Explore with Intent - Exploratory Testing Self-Management

Maaret Pyhäjärvi
Email: <maaret@iki.fi> | Twitter: maaretp
Testing as Performance (Exploring) vs. Testing as Artifact Creation
Explore with Intent

- Mission
- Charter
- Other Charters
- Details
Notetaking

“Same” tool

Physical Notebook

Rapid Reporter

MindMup
Let’s Test
Observations!
An Example of Notes

• Details published on my blog 06/2015
  – http://visible-quality.blogspot.fi/2015/06/blog-while-testing-experiment-of-way-to.html

• Use the tool that suites you best
  – Paper+pen → Mindmup as I taught myself to think with more structure
Learning about a Feature
Getting Started

- Inventory of to-be-physical devices
- Save time for a designer of buildings
- Ease of design-phase maintenance of information
- Separating life of building's luminaire's at will

Luminaire Schedule / Sharing luminaires between buildings

Core ideas

Aspects of use
Learning about a Feature
Setting up for Testing
Learning about a Feature

Remembering Connections
Learning about a Feature
Reading the Spec
Learning about a Feature
Coming up with Connections

- boolean
- text / number
- link
- Luminaire attributes
- the connected trio of special attributes
- Check attribute types
Learning about a Feature
Focus to Actually Start
Learning about a Feature
Software Talks
Observations from Learning about a Feature

• I chose my focus
  – Specification first vs. Experiencing the feature first

• Found and logged bugs
  – Jira, stopped and wrote a proper report that slowed me down

• Ended up with open questions
  – Work done creates more work

There’s no right / wrong focus
Exploratory Testing:
Better tests, better testers!

• An approach, not a technique
• Find unknown unknowns
• Disciplined
• Test is a performance, not artifact
  – Artifacts support human memory
  – Many forms: e.g. checklists and automation
• Exploratory performance testing, Exploratory test automation, Exploratory regression testing
Exploratory Testing: Frame of Management

Perception of quality and coverage

“"A day’s work”"

Past Results Obstacles Outlook Feelings

Vision (“Sandbox”)

Other Charters

Current Charter

Session sheets of the past testing

Charter backlog of the future testing

Out of budget

Next in importance!

### Metrics summary

- Playbooks
- Coverage outlines

---

Debriefing

Bug Reports

Coaching

Test Manager
Exploration Skills

Source: Adapted from James Bach, Jon Bach, Michael Bolton. Exploratory Testing Dynamics. v.2.2. 2009

Self-management
 Done
 To Do
 Issues
 Coverage

Developing ideas
 All sources available
 Best use of time – effective and efficient work

Examining product
 Making models
 Tool support – creative solutions
 Risk-based testing – scientific approach
 Keeping one’s eyes open
Question, Thoughts? Feedback?