Steel Yourself: Best Practices Are Good Enough

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Hello!

😊 **Eric Proegler,** @3r1c_p, He/Him

🏠 Xučyun, unceded Ohlone land (Oakland, CA)

💳 Context-Driven Tester/DevOps Architect

🔍 Former President, AST

📈 Organizer, WOPR

🌍 Speaker on Five Continents (so far)

🐾 Lvl 50 Social Justice Tank

1.
Steeling Ourselves

Why We're Here

Steel, Not Straw

✏️ To Understand an Issue: Articulate Multiple Positions. Those you Disagree With are Especially Helpful

🎯 Faithfully, To the Best of Your Ability - No Sarcasm or Winking

💡 Logos over Pathos: Questioning/Learning, Not Combat Serve the Issue, not Your Ego

" The failure mode of clever is "asshole."

- *John Scalzi*

2.
The Premise

Meta-Context

" The value of any practice depends on its context.

There are good practices in context, but there are no best practices.

- *Principles of Context-Driven Testing*

Inseparable from Being Context-Driven?

📖 Core Principle of Context-Driven Testing

📍 Embraces Ambiguity, Emphasizes Skill and Experience

🗺 Freedom for Craftspeople to Explore, Innovate, and Tailor Approaches for Best Outcomes

3.
Engaging with Context

Working Within Context

When Is This Coming Up?

👍 Someone is at Work. They Need to Test. They May or May Not be "Testers"

💬 Someone Needs Testing. They Are Probably Not Testers, or at Least Testers Who Think About Context

📅 There is Always a Schedule. What Can/Should/Could be Done?

Let's Consider Some Contexts

🎁 Stakeholders who don't know what they want

☂ Inexperienced Testers and/or Leaders of Testers

🧩 Projects with No Dedicated Testers

🕐 Need to Demonstrate Effectiveness Rapidly

🛒 Cultures with less patience/safety

Considered Context, Seeking Meaning

👁 Lack of Skill, Experience, And/Or Confidence to Select Practices…Or at Least Suboptimal Distribution

😀 People Need to Succeed at Work; Who Can Just Quit?

🔍 Testing Is Rarely Valued Appropriately - or at Least, Consistently

4.
Driving
with Context

Community, Growth, and
Helping People

Social Currency vs Utility

🗑 Too Many People (Self Included), Too Much Dunking on Best Practices. For Who? To What End? Who is helped?

⚗ The Offered Alternative of "Skill and Experience" not Particularly Helpful if you Currently have Neither

⚙ "Heuristic" is the Same Thing, to Most People. Yes, they can be Misapplied. And?

Advancing Art and Science

🌸 People Need Help. Are We Going to Help Them?

🏷️ "Best Practices" Are Generally Not Narrowly, Faithfully, and Obliviously Applied - That's a Straw Man

📷 Pattern Documentation is Helpful, Whatever the Labels

Xray ✅ @XrayApp
Our latest blog unveils essential best practices and crucial pitfalls to avoid in exploratory testing. 🔍 📝
hubs.li/Q01Rb3nP0
#ExploratoryTesting #SoftwareTesting #TestingTips

Thanks!

Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by <u>SlidesCarnival</u>
- Photographs by <u>Unsplash</u>

Slides Carnival

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