A Day in the Life of an Agile Tester

...or...

What Exactly Do QA Folks Do on an Agile Project?

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Coach: Paul Hodgetts, Agile Logic,
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Your Coach: Paul Hodgetts

- Team coach, trainer, consultant, developer
- 27 years overall, 11 years agile experience
- Former CTO, Director, Architect, Developer
- Founder and CEO of Agile Logic (Fullerton)
- Extensive experience with “enterprise” transitions
- Author (Extreme Programming Perspectives)
- Speaker at conferences (Agile 200x, SD East/West, JavaOne)
- Active in Scrum Alliance, Agile Alliance (Program Director)
- Member of CSUF agile advisory board
- Contact info: phodgetts@agilelogic.com www.agilelogic.com
SCENE I
A TYPICAL THURSDAY MORNING, ABOUT 9:00 AM

Tester Paul Leads the Story Verification Activities during the Iteration

- Leads the writing of test cases.
- Mentors the team in testing best practices.
- Helps ensure testing provides high value.
- Participates in testing!
- Ensures the stories are "done".

Iteration (Sprint) Cycle
"Release" Cycle
SCENE 2
THURSDAY MORNING, AT 10:00 AM (SHARP)

Tester Paul Participates in the Daily Scrum (a.k.a. Daily Stand-Up)

- Provides status of testing activities.
- Keeps an eye on when testing needs to occur.
- Ensures test cases are ready when needed.
- Suggests collaborations on story testing.
Flashback to Last Tuesday Afternoon

Tester Paul Works as Part of the Team to Build the Iteration Plans

- Helps explain the stories via the test criteria.
- Ensures conditions of satisfaction are covered.
- Ensures that testing work is part of the plan.
SCENE 3
THURSDAY MORNING. ABOUT 10:15 AM

Tester Paul Works with the Team to Iteratively Develop Stories

- Provides input in discussions of story scope.
- Ensures conditions of satisfaction are updated.
- Helps steer the result to the highest value.
Flashback to Last Tuesday Morning

Tester Paul Discusses How to Get Better Test Coverage during the Retrospective

- Helps find a balance between all types of tests.
- Gains the buy-in of team to help with testing.
Scene 4
Thursday afternoon, right after lunch

Tester Paul works with the Product Owner team to define story requirements

- Facilitates the writing of conditions of satisfaction.
- Clarifies the story requirements.
- Works to make visible hidden assumptions.
Scene 5
Thursday Afternoon, 2:17 PM

Tester Paul Provides His Perspective in a Release Planning Session

- Ensures testing time is considered in estimates.
- Reminds team of conditions of satisfaction.
- Refines the conditions of satisfaction.
Scene 6
Late Thursday Afternoon

Tester Paul Helps Build Really Cool Continuous Testing Capabilities

- Implements techniques for rapid regression.
- Manages test sets for best ongoing coverage.
- Maintains, organizes, automates test scripts.
FLASHEFORWARD TO
NEXT TUESDAY MORNING

Tester Paul Helps
the Product Owner
Plan and Run a User Review

- Helps select test scenarios for user walk-throughs.
- Organizes user feedback, records defects.
- Captures user input via conditions of satisfaction.
Key Agile Quality Principles

- Build quality in
- Done means tested
- Testing drives development
- Quality is a team responsibility
- Continuous testing
- Balanced testing – all types & levels

How to Fail with Agile QA

- “Not enough time” to continuously test
- “Testing debt death spiral”
- Overrunning testing capability
- Slow tests
- Only testers test
- Over-reliance on one type of testing
- Testing viewed only as the final step
Where Can I Get the Slides?

- www.agilelogic.com – resources section
- Email me at phodgetts@agilelogic.com
- Call me at (714) 577-5795
- For CG folks: CONPXH