



The Tales of Agile Testers

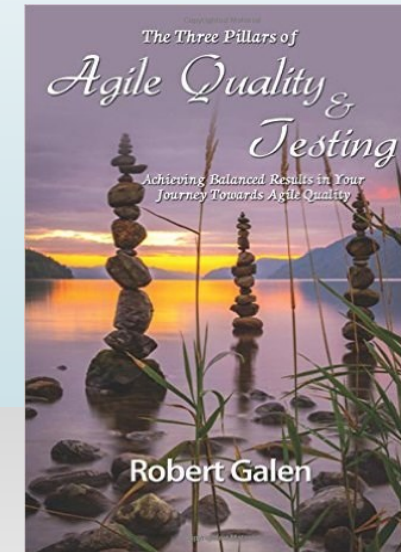
Transforming agile testing at scale.

Bio

Chief Story Teller of the book “The Three Pillars of Agile Testing and Quality” written by Bob Galen, Mary Thorn is Director of Agile Practices at Ipreo in Raleigh, NC.

Mary has a broad testing background that spans automation, data warehouses, and web-based systems in a wide variety of technologies and testing techniques. During her more than twenty years of experience in healthcare, HR, financial, and SaaS-based products.

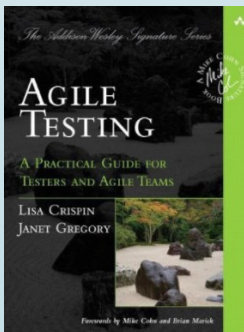
Mary has held manager and contributor level positions in software development organizations. A strong leader in agile testing methodologies, she has direct experience leading teams through agile adoption and beyond.



Mary Thorn

Agile Testing Definition(Prologue)

- Collaborative Testing Practices that occur from inception to delivery, supporting frequent delivery of quality products, that add business value for our customers. Testing practices focus on defect prevention rather than defect detection, and work to strengthen and support the idea of the whole teams responsibility for quality
- Agile testing includes (but is not limited to) these testing activities: guiding development with concrete examples, asking questions to test ideas and assumptions, automating tests, performing exploratory testing, testing for quality attributes like performance, reliability and security
 - Quoted by Janet Gregory and Lisa Crispin





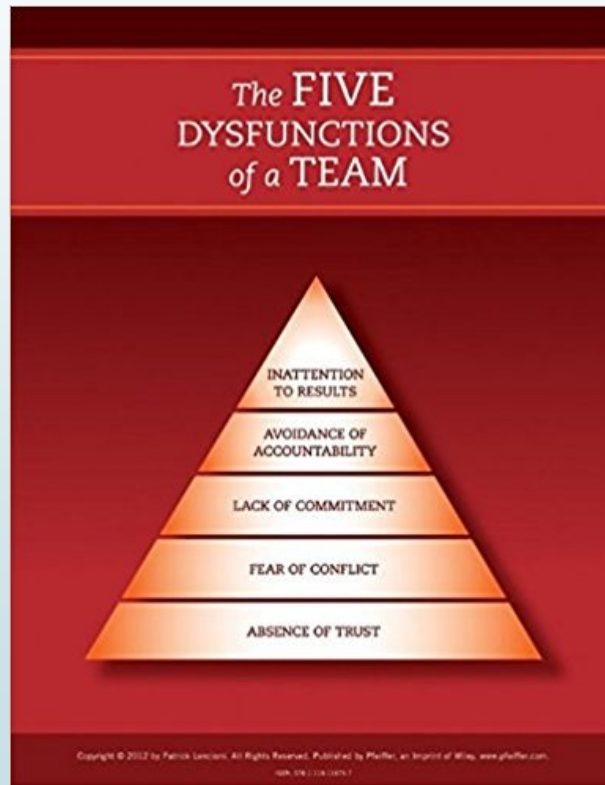
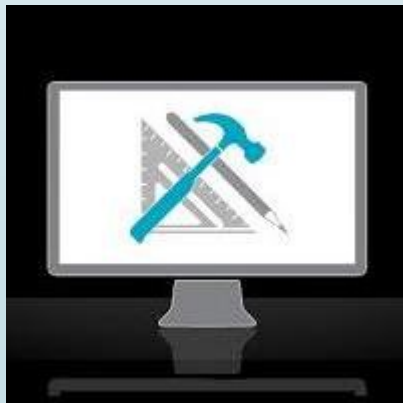
The Classic Tale(preface)

- More offshore testers than onshore
- Transitioning from waterfall to agile(scrum mostly, some kaban)
- One to many Products
- Testing is a lot of times completed by the product people
- Most products had 35-75 test cases that were workflows that had anywhere from 10,000-75,000 verification points
- Zero to many automation frameworks and what automation there as was done by vendors and would take anywhere from 1-2 weeks to run serially
- Two Test Leaders

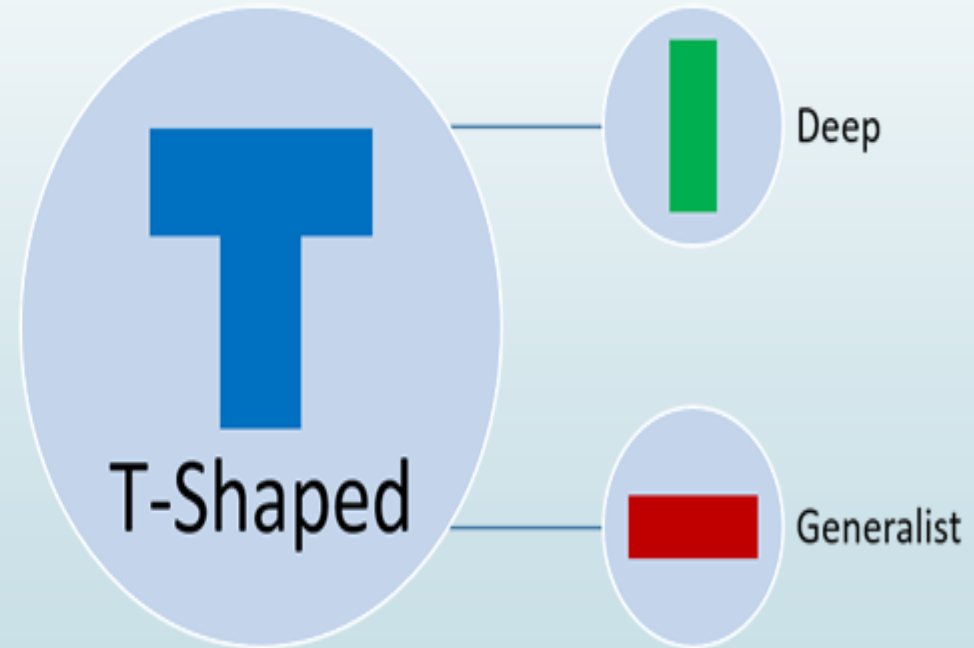
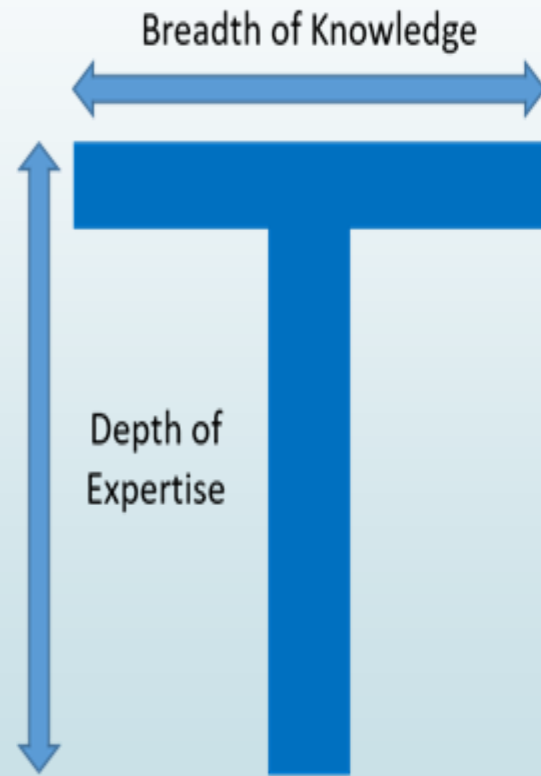
The Tale of the Missing Skillset



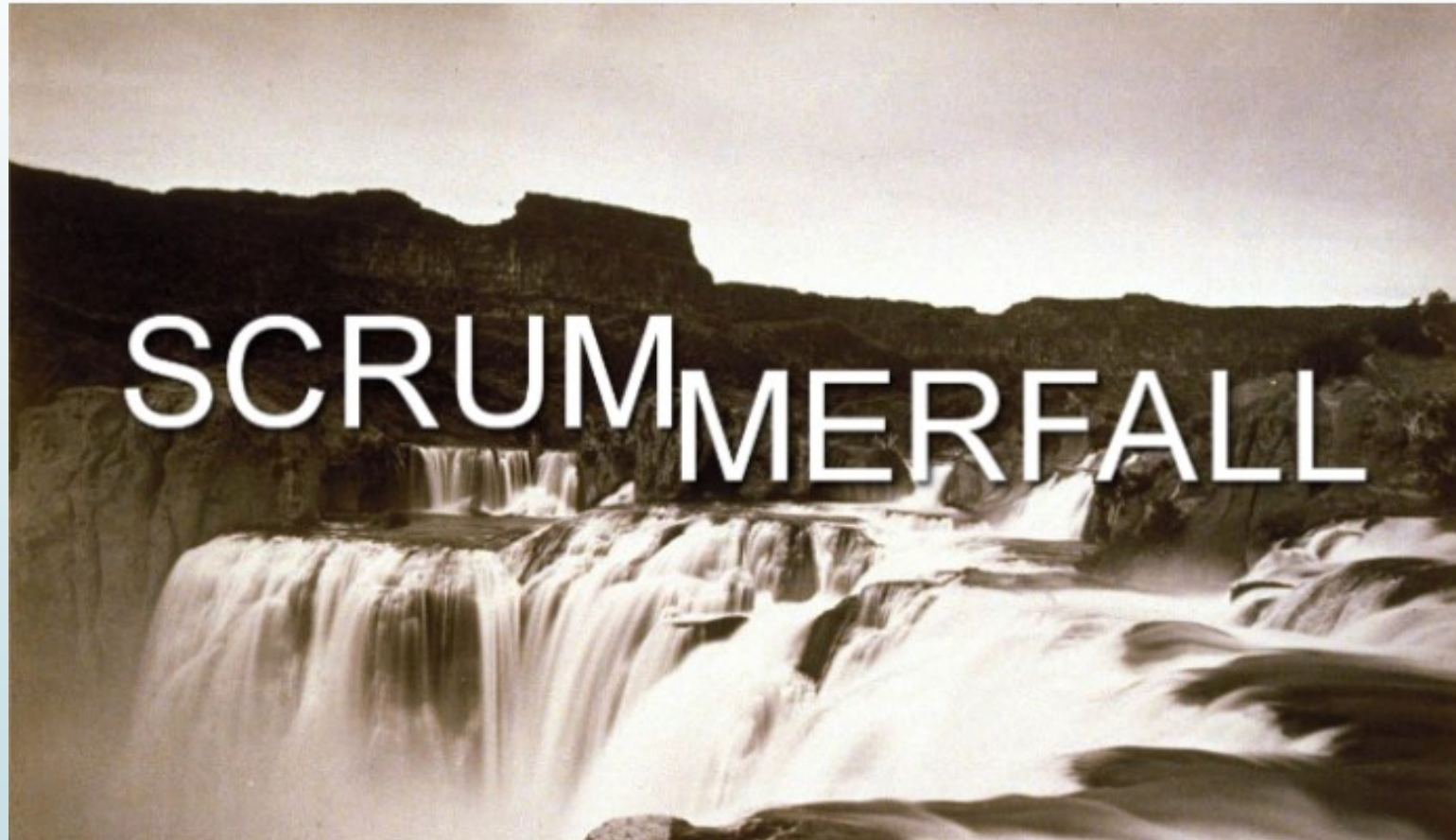
The Tale of Vision Setting



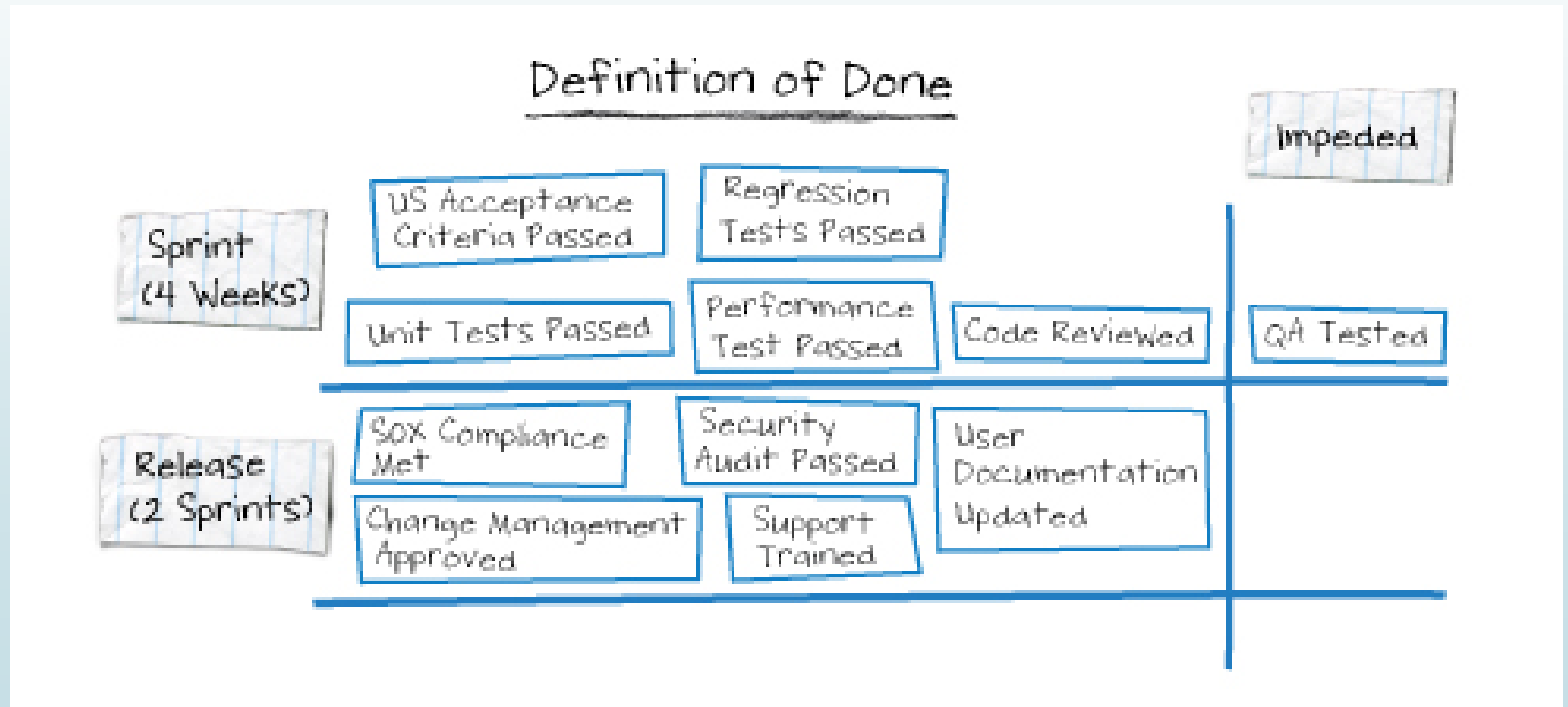
The Tale of the 52 Week Boot Camp



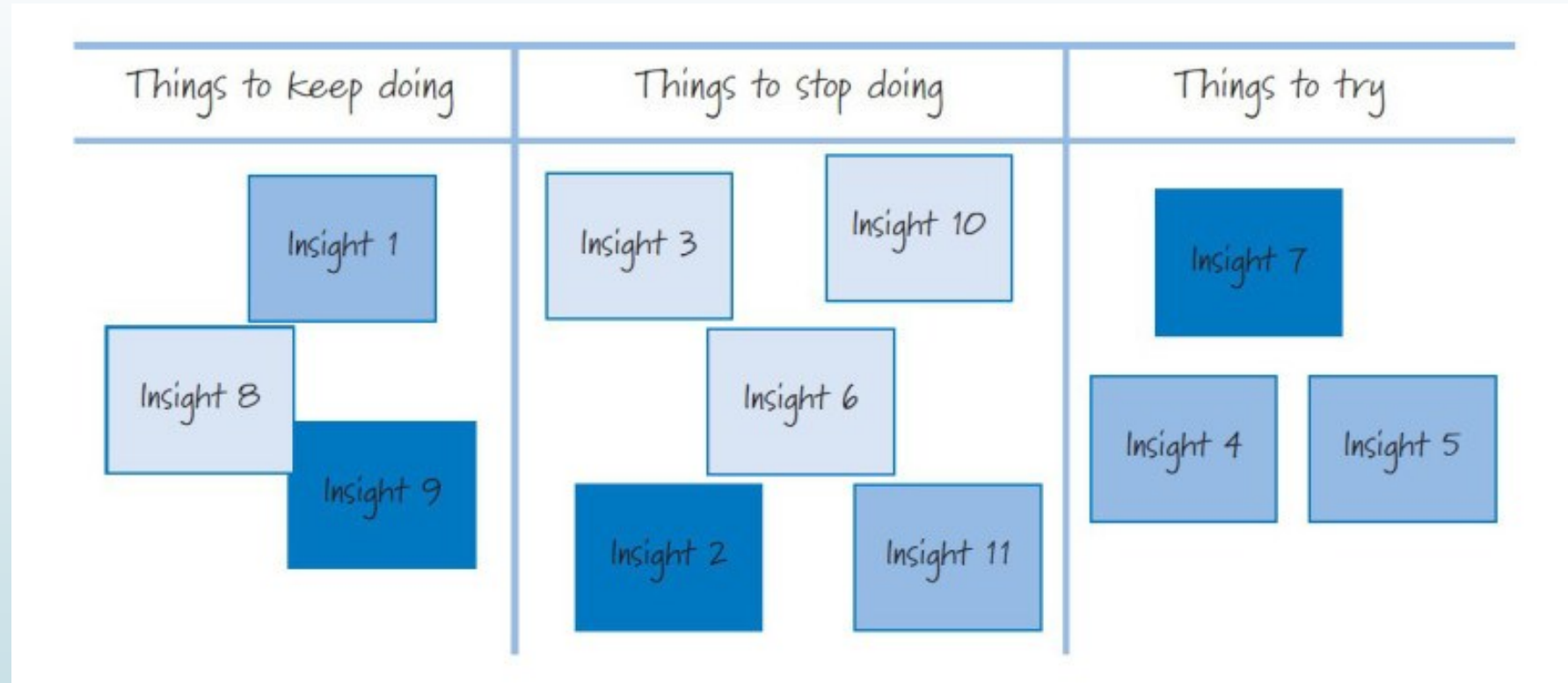
The Tale of the Scrummerfall



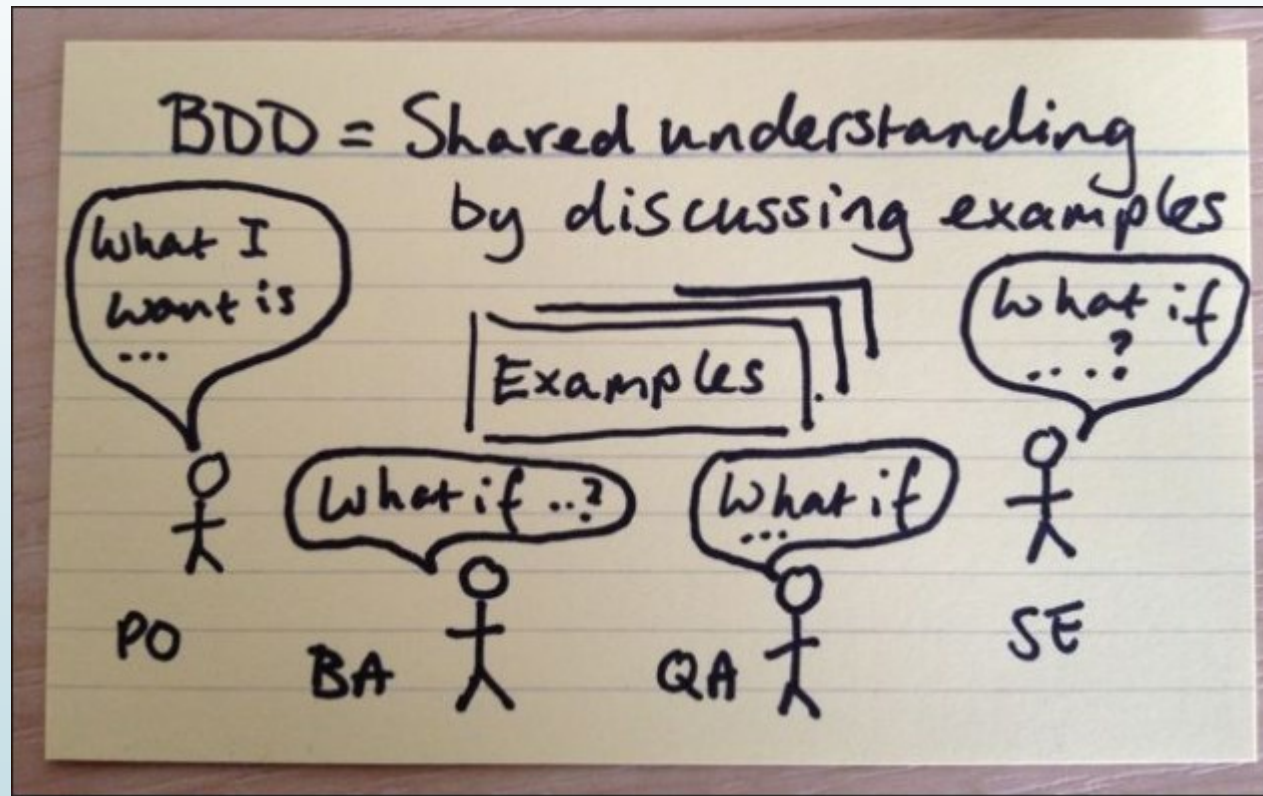
The Tale of the Whole Team Owns Quality



The Tale of Learning From My Mistakes



The Tale of the Tester Who Went all in with BDD



The Tale of the Over Blown Test Idea

Identifier	Focus	Test Objective	Business Importance	Technical Risk	Priority
TID0010	Capabilities	Produce correct box of chocolates based on manifest	HIGH	SIGNIFICANT	5
TID0100	Failure Modes	What if it runs out of paper	HIGH	SIGNIFICANT	5
TID0170	Usage Scenarios	Can operator stop system	HIGH	SIGNIFICANT	5
TID0260	Outcome	Can we produce correct daily reports	HIGH	SIGNIFICANT	5
TID0020	Failure Modes	Are there gaps in a box	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	4
TID0040	Capabilities	Can It fill boxes with mixed chocolates	HIGH	NEUTRAL	4
TID0110	Failure Modes	What if it runs out of other supplies	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	4
TID0140	Failure Modes	What if operator enters incorrect data in manifest	HIGH	NEUTRAL	4
TID0180	Usage Scenarios	Can emergency repairs be done without stopping production	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	4
TID0200	Usage Scenarios	Can production be resumed after emergency repairs	HIGH	NEUTRAL	4
TID0270	Outcome	Can we product correct monthly reports	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	4
TID0290	Input	Can we vary boxes with different speeds of conveyors	HIGH	NEUTRAL	4
TID0030	Capabilities	Can it wrap chocolates with ribbons	LOW	SIGNIFICANT	3
TID0050	Capabilities	Can it fill boxes with one type of chocolates	MEDIUM	NEUTRAL	3
TID0070	Input	Vary Combinations of Ribbons. Paper, Boxes	HIGH	MINIMAL	3
TID0120	Failure Modes	What if machine drops chocolate but continues to try wrapping (in proces	LOW	SIGNIFICANT	3
TID0130	Failure Modes	What if operator enters WRONG manifest	MEDIUM	NEUTRAL	3
TID0150	Failure Modes	What if something else in conveyer belt not chocolate	MEDIUM	NEUTRAL	3
TID0160	Quality Factors	Is system easy to stop	LOW	SIGNIFICANT	3
TID0210	Usage Scenarios	Can loader load supplies	MEDIUM	NEUTRAL	3
TID0230	Usage Scenarios	Can loader add ribbons while production is in progress	HIGH	MINIMAL	3
TID0250	Outcome	Can we produce correct batch report	LOW	SIGNIFICANT	3
TID0300	Input	Can we have batches with high percentage of one type of chocolate	MEDIUM	NEUTRAL	3
TID0060	Capabilities	Can we support different sizes of chocolates in the same box	LOW	NEUTRAL	2
TID0080	Failure Modes	Mechanical failure does it handle it gracefully	MEDIUM	MINIMAL	2

The Tale of an Engaging Exploration



The Tale of the Agile Champion



A hand-drawn illustration of the Agile Manifesto principles. The word "AGILE" is written vertically in large, red, block letters on the left side. To its right, the title "Manifesto for Agile Software Dev." is written in red, cursive script. Below the title, four principles are listed, each preceded by a red circular icon with a diagonal line. The principles are written in black, hand-drawn capital letters.

AGILE

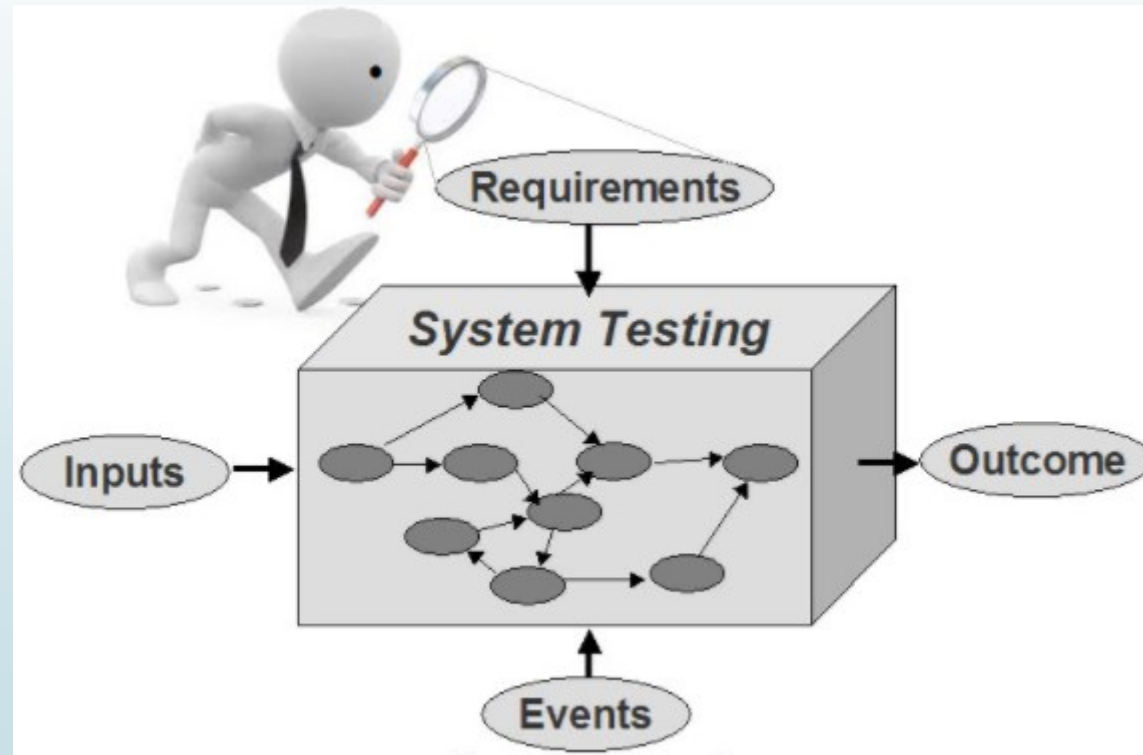
Manifesto for Agile Software Dev.

- INDIVIDUALS AND INTERACTIONS OVER PROCESSES AND TOOLS
- WORKING SOFTWARE OVER COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENTATION
- CUSTOMER COLLABORATION OVER CONTRACT NEGOTIATION
- RESPONDING TO CHANGE OVER FOLLOWING A PLAN

The Tale of the Woman Who Never Raised a Risk or Impediment



The Tale of the Woman Who Knew the Whole System



Conclusion



3-Pillars of Agile Quality

Development & Test Automation

- Pyramid-based Strategy: (Unit + Cucumber + Selenium)
- Continuous Integration
- Attack technical infrastructure in the Backlog
- Visual Feedback – Dashboards
- Actively practice ATDD and BDD

Software Testing

- Risk-based testing: Functional & Non-Functional
- Test planning @ Release & Sprint levels
- Exploratory Testing
- Standards – checklists, templates, repositories
- Balance across manual, exploratory & automation

Cross-Functional Team Practices

- Team-based Pairing
- Stop-the-Line Mindset
- Code Reviews & Standards
- Active Done-Ness
- Aggressive Refactoring of Technical Debt
- User Stories, “3 Amigo” based Conversations

- Whole Team Ownership of “Quality”
 - Knowing the Right Thing to Build; And Building it Right
 - Healthy – Agile Centric Metrics
 - Steering via: Center of Excellence or Community of Practice
- Strategic balance across 3 Pillars; Assessment, Recalibration, and Continuous Improvement