

# 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The Outdated vs. Modern Regression Testing Approach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

Architect

Skilled Tradespeople

General Contractor

Project Manager

Building Inspector

Customer

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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