We understand the benefits of automated testing and how this strategy directly improves developer efficiency and effectiveness. However, a poor test strategy also has costs that can grow over time and wipe out much of the gains. During this presentation we will explore the benefits and costs of automated testing, and describe a strategy that can maximize the benefits and minimize the costs. This strategy also intuitively makes sense, and should scale well to different sized teams. We will also explore system architecture, team organization, and tool resources that impact the effectiveness of automated tests, and what teams can do to modify their strategy to meet their situation.

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