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Lesson: Early Activities for Testers Can Include

Ideally, if testers can be involved earlier in the development process and make contributions, this would be great and be respected. However, in fact, at my previous workplaces, testers' participating in projects early has never happened. They always did not have enough human resources and were burdened with several ongoing projects. Consequently, arranging testers to join the project in an earlier phase was very challenging and unrealistic. Moreover, some people thought that even though testers could go into the development process earlier, this would not be helpful for the whole project and would waste their time because testers did not know how to design or program the product. In my opinion, I disagree with this thinking, and my idea is consistent with the concept of the book, *Lessons Learned in Software Testing*. Testers definitely can contribute a lot in early development process.

The following paragraphs will demonstrate some important activities that testers can devote their time to. Reviewing requirement documents for understandability, testability, and ambiguity are very helpful for the project. Experienced testers probably have a lot of relevant knowledge about the previous generations of products, similar products, and competitors' products. They can compare the current specification documents with other products' and generate a comprehensive research report for the company. This give other teams and even customers a chance to reexamine the current product specifications.

Even though testers might not be familiar with programming, they can help facilitate code review. Code reviews can benefit future development, testers can make it easier for developers to launch these meetings. Testers do not need to comment on anything about programming, but they can ask questions about testability. For example, when a new feature is discussed, testers can consult with developers on how to test it and if automation testing is necessary. Testers not only make this activity convenient for developers but also learn a lot from them.

Sometimes, some projects are required to utilize the hardware, so this needs someone to setup the hardware. In my opinion, testers are the most suitable people in the company to do this. In general, testers are familiar with testing both software and hardware. If testers can help developers to prepare the hardware configurations, testers can earn respect from developers.

Automation testing is always the goal for the high-tech products and will not happen without any preparation. Consequently, achieving automation testing needs to start with discussions and preparations as soon as possible. For example, the most important project at my previous workplaces was Amazon's Kindle Fire HD. In the beginning of this project, customers required our teams to create a brand new automated testing suite. Not only were software testing tools needed but also hardware testing fixtures. Our test team helped a lot in surveying and researching these tools and equipment, and this led our development team saving a lot of time and focusing on the development. In conclusion, testers absolutely can have many ways to help the projects go smoothly and earn respects when they participate in the early phase of the development process.