Introduce Your Agile Team to Coach & Mentor: Alan Richardson

"Alan opened my eyes to the role of the modern tester and test leader..."

"People with Alan's level of expertise are a rare find in the testing arena!"

"I use methods I learned from working with Alan daily in my testing, I couldn't recommend him highly enough."

"Alan is a brilliant test professional; the most technical hands-on manager I've worked with; and a great mentor."

"Alan has deep and broad knowledge of agile practices and pitfalls"

"Alan is a strong intellect with a practical basis and is an inspiration in technical testing at all levels in an organisation"

"Alan is an exceptional coach and mentor."

Contact:
alan@compendiumdev.co.uk
www.compendiumdev.co.uk

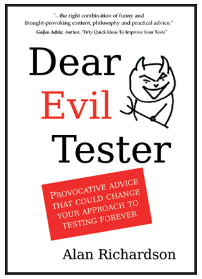
Blogs:
www.EvilTester.com
www.JavaForTesters.com
www.SeleniumSimplified.com

Social:
uk.linkedin.com/in/eviltester
twitter.com/eviltester

Help Your Teams Improve How They Test and Develop Software

alan@compendiumdev.co.uk
www.compendiumdev.co.uk

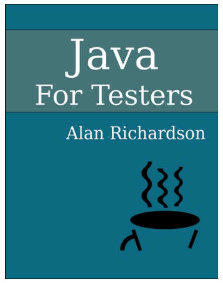
Books



Dear Evil Tester

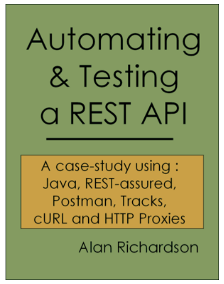
Provocative advice that could change your approach to testing forever

Alan Richardson



Java For Testers

Alan Richardson



Automating & Testing a REST API

A case-study using : Java, REST-assured, Postman, Tracks, cURL and HTTP Proxies

Alan Richardson

www.compendiumdev.co.uk/page/books

Online Training Courses

www.compendiumdev.co.uk/page/online_training

The Evil Tester's Guide to Agile Testing

By Alan Richardson

Common Sense advice that could change your approach to Agile forever

www.EvilTester.com/agile

Free Inside:
Your "Fold out and Keep" poster guide to the Most Commonly Asked questions about Agile Testing

What is Agile Testing?

A Test approach crafted uniquely for your specific environment.

Every Agile project is unique. You need to understand the essence of testing as evaluating and exploring models of your system. Test in a way that fits, and adapts to, your Agile Development Process. **Nothing complicated.** Involve everyone on the team in your Testing process.

What does a Software Tester Actually Do?

A Tester builds a Model and compares it to the delivered System.

Models like: requirements, acceptance criteria, risk (business, technical, process), flow, and functionality. A tester expands the model by observing, exploring, interrogating and manipulating the system.

They use the model to communicate risk effectively.

How Much Should we Automate?

Automate to convince yourself the system meets the acceptance criteria.

Do you have a low risk of changes unexpectedly and adversely impacting previously tested System areas? Are the agreed Acceptance Criteria still met by the System? Review the automated execution code, to ensure it is relevant, delete anything that takes time to maintain but doesn't help evaluate the risk of release.

Do we still need testers in Agile?

Once you've worked with a good tester, this question won't even cross your mind.

People ask this question when they've never seen good testing in action. You still need to test, and you need people to do that. You can train other people to test, but they may not have the motivation to learn testing in depth and push your System to its limits.

Should we automate our testing?

Automate execution flows through the system to assert on agreed acceptance conditions.

We are Human. Humans automate the mechanistic, to free ourselves to use emotion and imagination. We automate coding and refactoring with IDEs, we automate builds and software releases. We should look for opportunities to automate parts of our testing process. While only a small part of evaluating the risk of releasing software, it is a part that we can automate.

How can we automate and still finish the sprint?

Commit to automating as part of your Definition of Done.

Automating acceptance criteria is part of your sprint planning. Don't just write code, commit to maintaining a system which automatically asserts that you continue to meet the acceptance criteria the code was designed to fulfil. Take advantage of Abstraction Layers, coding and design principles to automate in parallel with writing system code.

What is an Agile Tester?

An Agile Tester brings flexibility to their role.

They don't quote books and definitions. They take the essence of testing and implement it as part of your Agile System of Development. They explore the System deeply, spot Risks, and ask questions to help everyone think differently about the quality of the software and the process of development.

What tools should we use for our Agile Testing?

That depends on your technology. Automate strategically and tactically.

Strategically automate system execution making it maintainable and robust. Tactically use tools to support deep system Observation, Exploration, Interrogation and Manipulation. Avoid separate "Test Tracking" tools, we want to harness the skills of all team members as part of our Testing process.

How can we finish all our testing in the sprint?

If you haven't finished testing, then you don't release the functionality.

Don't create a bottleneck by having a single person allocated to Testing. Have everyone on the team test to the best of their ability. Use the people who are best at Testing to explore the Risks and Conditions in detail. Leave the simple condition checking to the automated system or people less skilled in testing.