sort A-Z Sort Z-A Gallery Toolbox

Sheets Charts SmartArt Graphics WordArt

1 <Project>Testing Dashboard Last Updated: 01/01/2008

Area	Effort	Coverage	Assessment	Comments
<Area 1>	Low	(2) -Common Cases	•Green	Testing B Level Charters for 2+ coverage.
<Area 2>	Low	(2) -Common Cases	•Green	Now executing B-level charters for 2+ coverage.
<Area 3>	Low	(2) -Common Cases	•Green	
<Area 4>	Low	(2) -Common Cases	•Green	Testing B Level Chart Validation of Schemas; on a connection to the
<Area 5>	Low	(2) -Common Cases	•Green	Testing B Level Chart
System Level Testing	High	(1) -Sanity Check	•Black	
Enhancement Requests	High	(1) -Sanity Check	•Black	DEF00060198

Dashboard Summary Dashboard Legend <Area 1> Test



Ranking		Test Case, Charter, or Task	Estimate Effort
Importance	Order		
		<area> <feature>P <vendor> Data.txt	1.0
		<area> <feature> <vendor> Data	1.0
		<area> <feature>A <vendor> Data	1.0
		<area> <data> <vendor> Data	1.0
		<area> Order <feature> <vendor> Data	1.0
		<area> Order <feature>A <vendor> Data	1.0
		<area> Order <feature>P <vendor> Data	1.0
		<area> Order <data> <vendor> Data	1.0
		Generation of the correct org levels	1.0
		<area> ADD <vendor> Test Data	1.0
		Partially received <data> from <application> - <feature> only received; <feature>A,<feature>P, <data> not received <area> verification	1.0

Focus on dealing with **uncertainty**

START

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Begin by implementing a specific **practice**

Add exploratory testing days to
the end of existing test cycles

Carve out a **small portion** of an existing project and apply exploratory testing to that portion

Run a **pilot** project

Responding to concerns

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the Michael Jordan effect

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“We don’t do agile.”

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“What about regression testing?”

“We hand our test scripts off for test automation...”

“How do you provide **traceability**?”

“Your percent complete keeps changing!”

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“Don’t we lose the ability to **add people** late in the project if we get sideways?”

“Our testers aren’t subject matter experts.”

“We can’t afford all senior testers.”

“How do you make charters **repeatable**?”

“What about **estimation?**”

Questions?

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Reading Materials

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