

Managing Exploratory Testing

Good exploratory testing needs encouragement and support – and can be damaged by inappropriate demands. This course builds on ideas introduced in ‘Getting a Grip on Exploratory Testing’, and will enable managers and test leaders to develop a great test team and a reliable framework for exploratory testing. The course is built around discussions and exercises designed to give direct experience of the issues encountered in session-based test management, and to highlight the skills and processes required to deal with them.

Description

This course is a one-day workshop, directly addressing the question of how best to manage exploratory testing and integrate it with existing test approaches – agile or traditional. We’ll discuss questions of strategy and staffing, and practice setting charters and reviewing sessions. Along the way, we will talk about how to get the best out of time spent exploring, how to incorporate tools, working with assurance, and how to measure progress and spot problems. Three facilitated workshops during the day allow focussed discussion around application, integration and session-based management.

Benefits of attending

- Understand the applications of exploratory testing and its influence on strategy
- Practical experience of setting test charters and reviewing test sessions
- Awareness of approaches to management, measurement and integration

Who should attend

This tutorial will be of greatest use to people who run test teams, make key decisions about testing, or control their own test process. Attendees will need experience or training in exploratory testing.

Learning Objectives

Strategy

- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of exploratory testing
- Appreciate the situations where ET is a viable approach

Application

- Gain awareness of the application of ET to current and planned work
- Gain awareness of approaches for dealing with assurance, agile teams, waterfall projects
- Appreciate team issues around skill-sets and staffing

Practical management of exploratory testing using session-based methods:

- splitting a test subject into charters
- writing effective charters
- reviewing exploratory work
- amending and changing charters and test priorities
- producing viable and appropriate metrics

Sources

The Session-based Test Management parts of this course are based on the award-winning paper “*Adventures in Session-Based Testing*” by James Lyndsay and Niel vanEeden. Further references are made to approaches developed by Jonathan and James Bach, Robert Sabourin, Sylvan Lenfle, and discussions at LEWT1.

Presenter

James Lyndsay is an independent Test Strategist, based in London. He has set up and delivered working strategies in business ranging from retail to telecommunications, from agile teams and rapidly-evolving start-ups to large-scale enterprise including multinationals and critical national infrastructure. James has used, taught and championed hands-on exploratory testing wherever it made sense.



Keynote speaker at numerous international and corporate conferences. Three 'Best Paper' awards from major international conferences. Instigator and facilitator of peer group LEWT (the London Exploratory Workshop in Testing), and participant, facilitator and advisor to peer conferences in Europe and the US. Pioneered the recurring interactive 'TestLab' conference track with Bart Knaack. Internal irritant to ISEB exam panel for 5 years. Delivered customised corporate classes to clients including Nokia, Google and EADS in the UK, Europe and Japan.

See <http://www.workroom-productions.com/> for more details.

Course outline

The precise structure of the day is dictated by the needs of the participants, and will broadly follow the map below. Each section will be concluded with a wrap-up session to summarise and reinforce key points.

