



QA's Role in an Agile Development Environment

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My Background

- 35 years building software products
- Academic background in Pure Mathematics (Topology & Graph Theory)
- CTO at various companies since '94



The Rise of QA



Advent of QA

QA as its own discipline

Agile Processes

Et tu, Scott Adams?



Egoless Programming (Really??)

Understand and accept that you will make mistakes. The point is to find them early, before they make it into production. Fortunately, except for the few of us developing rocket guidance software at JPL, mistakes are rarely fatal in our industry, so we can, and should, learn, laugh, and move on.



Egoless Programming (Really??)

Critique code instead of people—be kind to the coder, not to the code. As much as possible, make all of your comments positive and oriented to improving the code. Relate comments to local standards, program specs, increased performance, etc.

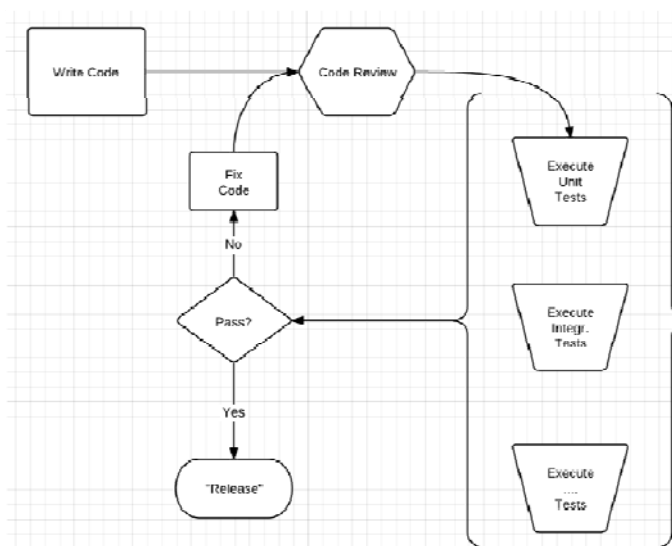


Egoless Programming (Really??)

You are not your code.
Remember that the entire
point of a review is to find
problems, and problems will
be found. Don't take it
personally when one is
uncovered.



Value Creation



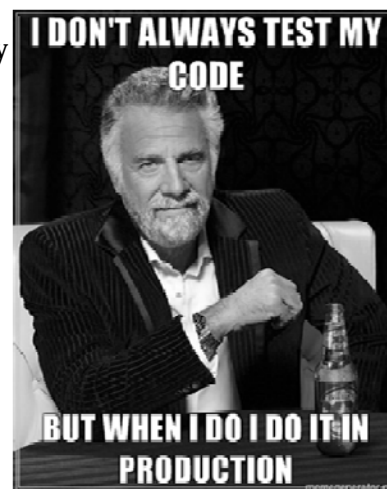
Agile QA Challenges

- Initially not given a role
- Hampered by lack of documentation
- Then a victim of the skill matrix

Activity	Developer	QA
Write Test Plans	X	X
Execute Tests	X	X
Write Code	X	

Agile QA Model

- Within the Team
 - Expertise, like any other specialty
 - Review tests & testing within the sprint
 - Scrum Master?
- Independent Test Team (ITT)
 - Take product “drops” and independently verify quality
 - After each sprint?
 - At pre-defined integration points



Agile QA – The Release

- Other testing: Performance/Load/Security/...
- Answer “The Question”
 - **Are we ready?**
 - Coverage metrics
- Readiness Review Meeting

Special Considerations in a SaaS Environment

- Frequency of releases
- Immediate, wide-spread impact
- Business ramifications
 - SLA impact
- “Rules of Engagement”
- The customer feedback loop

Questions?

