

Title

No test levels needed in agile software development!

Speaker(s)

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To whom is the presentation addressed?

Development managers, Designers, Developers, Testers, Users

Keywords

no test levels required in agile testing, agile product risk analysis, agile test strategy, only one table needed

Abstract

Testing in agile software development environments (ASDE) cannot be seen as a separate activity but needs to be integrated in the entire process. In this presentation I'll show you a test approach without test levels. In order to do so you need both an agile way of analysing the product risks and an agile way of determining the test strategy. And last but not least I'll show you that the result of this approach will be 1 table on the whiteboard only.

Testing is not only a vital element of agile projects, it is an integral part of agile software development. In traditional software development environments test levels like system test, user acceptance test and production acceptance test are commonly executed. In an ASDE, all team members have to work together to get the work done. All disciplines have to work together and support each other when necessary. There are no designer, developer, user or test teams in an agile project. In such an environment it makes not much sense to talk about system test and/or acceptance test teams. Instead all team members have to accept the feature (or user story or use case, etc.) with their own acceptance criteria in mind. For instance, an end-user should test the suitability and user-friendliness of the feature. Operations should for instance test the performance, the manageability and continuity of the feature. And the designer should test the functionality of the feature. In short, in an ASDE test levels are replaced by combinations of acceptor and quality characteristics important to the acceptor per feature. This approach requires a different mind-set of the team members, a different product risk analysis approach and a different view on establishing the test strategy.

The characteristics for the above mentioned approach are:

- No separate test levels, not in the iterations nor afterwards.
 - All acceptors must be present in the, relevant, iterations and prepare/execute their own tests (with or without help of the other project members).
 - In the product risk analysis the risk per combination of feature and quality characteristic should be determined by and per acceptor.
 - The test strategy (= test intensity/test design techniques) is also determined per combination of feature and quality characteristic.
 - No more (over 30 pages) test plans needed, but just one table on the whiteboard.
 - After the last iteration the product is explicitly accepted by all acceptors.
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Biography

Leo van der Aalst has almost 25 years of testing experience and developed amongst others services for the implementation of test organizations, agile testing, test outsourcing, software testing as a service (STaaS), risk based testing, calculation of the added value of testing and test-governance.

Leo is lector "Software Quality and Testing" at Fontys University of Applied Sciences (Eindhoven, The Netherlands) and he is co-author of the TMap NEXT[®] for result-driven testing and TMap NEXT[®] Business Driven Test Management books. He is also a member of the Dutch Innovation Board Testing and of the Research and Development unit of Sogeti Netherlands.

Besides all this, Leo is a much sought-after teacher of international test training, a regular speaker at national and international conferences, and he is the author of several articles.

Speaker at conferences: a.o. STARWEST and PNSQC (both USA), Test Congress and Test Expo (both UK), Test (India), Quality Week Europe (Belgium), SQC/Iqnite and TAV (both Germany), Swiss Testing Day (Switzerland), ExpoQA and QA&TEST (both Spain)
