What is context-driven testing?

Or rather: exploring context-driven testing
A new hype or here to stay?

Huib Schoots
TestNet Najaarsevenement
31 Oktober 2013
Think Different

Source: http://youtu.be/nmwXdGm89Tk
Here’s to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They’re not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can’t do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.

Apple Inc.
Think Different
Intro

- What is context-driven testing?
- Where did it came from?
- Why is it important to me?
- New hype or here to stay?
Where did context-driven testing come from?
Where did it came from?

- Collaboration Cem and James (1995)
- LAWST (1997)
- CDT School (1999, November 21)
- Yahoo mailing list (November 1999)
- Lessons Learned in SW Testing (2001)
- AST founded (2003)
- First CAST conference (2006)
- Let’s Test conference (2012)
- ISST founded (2013, August 21)

http://www.testingreferences.com/testinghistory.php
Who is who...
What is context-driven testing?
The principles

1. The value of any practice depends on its context.
2. There are good practices in context, but there are no best practices.
3. People, working together, are the most important part of any project's context.
4. Projects unfold over time in ways that are often not predictable.
5. The product is a solution. If the problem isn't solved, the product doesn't work.
6. Good software testing is a challenging intellectual process.
7. Only through judgment and skill, exercised cooperatively throughout the entire project, are we able to do the right things at the right times to effectively test our products.

Source: http://context-driven-testing.com/
Jedi, Ninja or Karate Kid?

• Testing is a solution to a very difficult and complex problem
• It must be tailored to the context
• Therefore it is a human activity that requires a lot of skill
• That is why we need to study it seriously
• We must practice our craft

Context-driven testers strive to become **Jedi Knights of Testing**

How Do I Know I am Context-Driven?

- I understand, experience, value, explain and categorize good testing according to the principles of the Context-Driven School of software testing.
- I influence and am influenced by those who espouse the principles of the Context-Driven School of software testing.
- I use the Context-Driven approach in my test projects, via my methodology called Rapid Software Testing.
Context-Driven testing is...
Why is it important to me?
A personal story
New hype or here to stay?
New hype or here to stay?

- Context-driven isn’t new
- Context-driven is no hype
- Context-driven is here stay!

*Hype = promote or publicize extravagantly*
You’re next?
How can I become context-driven?

• Rapid Software Testing
• BBST
• Become part of the community
  – Twitter
  – Conference: TestBash, Let’s Test, CAST
• Learn, practice, explore
• Read blogs [http://www.huibschoots.nl/wordpress/?p=1450]
• Read books [http://www.huibschoots.nl/wordpress/?p=1361]
Questions?
Acknowledgements

Many of the ideas in this presentation were inspired by or augmented by other colleagues including Joris Meerts, Ray Oei, Pascal Dufour, Markus Gärtner, Matt Heusser, Henke Anderson, Paul Holland, Cem Kaner, James Bach and Michael Bolton.
Learn more

Rapid Software Testing:
- www.rapidsoftwaretesting.nl

Context-driven:
- http://kaner.com/?p=49
- http://testingreflections.com/node/8657

Social science:
- http://www.huibschoots.nl/wordpress/?p=1173 [see list of resources in part 5]
Get better

BBST: http://www.associationforsoftwaretesting.org/training/courses

Testing Dojo: http://www.testingdojo.org

Weekend Testers: http://weekendtesting.com

Miagi Do: http://miagido.org/blog

Skype coaching: google “Skype coaching tester”
Contacts

Huib Schoots

huib.schoots@codecentric.nl

@huibschoots

www.huibschoots.nl/blog

www.huibschoots.nl/links

codecentric nederland BV
Laan der Verenigde Naties 60
3314 DA Dordrecht
+31 (0) 6 24 64 10 33
www.codecentric.nl