WELCOME

First ever last test

Perfect circumstances

What if someone challenges me
I'm not ready

Blogs & Tweets -> Betrayed myself

Now I'm here
7 time zones
A ton more experience

What happened?
Walk you through

First things first, my name is Erik and I'm a software tester.

In case you come up with questions after CAST or want to know more, *always* feel free to contact me.

D I S C L A I M E R

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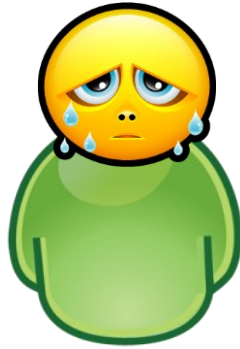Mimicking won't work, you have to think for yourself

EXCUSES

"You quit as *soon* as things get rough"... "You're a coward!"

Tried to ignore but came back

H U R T

Suddenly it hurt to make excuses

I DARE

My option would be to admin defeat

Don't work for me

N O W   W H A T

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Influencial people: "why would they care about what you have to say"?

Volonteer: "others will probably do a better job"?

Comments on this presentation: "it's probably stupid"?

Today, not tomorrow, because... tomorrow is just another excuse!

W H A T   T O   D O

More practical.

The new attitude towards excuses encouraged me to take some action in what I did to progress as a tester. Inspired by a presentation from Torbjörn Ryber, my first step was to create version one of what would become one of my most valuable tools: My Skill Development List.

The idea was to list *all* the things I thought would help me improve as a tester, like "attend the Rapid Software Testing course" or "Read Explore It!". A keyword here is "all" or rather "more than what I'll actually do". As my energy quickly changes, adding a list of only the things I "should" do, would had made me lose interest as soon as I ran into something, at the moment, less interesting. Instead I could just choose my current favorite and still not run out.
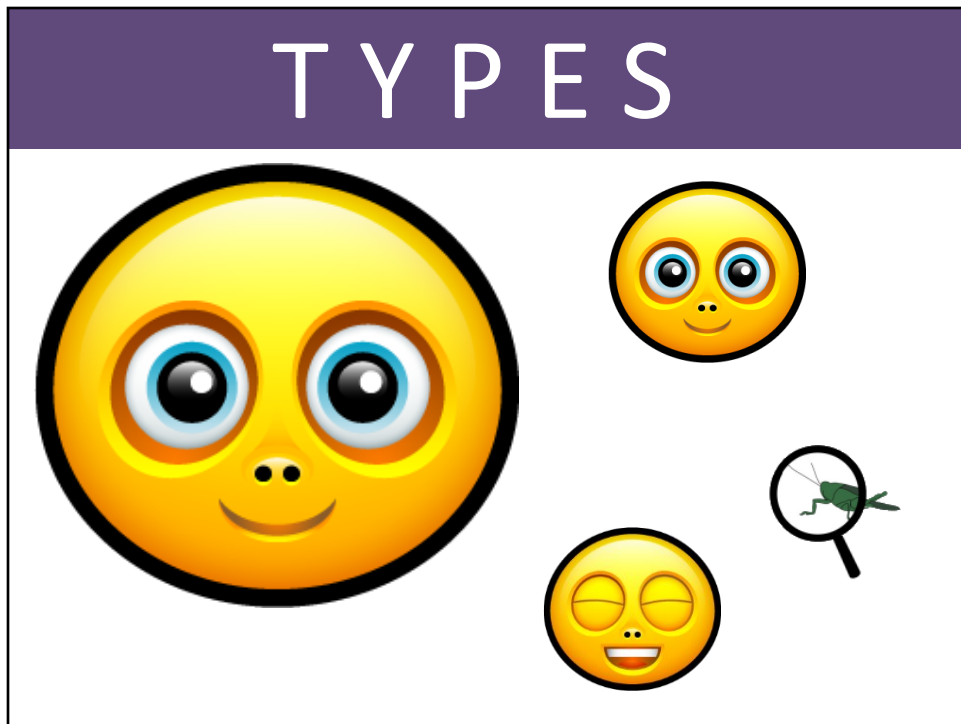
T Y P E S

Mix size

Big provide direction.
Small keeps the list active
Momentum builders replenishes energy

Mix style

C A T E G O R I E S

PRACTICE   SOCIALIZE

PRESENT

FEEDBACK

REFLECT

READ / WATCH

COURSES   SHARE

MENTORING

ORGANIZE

Mix size

Big provide direction.
Small keeps the list active
Momentum builders replenishes energy

Mix style

E X E R C I S E

At least **8** items

At least one **big** item

At least one **momentum builder**

At least one **research** item

Try to **mix categories**

Aim for at least 10 items YOU want to do.

At least one big.
At least one momentum builder.
Pick from different categories, also helps micro-exercise

I won't ask you to reveal any of them afterwards.

List on each chair

(this slide will be printed out and given to the listeners on beforehand)

VALUE

What you just did provided me most value

Looking for inspiration and ticking off items nice but editing builds momentum

L E A R N I N G

Look at your list and answer:

What do you think would make you improve the most?

Is that what you do or work towards today?

I spent too much time gathering information, especially reading books.

Afterwards I've spend more time conducting experiments, doing exercises and reflecting on information gathered

N O W   W H A T

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As you find new things to learn and try during CAST, add them to your list!

Maybe finish your first item here during CAST

If you ever need any kind of help or inspiration, grab me!

Check out the awesome free ebook, 99 ways to become a better tester!
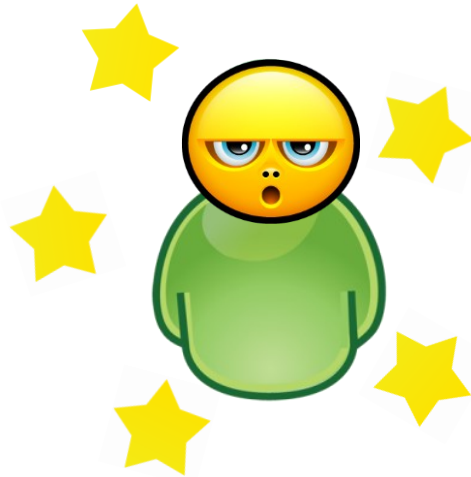
S T A N D A R D S

After Let's Test I found the local test community in my town

Before attending I decided to challenge myself to ask questions whenever I didn't understand or didn't agree with something

Was my first *deliberate* attempt to set certain *standards* for myself.

Later I created a personal manifesto, or vision of what to expect from myself and the people around.

DEMAND

A fair warning!

When you decide to demand certain standards you will have to:

One; take fights
Two; live with consequences

Examples
- use a lot of my own saving to get to the Rapid Software Test course
- change job
- fight against, and break, many rules
- answer up to a lot of critique after breaking those rules

All these kind of actions *really* tempered with my "safety net".

For more extreme stories I recommend listening to James Bach and Huib Schoots.

But standards can *greatly* improve your situation!

Example: read about exploratory testing but forced to thoroughly document each step I planned to take at work.
Stopped accepting meaning many fights but ultimately
- my work got way more interesting
- I learned tons
- I earned a lot of respect

Meetup went perfect

R A I S I N G

Raise standards to keep up with what you learn and to improve your situation.

Tool: List energy drainers

N O W   W H A T

What do you want people to remember you for after CAST?

What can you do to make that happen?

What do you want to learn?

How far are you ready to go to learn that?

Are you living up to your own expectations right now?

... Will you for the rest of this conference?

Could anyone provide me with the 10 second summary the movie Yes Man?

...

A man starts to say yes to everything, cool things happens, problems finally occur and he learns the balance

Lived the movie last autumn.

Offered coaching, invited to a peer conference, got job offers and finally I was challanged to write an abstract for CAST.

Felt scary in their own sense but as I gained momentum I stopped thinking about consequences. Amazing things happened.

Just like Jim Carrey in the movie, I've by time learned you need *balance*.
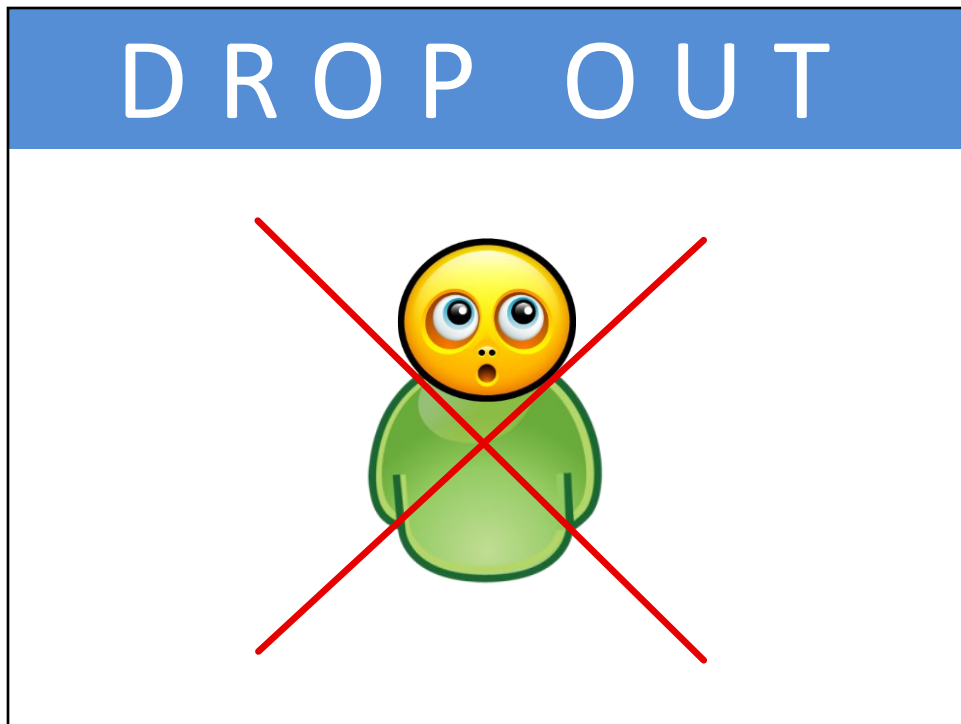
Feel like I somewhat "delegated responsibility" to "someone else".

Helped me realize it's okey to fail
Failing once wasn't that bad
Each failure after that was less and less painful

After answering yes it becomes so much harder to chicken out

NOW WHAT

Listen for opportunities like

- dinner offers
- needs for volonteers
- invitation to make a lightning talk.

When they occur, be ready to answer yes and see where it leads!

If something goes crazy... Just blame me.

**SUMMARY**

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I hope this didn't get to abstract or too far away from the actual story

Remember

1) Question your own excuses.
2) When you get home pick up that Skill development list and improve it.
3) Establish certain standards, and make sure you're ready to fight for them.
4) Finally, don't be afraid to just answer yes without thinking too much, great things come out of it.

Thank you so much for listening!

COMMENTS
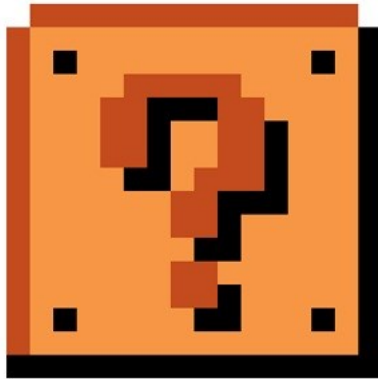
C R E D I T S

Pictures
IBM – User Icon in Green
Jojo Mendoza – Keriyo smiley pack
AST – The AST logo

Thank you!
Maria Kedemo for challenging me to do this and helping me along the way!
Helena Jeret-Mäe for invaluable feedback and support!
Torbjörn Ryber for inspiring me to create my first skill development list!
James Bach for teaching, and showing, me so much about standards!
Rosie Sherry for the 99 ways to become a better tester ebook initiative!
Saam Eriksson for our amazing journey at my former job!

... And of course everyone involved in making Yes Man.