IS THE TESTING ROLE RELEVANT?

Sriratna Josyula, Senior Test Lead
Jonathan Li On Wing, Senior Development Manager
Who are we

Sriratna (Ratna) Josyula

Jonathan Li On Wing
JESSIE
The story of a software test professional
Jessie

Uncertain of the future

Is her job in danger?

What is the future of the testing role?
WHY ARE WE SEEING THIS CHANGE

The transformation in the testing role
Evolution of Testing

Agile methodologies have pushed for one team

Teams are accountable for the quality

Separation between developers and testers are grey

Some companies have removed the testing role
Some Reasons Behind The Shift in Jessie’s Role

• Shared Responsibility

• Speed
  – Late to market
  – Reduction in amount of resources dedicated to testing and testing efforts

• Developing Software as a Service (SaaS)

• Microservice Architecture

• Analytics and Telemetry

• Continuous Integration & Deployment

• Partial Roll Outs
WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD

The future of the testing role and how to stay relevant
How does Jessie stay relevant

Leadership and Culture aspects

• **Evangelize** the importance of quality

• Instill a **quality mindset**

• Have a **growth mindset**

• Be a customer **advocate**
How does Jessie stay relevant

Technology aspects

• Remember Internet of Things

• Do not forget security testing

• Get comfortable with software that can write software
CONCLUSION

Things to take away
Takeaways

• Be adaptable and flexible to change

• Treat technology as a tool and not a threat

• Focus on quality and not on testing

• Shift attitude from “Individual Contributor” to “Leadership”
Thank You!

Questions?

Comments?
Implications of Shared Testing

**Testing is deep** to the degree that it has a probability of finding rare, subtle, or hidden problems that matter.

Deep testing requires substantial skill, effort, preparation, time, or tooling, and reliably and comprehensively fulfills its mission.

By contrast, **shallow testing does not** require much skill, effort, preparation, time, or tooling, and cannot reliably and comprehensively fulfill its mission.

*Bach & Bolton, Rapid Software Testing*
Cost associated to having dedicated testers

More dedicated testers:
- Late to market
- Delayed features
- Lost opportunity
- Cost of testers

Fewer dedicated testers:
- Lost Reputation
  - Angry Users
- Monetary damages
- Engineering cost of fixing later
History of Testing

Testers were generally in a different group responsible for signing off a piece of software written by software developers.

Testers performed the majority or all the testing. Which led to a throw over the wall mentality.
How to stay relevant

• To not just test in the traditional way, but to be an evangelist for quality.

• Coach and mentor your team on how to think about quality in the tasks they do.

• Focus on quality of customer experiences and not just on code quality.

• Perform risk assessment on the product.

• Ask questions about the testability of a system.

• Push for quality upstream, right from planning for a new product or feature.

• Quality gates for when code is checked in.
  – Unit test coverage

• Automate the “right” things!

• Excessive UI automation is never good.

• Learning new technologies and seeing how it can help them in their role and beyond.

• Analyze production issues to find issues or commonalities, and determine if it is a bug.