Harnessing the Power of Exploratory Testing using xBTM

TesTrek Webinar, September 4th, 2013
Christin Wiedemann, PQA

Summary and Conclusions
- Exploratory testing can be very structured.
- Exploratory testing can be thoroughly documented.
- Mind maps are great for visualization and collaboration.
- Use SBTM when possible.
- Use TBTM when the environment is too hectic.

xBTM Workflow
Adapt the method to your needs!

xBTM: Best of both worlds
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Why Do We Test?
Testing on Agile Projects
Exploratory Testing

Structured Exploration

Pair Testing

Testing Spectrum

Figure adapted from original by Jon Bach

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Structured Exploration
Pair Testing
Testing Spectrum

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Exploratory Testing

Structured Exploration

Pair Testing

Testing Spectrum

Figure adapted from original by Jim Bach
SBTM: Session-Based Test Management

Test Charter
- Risk
- Coverage
- Time frame

Session Report
- When?
- Who?
- What?
- How?
- Bugs?

Test Tracking

Debriefing
P - Past
R - Result
O - Obstacles
O - Outlook
F - Feelings
Test Charter

- Risk
- Coverage
- Time frame

Credit: Michael Kelly
Session Report

- When?
- Who?
- What?
- How?
- Bugs?
Session Report

Tester: Christin
Date/Time: May 1st, 2013, 2:30 PM
Session length: Normal

Test Charter: Create new user account

Setup time: 5 min
Design time: 5 min

Notes:
...

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Test Tracking

Test Charters

Time break-down

- Design
- Execution
- Reporting
- Other
Debriefing

P - Past
R - Result
O - Obstacles
O - Outlook
F - Feelings
SBTM: Session-Based Test Management

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TBTM: Thread-Based Test Management

The Essence of TBTM
- Activities change over time
- "For me testing is a verb. Testing is something that I do, not so much something that I create."
- Focus on "doing" and not getting "done"

Example of threads

How to do it

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The Essence of TBTM

- Activities change over time
- "For me testing is a verb. Testing is something that I do, not so much something that I create."*
- Focus on "doing" and not getting "done"

Example of threads
City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 23 Apr
RT @westendplan: Today is the last day to tell us what you think of the West End Community Plan directions. ow.ly/kevpp
Expand

City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 23 Apr
Give your feedback on governance options for Hastings Park and PNE on Apr.25 at Hastings Community Ctr, 6-9pm ow.ly/k1mmP
Expand

City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 22 Apr
@bluebay700 Thanks I've passed your feedback on to Mayor & Council, case #411986. ^RR #Cov311
View conversation  Reply  Retweet  Favorite  More

City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 22 Apr
CityNews City announces Treekeepers program to grow Vancouver’s urban forest ow.ly/2wiChl
Expand

City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 22 Apr
Learn about plans for the new Powell St Overpass.Drop-in info session May 2, 4-8pm @Van Aboriginal Friendship Ctre. ow.ly/k9MSL
Expand

City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 22 Apr
Happy #EarthDay #Vancouver! Reduce ghgs & keep waste out of the landfill: recycle your food scraps with #VanGreenBin ow.ly/kj4a2
Expand
City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 23 Apr
RT @westendplan: Today is the last day to tell us what you think of the West End Community Plan directions. ow.ly/kevpp
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City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 23 Apr
Give your feedback on governance options for Hastings Park and PNE on Apr.25 at Hastings Community Ctr, 6-9pm ow.ly/kImmP
Expand

City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 22 Apr
Happy #EarthDay #Vancouver! Reduce ghgs & keep waste out of the landfill: recycle your food scraps with #VanGreenBin ow.ly/kj4a2
Expand

bluebay700 @bluebay700 22 Apr
@CityofVancouver #earthday #vancouver & ban junk mail, styrofoam containers, plastic shopping bags, excessive product package-hard plastics
Expand

City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 22 Apr
@bluebay700 Thanks I've passed your feedback on to Mayor & Council, case #411986. ^RR #Cov311
• Hide conversation ← Reply ↑ Retweet ★ Favorite ... More
5:57 PM - 22 Apr 13 · Details

City of Vancouver @CityofVancouver 22 Apr
CityNews City announces Treekeepers program to grow Vancouver's urban forest ow.ly/2wlChl
Expand
Example of threads
TBTM: Thread-Based Test Management

The Essence of TBTM
- Activities change over time
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Example of threads

How to do it

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xBTM: Best of both worlds
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xBTM Workflow

Start/End
Sprint, iteration, or project
xBTM works on any project - Agile, Waterfall, ...

Planning

Design, Execution, Reporting
Start/End

Sprint, iteration, or project

xBTM works on any project
- Agile, Waterfall, ...
Planning

**Mind map**

- Organize threads based on:
  - Key/function areas
  - Test techniques
- Group threads into sessions

**Threads**

- List all test ideas and test activities

**Charters**

- Estimate number of charters
- Create charters
Threads

List all test ideas and test activities
Mind map

Organize threads based on
- Key/function areas
- Test techniques

Group threads into sessions
Charters

Estimate number of charters

Create charters

Test Charter
- Risk
- Coverage
- Time frame
Test Charter

Risk

Coverage

Time frame
Planning

Mind map
Organize threads based on
- Key/function areas
- Test techniques
Group threads into sessions

Threads
List all test ideas and test activities

Charters
Estimate number of charters
Create charters
Design, Execution, Reporting

Test
- Sessions
- Threads

Add
- Threads
- Sessions
- Charters

Update
- Mind Map
- Test Charters
  - Make changes to requirements
  - Incorporate
  - New design
  - New design/requirement

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Test

Sessions
Test charter
Time-boxed
Uninterrupted
Session report
Debriefing

Threads

Session Report
When?
Who?
What?
How?
Bugs?

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Sessions

Test charter
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Session Report

When?
Who?
What?
How?
Bugs?
Threads

- Modal windows
- Click item image
- Customer views item
- Review item
- Decision to de-scope customer reviews

How do we document?
How do we document?

Mind map
Update

Mind Map

Test Charters

Make changes to accommodate:
- Incorrectness
- Changed design/functionality
- New insights/ideas
Test Charters

Make changes to accommodate:

• Incorrectness
• Changed design/functionality
• New insights/ideas
Add

- Threads
- Sessions
- Charters
Design, Execution, Reporting

- **Test**
  - Sessions
  - Threads

- **Update**
  - Mind Map
  - Test Charters
  - Make changes to account for:
    - Inconsistencies
    - Changed design
    - New higher idea

- **Add**
  - Threads
  - Sessions
  - Charters
xBTM Workflow

Start/End
- Sprint, iteration, or project
- xBTM works on any project
  - Agile, Waterfall, ...

Planning
- Chart
- Test

Design, Execution, Reporting
- Add
- Test
- Develop
- Add
Summary and Conclusions

- Exploratory testing can be very structured
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PQA TESTING

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