John Escobedo

QA Test Lead, UAT Lead QA Test Analyst, QA Manual Tester

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Summary: Senior QA Test Lead with a track record of taking full ownership of the software quality lifecycle, from founding QA departments in startup environments to leading testing for high-stakes government projects. Over 18 years of experience in full-stack testing, process implementation, and cross-functional team leadership. A skilled communicator who excels at bridging the gap between technical teams and business stakeholders, ensuring clear alignment on quality goals and project requirements. Trilingual in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language.

Skill Sets

Problem-Solving & Analysis

Attention to Detail · Analytical Thinking · Problem-Solving · Critical Thinking · Root Cause Analysis · Troubleshooting

Interpersonal & Collaboration

Clear Communication · Curiosity · Cross-functional Collaboration · Mentoring · Agile Coaching · Public Speaking & MC

Leadership & Process

QA Process Implementation · Team Leadership · Process Standardization · Agile/Scrum · Production Support · Remote Team Management

Testing Methodologies & Frameworks

Agile Testing · Regression Testing · User Acceptance Testing · Test Planning · CI/CD Testing · Accessibility & 508 Testing

Test Management & Documentation

JIRA/Xray · TestRail · Test Case Design · Bug Reporting · SOP Development · Risk Management

Platforms & Environments

Web Applications · Mobile (iOS/Android) · Desktop (PC, Mac, Linux) · Cross-browser/Cross-platform · REST API Testing · Gaming Platforms & Consoles

Tools & Technologies

GitHub · Chrome Developer Tools · SQL · JavaScript/HTML/CSS · Command Line Interfaces · JQL

Industry Expertise

Healthcare & Telehealth · Gaming & Entertainment · Educational Technology · Live Events & Hosting · Government & Veterans Affairs · Virtual Reality (VR)

AI Collaboration & Prompting

Prompt Engineering · Detailed Specification Writing · Complex Task Decomposition · Iterative Refinement · Output Verification & Validation · AI Tools (ChatGPT, Claude, Midjourney)

Office and Image Suites

Adobe Creative Suite · Office 365: Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook · Google Workspace: Drive, Docs, Sheets · Canva · JIRA Confluence · GIMP

Work Experience

Freelance | Austin, TX

Karaoke Host

July 2025 to Present

> Host live karaoke events, managing all aspects of audio equipment, song selection, and audience engagement to create memorable entertainment experiences. Combine technical expertise with interpersonal skills to deliver smooth, high-energy events for diverse audiences.

Responsibilities and Accomplishments

- Set up and operate sound systems, speakers, and karaoke software for events.
- Create a welcoming, fun atmosphere that encourages audience participation.
- Troubleshoot technical and audio issues in real-time to ensure seamless performances.
- Manage song queues and requests while maintaining event flow and timing.
- Engage with guests to build rapport and ensure an inclusive experience for all skill levels.

Insight Global | Austin, TX

Robot Operator

July 2025 to September 2025

> Leveraged extensive VR expertise to directly operate humanoid robots for Apptronik, playing a key role in a fast-paced development cycle. Responsibilities included VR-based operation, environmental staging, and rigorous documentation of issues and processes. Demonstrated extreme adaptability to excel in a novel, process-light environment, directly supporting high-priority company initiatives through consistent achievement of data collection goals.

Responsibilities and Accomplishments

- Rapidly adapted to a novel role with minimal onboarding, mastering VR-based robot operation within days to meet aggressive development timelines.
- Prepared and staged physical testing environments to precise specifications, ensuring optimal conditions for robotic performance and data collection.

- Served as a critical communication bridge between operations and engineering, translating observed robot behaviors into actionable bug reports that accelerated issue resolution.
- Proactively authored troubleshooting protocols and SOPs in a process-light environment, establishing documentation standards adopted by the broader team.
- Contributed directly to high-visibility initiatives by consistently meeting daily and weekly team goals for data collection and operational testing.

GeekSI | Tallahassee, FL

Senior QA Test Lead | QA Analyst

March 2019 to June 2025

Senior contractor providing comprehensive QA testing and test leadership across multiple mission-critical projects for the Veterans Affairs over a 6-year engagement. Subject matter expert in government software testing, 508 accessibility compliance, and modernizing legacy testing processes with Agile methodologies.

Responsibilities and Accomplishments

- Championed the transition from Waterfall to Agile methodologies for the VA Telehealth Hub, gaining stakeholder buy-in and coaching cross-functional teams through the adoption process.
- Advocated for accessibility as a core quality metric, leading 508 compliance initiatives and educating team members on the importance of inclusive design for veteran users.
- Served as the go-to SME for the Traumatic Brain Injury module, facilitating knowledge transfer sessions and mentoring junior analysts on complex healthcare domain requirements.
- Collaborated with automation engineers to validate Cucumber/Selenium scripts, ensuring alignment between manual test intent and automated execution.
- Drove standardization of testing practices across multiple VA projects, building consensus among distributed teams and reducing onboarding time for new testers.
- Tested a diverse array of platforms including web applications, mainframes, Linux machines, and mobile devices (Android, iOS).

EverlyWell | Austin, TX

QA Test Lead

June 2018 to October 2018

As the primary QA Test Lead, established the initial quality assurance process for EverlyWell's health test services, where customers managed lab results through a secure online portal. Took ownership of JIRA administration, configuring the system to support a new cross-team CI/CD workflow.

Responsibilities and Accomplishments

- As the initial QA resource, integrated the first formal QA process into the software development cycle for the health test service platform.
- Partnered with engineering and product leadership to design a unified JIRA workflow, facilitating smoother cross-team collaboration and visibility into release status.
- Assessed release risks and communicated go/no-go recommendations to stakeholders, balancing speed-to-market with quality assurance.
- Performed all testing for new website features across all major browsers and mobile devices, including Android, iOS, and the iOS Simulator.
- Mentored team members on effective bug writing and QA practices to foster a culture of quality across the organization.

YouScience | Austin, TX

QA Test Lead | QA Analyst

July 2017 to June 2018

Served as the sole QA employee, responsible for establishing and managing the quality assurance process for the company's flagship online career and education assessment tool. Worked cross-functionally to integrate QA into the development cycle, ensuring the stability and quality of all weekly releases.

Responsibilities and Accomplishments

- As the sole QA voice, built credibility with development and product teams by demonstrating the value of structured testing, ultimately integrating QA as a respected part of the SDLC.
- Developed the complete QA framework, including test procedures, test case scenarios, and standards for verification, integration, and regression testing.
- Managed all testing for the flagship web application, performing cross-browser testing via BrowserStack and testing on Android and iOS devices.
- Created and maintained test case scenarios and product documentation to support new feature releases and ensure consistent quality.
- Improved developer-QA communication by introducing standardized bug report and user story templates, reducing back-and-forth and accelerating fix turnaround.

Luna Data Solutions | Austin, TX

QA Analyst | QA Engineer

May 2015 to May 2017

Contracted as a QA Analyst for RetailMeNot, focusing on the launch of new e-commerce features and ensuring site stability. Enhanced testing efficiency through custom automation tooling, analytics validation, and standardized data suites, while providing direct production support for a high-traffic website.

Responsibilities and Accomplishments

- Coordinated QA efforts across multiple teams for the high-visibility gift card feature launch, aligning testing priorities with business objectives.
- Partnered with developers to enhance the internal test automation framework, contributing code improvements that increased team efficiency.
- Engineered custom JavaScript tools to validate and ensure the accuracy of site-wide analytics implementation and data integrity.
- Developed and standardized the smoke testing data suite to guarantee consistency and reliability across all testing environments.
- Responded to live production issues under pressure, triaging problems and communicating status updates to stakeholders during critical outages.

Education and Training

Austin Community College: 2015 - 2017
American Sign Language

ASL School: 2008 - 2012
American Sign Language

Vista College - Berkeley, CA: 2001 - 2002
Video Editing and Life Drawing

A.I. of Houston - Houston, TX: 1995 - 1996
Fine Art, Typography, Layout, 3D Max

San Jacinto College - Pasadena, TX: 1993 - 1995
Computer Science, Fine Art