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Thailand SPIN

Software Process Improvement Network



Software Testing Working Group Event #3/2008

Theme: Defining your test strategy

Date: 14th Oct 2008

Venue: Sathorn Thani (sponsored by Microsoft Thailand)

Format: Semi-formal panel discussion

Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Time: 13.00 - 16.05

4 Panelists & 2 Moderators

Agenda

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Registration | (30 minutes) | 13.00-13.30 |
| 2. Opening | (30 minutes) | 13.30-14.00 |
| 1.1 Background | | |
| 1.2 Introduction to speakers | | |
| 1.3 What is a test strategy? | | |
| 2. Panel discussion (Part 1) | (40 minutes) | 14.00-14.40 |
| 3. Mini-break | (20 minutes) | 14.40-15.00 |
| 4. Panel discussion (Part 2) | (30 minutes) | 15.00-15.30 |
| 5. Q&A | (20 minutes) | 15.30-15.50 |
| 6. Summary | (10 minutes) | 15.50-16.00 |
| 7. Preview of next event | (5 minutes) | 16.00-16.05 |

Background

1. Reason of this theme, linking to Lloyd's previous presentation
2. Plan for this event (having 4 speakers from testing function of 4 different business models)
3. Objectives of this event

4 Panelists from 4 business/testing models

- **Product based**
Company name: Wealth Management Co., Ltd.
Panelist : Khun Wimonrat Rattanakamut
Job Titles : SQA Head / Executive Committee
- **Project based** (develop for other org)
Company name : Avalant Co., Ltd.
Panelist : Khun Piyamed Chaorawan
Job Titles : AVP
- **Testing software developed by other organization**
Company name: Kasikorn Bank
Panelist : Khun Prom Jittanupakron
Job Titles : Senior IT Quality Management Specialist
- **Service based**
Company name: Sanook online
Panelist : Khun Prathan Dansakulcharoenkit
Job Titles : Assistant Service and Operation Manager

2 Moderators

- **Moderator 1**
Company name : DST International (Bangkok) Ltd.
Panelist : Khun Ekaluck Chaiyaporn
Job Titles : QA Manager
- **Moderator 2 (Co-Moderator)**
Company name: Thomson Reuters
Panelist : Khun Jarunee Leerathanawit
Job Titles : QA Manager

Objectives

1. Awareness and understanding of test strategy
2. Understand what influences the test strategy
3. Able to define/refine test strategy using input based on real experience of the panelists
4. Preface for the upcoming event

Setting a common ground

What is Test Strategy?

- A general definition (in the context of this discussion)
 - A document that describes the methods of testing (or testing practice) at a high level to achieve long-term quality objectives.
 - Also known as, test approach, test methodology, etc.

Test Strategy vs. Test Plan

- Test Strategy vs. Test Plan
 - Test Strategy describes “the how” at the high level
 - (usually not project specific)
 - Test Plan is at operational level that outlines functional details of:
 - What needs to be done (specific tasks for the project)
 - By who (specific individual)
 - By when (specific dates)
 - Deviation from the strategy (if any)

Panel Discussion

Panel Discussions (Part 1 : Conceptualize)

- What are benefits of having a test strategy?
- Factors that influence your test strategy, with examples specific to the panelists' nature of work
- Possible scope/scale of test strategy
- Key elements of test strategy and its consideration
- Examples of question to be addressed as part of test strategy

Panel Discussions (Part 2 : Getting started)

- What drive your organization to start producing test strategy?
- What are some of the noticeable difference do you see?
- What should be considered when producing a test strategy?
- Who should be involved in reviewing and agreeing of the test strategy?

Internal guide for the panelists

**(This section will be taken out
from real presentation)**

(For internal use within working group only)

In answering the panel questions, the panelist may

- Provide brief answers that links to the question
- Provide specific examples that links to their own experience with the given business model

(For internal use within working group only)

Factors that influence test strategy

- Nature of business
- Nature of software to be tested
- Team structure/size
- Development methodology

(For internal use within working group only)

Scope/scale of test strategy

- Organization Level
- Business Unit Level
- Solution/Product line level
- Release based level
- Testing type level
- Project based level

(For internal use within working group only)

What should be considered when producing a test strategy? **(Examples of questions to be addressed in the test strategy doc)**

1. What types of testing should we cover and why? What are their priorities? Who is the owner of each?
2. General idea about how test execution is approached (say we have 300 test cases), do we start from 1 to 300 in sequence?
3. How do we get the best out of unit testing? Write test first before coding? Will we automate automated testing? How can testers participate in unit testing?
4. Unit and Integration test issues should be logged into the defect management system, yes or no? Why?
5. How do we handover outstanding issues from one type of testing to another?
6. How do we classify defects, how do we communicate which one to fix first? (priority only?)
7. How do we maintain the visibility (track progress) of testing during scripting phase and execution phase?
8. How do we know when to give a go/no go of the release based on quality?
9. How do we approach data and environment in each type of testing performed?
10. How do we ensure common defects are avoided?
11. How do we ensure common missed test cases are not repeated?
12. How do you determine and balancing the minimum quality and maximum time to meet business needs.
13. Etc, etc

Q&A

Summary by moderators

Recap of key points

- Benefits of having test strategy
- Understand factors that impact test strategy
- Determine your scale of test strategy
- Key elements of test strategy
- Understand which section is important to your business, explore them in more detailed in your strategy document
- Gain agreement from relevant stakeholders

Tips by moderators

- Strategy is never right or wrong, find out what suits you best and learn as you go
- Strategy is not static and should be reviewed periodically
- Each organization use different terms, don't get too hung up with the terminology
- Provide context/reasons how you derive certain strategy, this will allow effective improvement in the future
- If you have a strategy document detailed out, your test plan can be as simple as who? and when? Wouldn't it be much easier to develop a plan?
- Communicate the strategy to relevant stakeholders in your unit or organization, it can be a powerful tool to manage their expectations and make your test team's lives easier

Upcoming event

- Testing at Sanook (focus on performance test)



Thank you.