

Chris Melski

SENIOR TEST MANAGER | TEST AUTOMATION ENGINEER | BUSINESS ANALYST

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Professional Summary

Seasoned Test Manager, Test Automation Lead, and Business Analyst with 20+ years' experience spanning end-to-end quality assurance, test automation, and requirements management across Investment Banking, Trading, and Communications Services. Equal strength in leading global QA teams, designing and implementing automation frameworks (Python, Playwright, Cypress, Selenium), and driving business analysis to ensure requirements are fully captured and testable. Proven ability to bridge business stakeholders and technical teams while ensuring robust QA governance, automation-led efficiency, and successful project delivery.

Career Highlights

End-to-End Test & Quality Assurance Leadership

- Directed QA for BARX FX e-Trading, covering pricing, order execution, risk management, and controls.
- Spearheaded requirements-to-test traceability, reducing missed scenarios and ensuring regulatory compliance.
- Delivered multiple full lifecycle releases with minimal post-production defects.

Automation, CI/CD & Continuous Improvement

- Designed automated regression suites in Python, cutting test cycle time by 90%.
- Delivered robust API and database automation, and built reusable automation frameworks in Cypress and Selenium.
- Advocated for BBD test design aligned with user stories and regulatory requirements.
- Championed performance testing in Agile workflows, proactively identifying bottlenecks before production releases.
- Promoted Agile retrospectives to continuously refine QA and BA practices.

Business Analysis & Requirements Management

- Partnered with business and compliance teams to elicit, document, and validate requirements for trading platforms and customer-facing systems.
- Produced functional specifications, user stories, and process flows, ensuring alignment between business needs and system capabilities.
- Facilitated UAT planning and execution, ensuring stakeholder sign-off and business readiness.

Global Team & Stakeholder Collaboration

- Managed cross-regional teams (Singapore, Pune, Prague, London).
- Acted as a bridge between business, developers, and testers, ensuring clear communication of requirements and risks.

Key Skills

- **QA Management:** Test Strategy, Test Planning, Defect Management, SIT/UAT Execution, Risk Management, Stakeholder Management
- **Test Automation:** Python (pytest, unittest), Playwright, Cypress, Selenium, Cucumber, REST API, Postman, Jenkins, SQL, FIX Protocol, Java, JavaScript, VBA, Linux
- **Business Analysis:** Requirements gathering/documentation, User Story Mapping, Business Process Modeling, Gap Analysis, UAT Coordination
- **Tools:** JIRA, Confluence, GitHub, Excel, Visio, PyCharm, Visual Studio Code, MySQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL, Linux
- **Data Analysis:** Pandas, Numpy, Matplotlib
- **Domain Expertise:** FX Trading, Order Management, Algorithmic Trading, Market Data, Customer Billing Systems, Inventory Tracking Systems, POS Systems
- **Soft skills:** Communication, problem-solving, negotiation, logical-minded, adaptiveness

Professional Experience

Senior Test Manager | Test Automation Lead | Business Analyst - Barclays, Singapore (Jun 2007 – Mar 2024)

- Oversaw end-to-end testing, from SIT to UAT, managing sign-offs across multiple stakeholders.
- Managed global QA teams across Singapore, Pune, Prague, and London, ensuring consistent delivery and communication.
- Led test automation strategy for BARX FX e-Trading over FIX protocol, implementing regression suites in Python and Playwright.
- Manual technical testing of new product features/enhancements and bug fixes; validation included GUI/server logs, APIs, databases, and downstream systems.
- Conducted stakeholder interviews, workshops, and job shadowing with traders, compliance, and IT to capture requirements for new features and regulatory changes.
- Produced BRDs, functional specs, and user stories, later traced into QA test plans.
- Conducted root cause analysis of production issues, providing feedback loops into requirements to prevent recurrence.
- Acted as single point of contact for both QA and Business, ensuring transparency across delivery.

Independent Professional Development - Singapore (Apr 2024 – Present)

- Completed targeted trainings and certifications: IIBA Business Analysis Fundamentals, Certified Python Programmer (PCEP™), API Testing with Python & pytest, Playwright Python Automation Testing, Agile / Cucumber BDD & Selenium Frameworks, Cypress – Modern Automation Testing.
- Executed hands-on projects to strengthen Python automation, Cypress, API testing, and business analysis skills.
- Engaged in self-directed learning to stay current with QA tools, frameworks, and Agile practices.

Test Lead | Business Analyst - Gen-i, Wellington, NZ (Oct 2006 – Jun 2007)

- Defined and managed test strategy and requirements validation for helpdesk software implementation.
- Facilitated UAT sessions, ensuring business sign-off aligned with user expectations.

Test Engineer | Business Analyst - Bell, Toronto, Canada (Jan 2004 – Jun 2006)

- Supported billing platform migration with combined QA and BA responsibilities.
- Captured business requirements while managing regression testing cycles.

Business Analyst - ReserveAmerica, Mississauga, Canada (Jan 2003 – Dec 2003)

- Gathered requirements, created functional specifications, and supported testing for e-commerce POS and Ticketing systems.

Java Developer / QA Analyst - SIVCO Inc, Calgary, Canada (Jan 2002 – Jan 2003)

- Built Java solutions for an Inventory Tracking System and spearheaded the adoption of formal QA processes into the development lifecycle.

Education

- Post Graduate Programming Diploma, ITI, Toronto, Canada (Hon) – 2001
- Bachelor of Business Admin (Marketing), Cape Breton University, Sydney, Canada (Hon) - 1998

Professional Development

- Cypress – Modern Automation Testing + Frameworks (Sep 2025)
- Business Analysis Fundamentals – IIBA Endorsed (Aug 2025)
- Playwright Python Automation Testing (Jun 2025)
- API Testing with Python and PyTest (Jan 2025)
- [PCEP-30-02] PCEP™ - Certified Python Programmer (Oct 2024)
- 100 Days of Code: Python Pro Bootcamp (Jun 2024)
- Learn Cucumber BDD with Java – Masterclass Selenium Framework (Apr 2024)

Hobbies & Interests

- HIIT Training, Hiking, Movies, Reading, Programming