<u>ETA Week 8 – Summary Review</u>

I'm going to launch this summary by patting you all on the back. Not once but twice. Once from Paul and again from Lee. Monday was, if not the best session, then equal best. The level of conversation, questions, answers, thinking and discussion was just brilliant. We were both really, really impressed. Let's see if we can bring this every week until we finish.

We started the session by reviewing the set homework task. The task was to use Xmind to create a mind map of the functionality that Xmind provides. We saw some great examples of what can be done. We also saw that different mapping styles can be used for different people and ideas, but they work equally as well. The discussion about why we might use mind maps and why they might be useful was really good. Luca thought Paul was putting him in the spotlight. In reality, the questioning was because Luca was thinking and giving some really good answers. This was a good example of how people can question ideas to get a good understanding of a topic or issue.

Even though we had spoken quite a bit about mind maps, we did a quick overview of points worth knowing. The really cool thing about this was that during discussion of the mind map homework the discussion led already us through these ideas. Just remember, with mind maps, there is no right or wrong, just things you think will work for the context.

We then moved on to discussing oracles. An oracle is something we can use to help us determine ways in which things might be acceptable or unacceptable. We focussed on Consistency oracles. We have used these repeatedly through the course but this time we broke it into components and spoke about those. As a reminder those components are:

- History
- Image
- Comparable products
- Claims
- Users' expectations
- Product
- Purpose
- Standards and statutes
- Familiarity (an inconsistency heuristic)

We also discussed what a heuristic is and what it isn't. Remember that heuristics are great for helping us create test ideas BUT, and this is important, they are not rules. Heuristics can be wrong (or, as Lee noted, "they are fallible").

We quickly explored the SFPIDOT heuristic

- Structure
- Functions
- Data
- Interfaces
- Platform
- Operations
- Time

You can find a mind map of SFDIPOT at
http://apps.testinsane.com/mindmaps/what-is-sfdipot-heuristic-test-strategy-model

We showed you a YouTube clip of the Bach brothers (James and Jon) performing an exploratory testing session of the "Easy button" and noted how they are able to generate test ideas using mnemonics like HICCUPPS and SFDIPOT.

To finish off the session we revisited some earlier discussion of Session Based Test Management (SBTM). We discussed that using SBTM we set charters and then explore the software to get information relevant to the charter. During our testing, we take notes about our observations. The sessions are time boxed (limited to a specific amount of time) and at the end of a session there is a debrief. In the debrief we discuss our observations from exploring the software. Based on our observations we might decide to explore further based on new charters or decide we don't need to explore further. To put all of this into practice we devised three charters and allowed you to choose the one each of you wanted to try. The software we tested was the parking calculator we had used in a previous session. We encouraged you to think about which oracles you were using if/when you spotted problems in the software under test. For a first effort at SBTM you all demonstrated you understand the basic concepts. Great work.

Another excellent session where you all demonstrated you have been listening and learning as we go. Keep up the good work.