



Testing Competence: Scripted Testing Versus Exploratory Testing

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ABSTRACT

Automation of software testing is a complex problem. Some of the developing organizations for software product continue to shrink rapidly. One of the reasons behind is the testing strategy adopted by the testers, which sorts most of the gap. Today, most of the testers adopt scripted testing as a strict testing strategy and emphasis minimum or no stress on exploratory testing. Scripted testing surely has some advantages but suffers from monotonous way of testing where as exploratory testing is a free style of testing and allows discovering of new problems. It influences our domain knowledge and helps in getting deeper insights of software product by employing human creativity. This paper presents the importance of ensuring a fine balance between both the ways of testing to increase the effectiveness of testing function.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Testing methodologies have undergone several changes in which the scripted testing has taken preference over all. Quality assurance team focuses on whether the application under development fulfills all the requirements or not rather than trying to evaluate the behavior of the application. Scripted testing is such a technique, which follows a script written by the testers themselves or someone else. No deviation is allowed from the path of script which includes documented test cases and test steps. Tester has to color within in the lines only. He has to follow all the instructions written in script with the highest possible degree and then to report. On the other hand, exploratory testing is a free style testing and relies on the tester to develop the testing path 'on the go'. It allows a tester to go where an end user might go rather than where a script tells them to go. It gives degree of freedom as well as responsibility to the tester to continually optimize the quality of testing by generating the test cases as needed and then further exploring the new test cases as required with the gaining in experience and creativity of the tester. It is a test approach that can be applied to any test technique, at any stage in the development process where the key is engagement of the tester, and the tester's responsibility for managing his time.

II. RELATED WORK

Cem Kaner introduced the concept of efficiency measurement for scripted as well as exploratory testing. Various other scholars gave their views and explained the roles of both type of testing. Andrew Thompson mentioned the factors to keep in mind while choosing an approach among scripted and exploratory such as domain knowledge of the tester, complexity of system, documentation level, deadlines, verification, risk levels etc. These factors can be described as below-