

Four Top Talks on Software Testing in Bristol

Sponsored by the [BCS Bristol Branch](#) in collaboration with the [Software Testing Club](#)

- Mon 19th Sept 2011, Effective Specifications & Tests for Agile Projects, Gojko Adzic
- Mon 5th Dec 2011, Using Business Stories to Test Requirements and Systems, Paul Gerrard
- Mon 13th Feb 2012, Lessons from Experience in test automation, Dot Graham
- Wed 9th May 2012, Agility and Risk : Challenges for your Agile QA Strategy, David Evans

All talks will be held at [City of Bristol College, Bristol BS1 5UA](#)

Refreshments are served at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Mon 19th Sept, Effective Specifications & Tests for Agile Projects, Gojko Adzic

- Fast turnaround in agile projects requires the specifications and testing processes to fit into to short iterations, which is a challenge for many teams when they start out with agile development. As a result, analysts and testers are often confused about how to engage in a weekly delivery process and developers don't have enough information to deliver the right product without wasteful rework. In this presentation, Gojko Adzic talks about set of process patterns that facilitate change in software products to ensure that the right product is delivered efficiently with short iterations. He presents how to organise requirements, specifications and tests effectively to support an agile development process.
- Gojko Adzic is a strategic consultant who helps ambitious teams, from investment banks to web portals, to improve the quality of their software products and processes. Get in touch on <http://gojko.net> or @gojkoadzic

Mon 5th Dec, Using Business Stories to Test Requirements and Systems, Paul Gerrard

- The use of stories to communicate dates back 30,000 years to the time when cave paintings recorded daily experience of people living as hunter-gatherers. If a software team uses a whiteboard to capture and talk about user stories to scope the next phase of development, they are drawing on an instinctive need to use examples, to criticise, discuss and refine them to arrive at a shared understanding. Stories worked for cavemen, they work for agile teams, and they'll work for you too because they are universal. Stories derived from written requirements can be used to walk-through business scenarios and when users see the proposed system 'in action', requirements anomalies stand out and trigger informed discussions of situations, variations and outcomes. A disciplined approach to story-writing and requirements testing can improve requirements and the target solution dramatically. 'Business Stories' can be shared as examples for developers to see what was intended to help their understanding, and of course, they also provide the basis for later acceptance tests.
Up-front requirements testing doesn't require extra effort - much of this analysis work would be done during acceptance test preparation anyway. This approach provides a step-up with business impact analysis, regression testing, and even test automation.
- Paul is a consultant, teacher, author, webmaster, programmer, tester, conference speaker, rowing coach and a publisher. He has conducted consulting assignments in all aspects of software testing and quality assurance, specialising in test assurance. He has presented keynote talks and tutorials at testing conferences across Europe, the USA, Australia, South Africa and occasionally won awards for them. In 2010 he won the Eurostar European Testing Excellence Award. He is Principal of Gerrard Consulting Limited and is the host of the UK Test Management Forum

Mon 13th Feb, Lessons from Experience in test automation, Dot Graham

- What is happening now in test automation? What lessons have been learned from recent experiences that can be applied and carried forward, and what good ideas have been developed that we can benefit from both now and in the future? In this presentation, we extract the most important lessons learnt and the best ideas from the experiences of many people from diverse industries, based on our recently published book* of case studies in test automation.
Many of the case studies have been very successful, but others have struggled to achieve their objectives. Some have succeeded technically, yet their efforts have come to nothing as the automation was discontinued or killed (often manslaughter rather than murder, but the automation is still dead).
By drawing out the common threads of both success and failure, we give a set of guidelines that can help ensure greater success in test automation in the future, covering both management and technical issues.
 - Background of test automation
 - Management issues and behaviour that affect test automation
 - Critical technical issues that need to be understood for successful automation
- Dorothy Graham has been in testing for 40 years, and is co-author of 4 books (Software Inspection, Software Test Automation, Foundations of Software Testing, and Experiences of Test Automation).
Dot was programme chair for EuroSTAR 2009 as well as the first EuroSTAR in 1993. She has been on the boards of conferences and publications in software testing. She was a founder member of the ISEB Software Testing Board and was a member of the working party that developed the ISTQB Foundation Syllabus.
She is a popular and entertaining speaker at conferences and seminars world-wide and holds the European Excellence Award in Software Testing.

Wed 9th May, Agility and Risk : Challenges for your Agile QA Strategy, David Evans

- A recent report from Forrester states that agile methods have now become mainstream in the market, with over a third of all companies describing their development as Agile.
But for those who have switched to Agile methods and for those still in the early stages of adoption there are still some important questions: What is the relationship between risk mitigation, quality and agility? How can we assure the quality of our agile projects? Will our traditional testing department cope with the transition? What are the most important principles of quality management in an agile context?
I explore these and other questions in this tour through the key challenges for creating an agile quality strategy
- David Evans is an independent agile consultant, coach and trainer with over 22 years of IT experience. A thought-leader in the field of agile testing, he has trained and consulted on this topic for clients in the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Australia, Israel, South Africa and Singapore. A regular speaker at events and conferences across Europe, David has also had several papers published in international IT journals. He currently lives and works in the UK, where he runs his own company “ThinkAlike Consulting”