The Origins of
Context Driven Testing

CAST 2019
August 15, 2019

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Disclaimer

I do not claim to be a principle person in the development of the Context Driven Testing ideas. Although I name many people based on my personal experience, the ideas behind CDT evolved over many years based on the learning and experience of people too numerous to mention. Unfortunately, I'm sure I have missed many worthy people in my lists. I did actively participate in many of the discussions and debates leading up to the codification of ideas behind CDT and the establishment of AST.

Doug's Background

- Joined HP as Systems Production Engineer and later became the first Software QA person at HP

- Spent 10 years in Manufacturing, Development, QA, and Support engineering & management at HP

- Invested 8 years at 8 startups, starting or restarting SQA and Testing (all non-development engineering)

- "Hung out my shingle" as a consultant

- Met Cem Kaner and James Bach around that time

- Invited by Cem to the LAWST [1] Conference

- Active in AST community since the start (on the initial BoD and signer on the Bylaws)

Doug's Experience

- IRS
- Fed Ex
- Northrup Grumman
- HP
- Palm Computing
- Franklin-Templeton
- MasPar Computers
- Lifescan

- Government
- Shipping Services
- Military Contracting
- OS, Hardware, Printers
- Startup (6 people)
- Financial Systems
- Massively Parallel
- FDA regulated

LAWST Conferences

- Invited practitioners
- No charge for the conference
- Workshops ran from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon
- Main motivation is shared passion
- Basis for *many* more peer workshops
  – I've participated in over 60

LAWST Style Conferences

- Dozens of themes and locations
- No cost to invitees
- Workshops run from Thursday or Friday until Sunday
- Networking and after hours activities are as/more valuable as the conference
  - Tester games
  - Pentagon Wars and other tester movies
  - Three contexts" game

LAWST Workshop Dates

1. February 1 & 2, 1997
2. July 12 & 13, 1997
3. February 7 & 8 1998
4. May 30 & 31, 1998
5. October 24 & 25, 1998
6. February 20 & 21, 1999
7. July 10 & 11, 1999
8. December 4 & 5, 1999
9. March 11 & 12, 2000
10. June 3 & 4, 2000
11. October 28 & 29, 2000
12. June 2 & 3, 2001
13. November 3 & 4, 2001
14. Sep 7 & 8, 2002
15. March 8 & 9, 2003
16. October 25 & 26, 2003

LAWST Topics   (1/2)

- GUI Capture/Playback as an Automation Strategy

- Identify a Generic Set of Testing Requirements for Automation

- Documenting Automated Test Cases & Test Case Triage

- When Should a Test Case be Automated?

- Test Oracles

- What is Testability?

- Exploratory Testing

LAWST Topics   (2/2)

- Measurement Theory as Applied to Software Testing
- Gray Box Testing
- Testers' Notebooks
- Web and Client/Server Testing
- Complex Testing
- Model Based Testing
- Use of Models of the SUT
- Test Selection Strategies
- Test Analysis Showcase

Some Post-LAWST Conferences

- Software Test Managers' Roundtable (STMR)
- Workshop on Teaching Software Testing (WTST)
- Austin Workshop on Test Automation (AWTA)
- Workshop on Performance and Reliability (WOPR)
- Workshop on Heuristics and Exploratory Testing (WHET)
- Software Testing in Financial Systems (STiFS)
- Toronto Workshop on Software Testing (TWST)
- Toronto Workshop on Test Automation (TWTA)
- Workshop on Self-Education (WHOSE)
- Workshop on Certification (WOC)
- Workshop on Regulated Software Testing (WREST)

A Context-Driven Approach

First published in 2002 in

"Lessons Learned in Software Testing"

Cem Kaner, James Bach, Brett Pettichord

With acknowledgement of 36 more contributors.

A Few of the Important People in the Development of CDT*

- Cem Kaner
- James Bach
- Brett Pettichord
- Doug Hoffman
- Brian Marick
- Elisabeth Hendrickson
- Johanna Rothman

* In my experience and from correspondence with Cem Kaner

Original AST Board of Directors April 14, 2004

- Pat Schroeder

- James Pat McGee

- Cem Kaner

- Andy Tinkham

- Doug Hoffman

- Tim Van Tongeren

- Hung Nguyen

Original AST Mission Statement

"Improve the practice of software testing by advancing the science of testing and its application."

AST's Context Driven Direction

- The word "context" is not in the Bylaws or original Vision Statement

- December 2009 Board Meeting
  - Adjusted the direction of AST
  - Voted 4/0/2 – to add "Context-Driven" to our vision statement
  - Discussed activities to be continued/dropped

Current Mission Statement

"The Association for Software Testing is dedicated to advancing the understanding of the science and practice of software testing according to Context-Driven principles."

Questions?

Additional Contributors From LAWST

- Chris Agruss
- Tom Arnold
- Helene Aster
- Jim Bampos
- Sue Bartlett
- Dick Bender
- Jim Brooks
- Hans Buwalda
- Jaya Carl
- Fiona Charles
- Ross Collard
- Anne Dawson
- Claudia Dencker
- Ibrahim (Bob) El-Far
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