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Software Quality. Assured.

Why I Love Test Automation.

Why I Hate Test Automation.


SQGNE
January 20th, 2021

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About Bob Crews


- CEO/Co-founder of Checkpoint Technologies, Inc.
- 32 years IT experience
- 22 years with focus on QA and QC
 - Test Automation
 - Risk Analysis
 - Test Planning
 - Effective Test Case Design




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Would like
this to be a
discussion!



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Automation



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10. Obvious Benefits

- Speed
- Increases coverage
- Eliminates tedious validation
- Allows tester to focus on analysis, resolution, and other critical tasks

9. Minimizes “Yeah, it’s close enough” Validation

8. Can Help You Prepare and Clean-up



TEST PREPARATION



TEST CLEAN-UP



TEST DATA GENERATION



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7. Enables transition to CI/CD and DevOps

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6. Enables us to take on exciting new initiatives

IoT/loE

Big Data

Machine-learning

Artificial Intelligence

Etc.

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5. Can provide “easy” automation for those without automation expertise

Integrate with framework


Business Processing approach

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4. Can be part novel workarounds to technical challenges

- **Example 1**
Challenge: Built-in OCR was failing/inconsistent. OCR not great at differentiating between O's and 0's (zeros) and I (eyes) and 1's (ones)
Solution: Copy everything to clipboard providing literal text (actual string) eliminating need for OCR to "guess" at the string. OCR not great at differentiating between O's and 0's (zeros) and I (eyes) and 1's (ones)
- **Example 2**
Challenge: Automated test needed to be kicked-off once a batch file was created.
Solution: Developed automated process to check directory for existence of the batch file and, once exist, kicked off automated process.




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3. Automation tools evolving rapidly




SCRIPT-LESS VS.
SCRIPTLESS



RPA



AI



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2. Increases career opportunities for QA and Software Testing Engineers

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1. Improves the QA and software testing process!

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10. “Red Durango” syndrome...use to go everywhere!

- Increases likelihood tests, that should have been left manual, get automated
- Increases likelihood of over-testing
- Waste time
- Increase maintenance
- Makes test library more challenging to manage



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9. Increases perception that developer are, *obviously*, excellent testers

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8. Application Overhauls

Especially when lack of communication between DEV and QA/QC

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7.

Erratic Applications

or

“How I ended up with over
2 minutes of ‘wait’
statements in my script”



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6. Sloppy Scripters

- ✓ Include meaningful description
- ✓ Comment your code
- ✓ Indent
- ✓ Use good coding practices
- ✓ Have naming conventions

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5. Automation Tool Issues and Malfunctions

- Poor documentation
 - Lack of support (on-line or otherwise)
 - Difficulty in finding/hiring expertise
 - Steep learning curve
 - Tool breaks...a lot!
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4. Objects that just don't want to be learned

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3. Lack of Knowledge / Unrealistic Expectations



TEPID BUY-IN FROM
MANAGEMENT



LACK OF UNDERSTANDING
OF SCRIPT MAINTENANCE

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2. False Promises

- Vendors who say automation is the “cure-all”
- No or minimal POC/eval time with tool

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