

Testing in all the Shades of Agile



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Agenda



- **Shades of Agile**
- **Key Success Factors for Testing Within Agile**
 - Changing the Tester's Perspective
 - Getting Engaged Early
 - Gathering Requirements from the Source
 - Taking a Closer Look at the Technical Design
 - Factoring Testing into Sprint Planning
 - Ensuring Stand Ups Add Value to the Tester
 - Partnering with Developers
 - What Testers can Learn From Demos
 - A new Approach to Test Documentation
 - Evaluating and Communicating Testing Progress Effectively
- **Summary**

DISCLAIMER

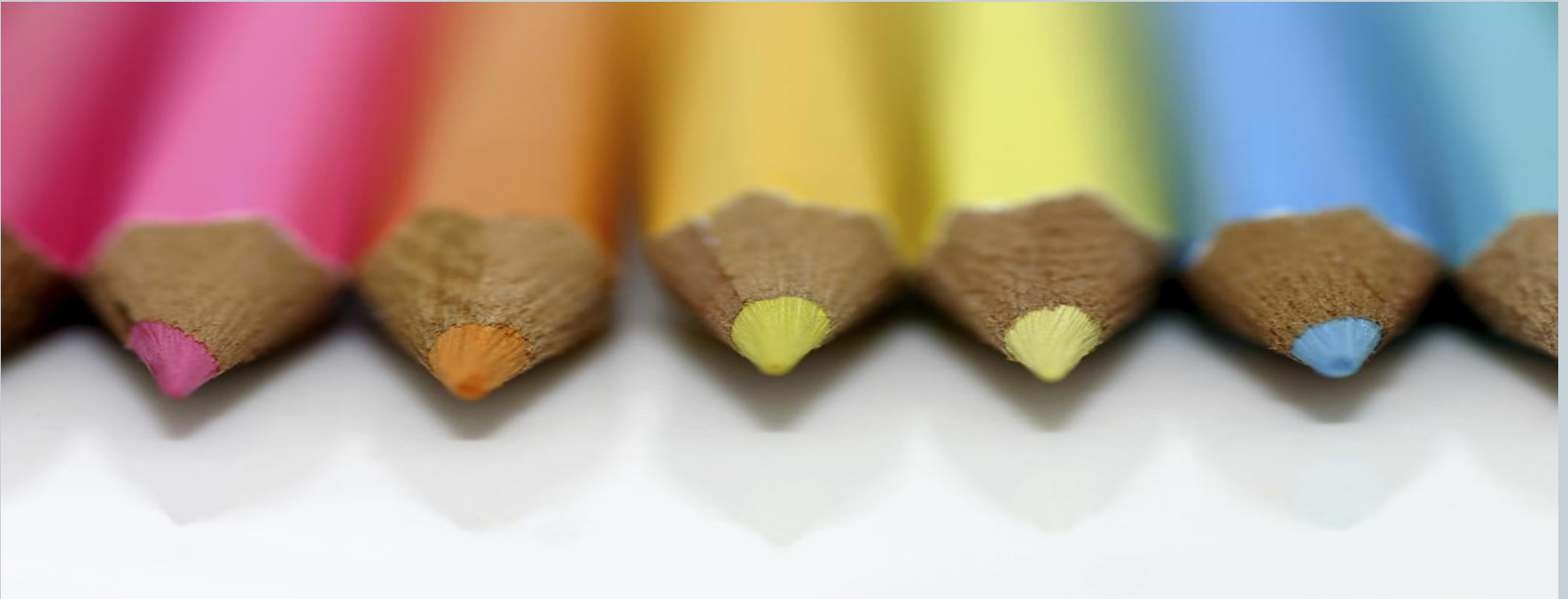


WARNING: Testing successfully in Agile contains a breadth of information that cannot all possibility be covered in a 60 minute presentation. This discussion will focus on some of the key elements of Agile that we have found to compliment any shade of Agile Testing. The appropriateness or degree of implementation in your Agile environment may differ. Contents of this presentation are under pressure. Shake well before using. Batteries not included, but lots of MSG and preservatives are. Avoid prolonged exposure to this presentation. Void where prohibited. Some assembly required. Use only as directed. This presentation may not be suitable for young children. Do not take orally. Side effects are not common but may include itching, redness and occasional fainting. If conditions persist, consult your physician. No fur-bearing animals were harmed during the creation of this presentation. Not responsible for direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any defect, error or failure to perform. Do not attend this presentation while operating a vehicle or heavy equipment. First pull up, then pull down. Call toll free before digging. Driver does not carry cash. Use only in well-ventilated area. Keep away from fire or flame. Some of the trademarks mentioned in this product appear for identification purposes only. Contestants have been briefed on some questions before the show. Limited time offer, call now to insure prompt delivery. You must be present to win. No passes accepted for this engagement. No purchase necessary. This presentation may contain peanuts, but we doubt it. Any resemblance between this presentation and others, good or bad, is purely coincidental. This presentation is meant for educational purposes only. The persons and events in this production are fictitious. No similarity to actual persons or predators, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred. Information presented in this presentation does not constitute legal advice. Reproduction strictly prohibited. Should you need legal advice, seek a legal adviser. Subject to change without notice.

Shades of Agile



Where are you in the spectrum?

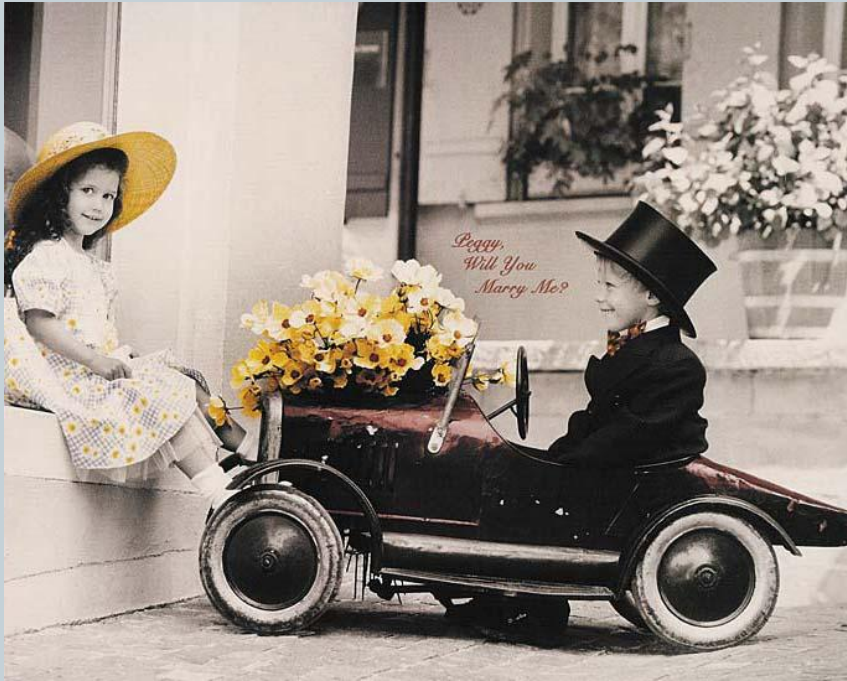


Changing the Testers Perspective

- Consider the testers role, activities and deliverables may change
- Look at the big picture
 - Maintaining awareness of the big picture and the stakeholder goals are key to ensuring the test effort is aligned
- Encourage collaboration; building strong relationships and focusing on team collaboration is key to the role of testing
- Be quick and nimble; testing within agile needs to be adaptive and scalable



Getting Engaged Early



- Agile projects allow testing to begin earlier
- Testers need to be actively engaged from project inception through closure
- Ensure the perspective of the test effort is considered from the onset of the project
- Don't be afraid to speak up and be heard!

Gathering Requirements from the Source



- Build relationships with your stakeholders
- Strive to understand requirements by working directly with the customer
- Encourage early business ‘testing’
- Get feedback

Look Closely at the Technical Design



- Learn about the technical solution
 - Peek inside and look around
 - Ask lots of questions
- Perform developer code interviews
- Peer test with developers

Factor Testing into Sprint Planning

- Think about how much testing is required
- Story estimates ideally should include test effort
 - Give estimates for test planning and execution (manual & automated)
- Consider time for testing more than just the story



Ensuring Stand-ups Add Value



- Pay attention!
 - Challenge yourself to listen and understand the technical speak
- Take notes
- Prepare other team members for follow up
- Communicate your tasks in a meaningful way
- Be prepared to re-direct your planned test efforts based on information received in a stand-up

Partnering with Developers

- Developers are our friends
- Build relationships with your developers
- Test on developer's machines as pieces of the code are ready in order to give early feedback
- Gain insight on testing from your developers on the technical risks in design



**“A good tester has the heart of a developer...
...in a jar, on their desk.”**

Harry Robinson; www.stickyminds.com; 2009

What Testers can Learn from Demos

- Ensure you are invited
- Pay attention!
 - What matters to the end users, matters to you!
- Strengthen your understanding of the business requirements
- Listen for requirement changes
- Consider new testing scenarios based on end user feedback

**Stop
looking
at this!**

Pay Attention

New Approach to Test Documentation



- Challenge yourself to a new approach
 - Ensure it is lightweight and adds value to the project team
 - Avoid developing artifacts that will gather dust!
 - Reconsider the development of extensive test plans
 - Test design evolves as the tester engages in execution and reacts to the outcomes
- Testing needs to be an interactive thinking process



“Good testers think technically, creatively, critically and practically”.
(Cem, James, & Bret; *Lessons Learned in Software Testing*; 2002)

Evaluating & Communicating Test Progress

- Evaluating the test progress needs to be multi dimensional
- Communicate progress with stakeholders effectively by representing the outcomes in alignment their expectations
- Ensure the communication enables stakeholders to make informed decisions
- Engage in retrospectives, be sure to consider how to improve upon your own approaches for the next iteration!



Summary



- Consider these key success factors are likely to land across the spectrum



- Testing on dynamic, fast paced agile projects can be a very rewarding experience

Questions?



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