

CQAA May Lunch-n-Learn Discussion Group

OMG! What's Next for Us Software Testers?

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With change as the only constant, the role of being a software tester has been transforming with all other aspects of software and information technology development. *“Why are you here and not somewhere else”* by Jeppe Hein can serve as constant reminder for us to think about the purpose of us being software testers in the new era of agile development together with Big Data, AI, IoT, and Mobile technologies, etc.

The group shared experiences about technology trends that have been impacting testing activities, how their role as a software tester has been changing, how they adjust to these changes, and what are possible career paths.

Listed below are the notes from the facilitated discussion:

Changes we all observed in recent years that are affecting our work:

- DevOps continues its trend
- More Mobile application development
- Agile is still taking the lead on transforming software development
- More demand for automation
- More attention on Behavioral Driven Development
- Continuous Development remains a strong emphasis in all IT organization
- More Off-shore, also more on-shore to suit Agile teams colocation
- Cloud provisioning
- IoT is happening indeed
- More attention on cyber security
- More emphasis on exploratory testing
- The testing pyramid is gaining more and more attention

Changes we all observed in recent years that are affecting our role as QA:

- Testing Shift Left
- QA is getting managed by development
- Diminishing QA role
- QA plays production support role
- Development teams begin to tests
- Utilize end user testing with no (traditional) QA involvement
- Moving away from TCoE (Testing Center of Excellence)
- Existing QA roles with more matrix management

- Less and less commercial testing tool such as HP and more and more of Open Source tools
- Our titles have been through changes from QA Analyst to the rise of SDET, and other titles such as QA Engineer, Quality Engineer, Test Engineer, Solutions Engineer...
- Compensation for QA function has also been risen that goes along with demand for more technical skillsets

With all these changes happening around us, there are still things remain unchanged:

- Our QA professional community
- QA budgets continue increasing
- Demand for QA professions are not decreasing
- Our passion for quality
- We are still nerds for quality
- QA value are still being questioned by many who don't understand quality
- Our continuous pursuit to evangelize quality
- Testing quality in instead of building quality in software
- Demand for business domain knowledge
- Many people in IT management regards test automation as the silver bullet to software quality

There is purpose to our QA profession:

- Meaningful and real
- Finding bugs are like great treasure hunt
- Being customers' advocate
- Expands our purpose beyond QA teams for overall process improvement
- Educate others about software quality
- Up our standards to reduce and eliminate the impact of poor software quality