The New Role of the Agile Tester

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What are we talking about?

The Quality Engineer role
Construction Project Analogy – QA vs. QE
What a Modern Testing Role Looks Like
The Modernized Definition of Done
The Outdated vs. Modern Regression Testing Approach
Scripted vs. Unscripted Testing
The Quality Engineer Role – The “Mis”-Buster

The Misperceptions of Quality Assurance

There is one team that owns quality
It is not a skill (i.e., “anyone who is a user can test”)
If an issue is found Live or by a user, it’s QA’s fault
The Quality Engineer Role – The “Mis”-Buster

The Misperceptions of Quality Assurance

Mistake Finders – although sometimes we do find these
The “catch-all” for failed processes
The only testing that happens within the SDLC
The Quality Engineer Role – Defined

“Define, Design, Build, Execute, Measure, Report”

**Engineering**

Define – success, outcome and measurements
Design – a comprehensive strategy
Build – the solution
Execute – the solution
Measure – the results
Report – the outcome
The Quality Engineer Role – Defined

“Influence the Building of the Software before the Software is Built”

Balances Technical Acumen with User Advocacy – with Equal Emphasis on Both

Context-Driven: Given the information we have, determine if it’s enough and if not, we find more
The QA Role Comparison
Construction Project Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skilled Tradespeople</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Contractor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Inspector</td>
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<td>Customer</td>
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Which one is QA?
QA as Inspector - ‘Mis”-Buster

The Misperceptions of QA as Inspector

It instills a false sense of non-ownership with Development
It assumes that they cannot be trusted to check their own work
It creates an “Us vs. them” mentality – and ultimately...

QA is a crutch
A New Take – QE as General Contractor

QE as General Contractor...

QE is familiar with multiple components of the software development cycle
QE works with the owner/user throughout the course of the project
QE can vet out requirements and specific needs of the user/owner
A New Take – QE as General Contractor

Like the General Contractor...

QE can advocate that the desired level of quality has been met, including design and user experience.

QE offers timely and valuable feedback to the tradespeople that add to the overall success of the project.
The Modern Approach

Early Adopters and Embracers of Technology!

Curious

Don’t just ask, “How is this supposed to work?” but “What happens if I do this?”

Old School – Where will this break?

Ability to not only “think” like a user, but “act” like a user
The Modern Approach

Continuous Improvement

Ask ...

“Why do we do this?”

“What happens if we stop?”
The Modern QE

Strike balance between traditional *Specialist* roles and moving more toward *Generalists*

Test Automation
Accessibility
Functional Security
Performance
How do we do it?

Definition of Done

The Playbook for how we “do” testing
And tie it to columns in your project management tool
Outdated Regression

Mis-Perceptions of Regression Testing...

QA Owns it Solely
We build in days—or sometimes weeks—to account for it
Usually at the end of a sprint or
While preparing for a big release
Modern Regression

Shifts Left within the sprint
Within a couple of days from Dev
To Development!
Information gathered is shared real-time when the code is “fresh”
Scripted vs. Unscripted Testing

Start with Exploring!

Scripted Tests (automated and non-automated) are written before and during coding of the story. Development refers to them throughout.
Summary

Construction Project Analogy – QA vs. QE
What a Modern Testing Role Looks Like
The Modernized Definition of Done
Modern Regression Testing
Scripted vs. Unscripted
Let’s Talk!

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