

Course Objectives

This half-day or one-day workshop will provide delegates with an understanding of Exploratory Testing and includes the testing of different applications.

Delegates will also have opportunity to discuss some of the misconceptions surrounding Exploratory Testing and debate both advantages and disadvantages of this approach.

Delegates will discover when and when not to use Exploratory Testing and how to overcome Management's reluctance to include this type of testing in our schedules.

Who Will Benefit

You should attend this workshop if:

- You are uncomfortable with having less time to test than you need
- You are trying to test systems where requirements are extremely weak or non-existent
- You want practical solutions in today's pressured development culture
- You are under severe time constraints for testing
- You want to re-invigorate and inspire your current testing procedures
- You want to respond to rapid development
- You need practical methods & techniques for testing in less than ideal conditions
- You want to understand how to apply an Exploratory Testing approach
- You want to understand how to manage Exploratory Testing and to alleviate the fears that Exploratory Testing is a license for chaos.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites in terms of testing experience. Delegates do need to bring laptops for the practical exercises.

Skills Gained

- Understand when and how to apply Exploratory Testing
- Hands-on experience in the use of this approach
- Learn how to document and manage tests and report progress during Exploratory Testing sessions
- Learn how to become more effective in testing when time, requirements and people are limited.

Course Introduction

Often we find ourselves working on projects where the deadlines are unrealistic; requirements are either rapidly changing, unknown or incomplete; and projects where we feel frustrated at not being able to follow the standard 'plan-design-execute' approach to testing due to immense time constraints. Exploratory Testing might be the solution that

you are looking for when presented with these difficult, yet very real, situations.

Exploratory Testing as defined by James Bach is "simultaneous learning, test design and test execution". During this workshop we shall look at the theory behind Exploratory Testing and how we can put this theory into practice by applying the approach to various applications. We shall also discover how Exploratory Testing differs from "scripted" and "nonsystematic" testing.

Course Content

Principles of Exploratory Testing

This section provides an introduction into Exploratory Testing and how it complements other systematic techniques. We shall uncover advantages and disadvantages of both Exploratory Testing and Scripted Testing and when/when not to use both approaches. Heuristics become one of the basis being used during Exploratory Testing, together with checklists and experience.

Exploratory Test Documentation

There seems to be a lot of misunderstandings in what to document during Exploratory Testing. The documents produced at the various stages of Exploratory Testing include charters, test notes, bug logs and de-brief reports. Examples of these will be provided during the workshop and participants will be encouraged to produce their own versions during the practical sessions and be shown how to adapt them for their own organisations.

Performing Exploratory Testing

During the workshop participants will be working individually, in pairs or in teams. This session looks at how effectively to perform Exploratory Testing not only as individuals but also as a "paired testing session" and a "team testing session". Participants will understand and appreciate how to be more motivated and encouraged when working with others and how this can increase effectiveness in finding bugs. The tester's style analysis can be used to identify what type of tester you are and what type of people you prefer working with.

Managing Exploratory Testing

Assessing the quality of the software is one of the responsibilities the tester has together with providing timely and accurate information so that stake-holders can make informed decisions. Various methods of reporting progress during Exploratory Testing will be demonstrated. These methods are most appropriate for quick "bursts" of Exploratory Testing, proving to be the most effective for this approach.

Bookings and Enquiries: +44 (0)1892 513740
mailto:enquiries@aquacomputing.com