**Networking Exercise:**

I asked 3 questions since initial LinkedIn messages are limited to 300 letters.

Hi {Name},

I'm thinking about pursuing a career as a SDET. I have a few questions for you if you can spare the time.

1. What led you to become interested in being a SDET?

2. What advice do you have for someone who is considering this field?

3. What do you like most about your work?

Thank you

Janette S.  
Avalara

1. I started out as software developer but learned that I was not as good with big picture (architect) problems as I was with small details. I was asked by an employer to do automated testing and I did and never turned back.

2. You need skills in software development.

3. I like being part of a team. My place on the team is being the person who makes sure bugs don't get out to our customers. I think that is pretty important.

Alan L.  
Advanced Energy

The difference between QA and SDET. You can check https://marutitech.com/differences-between-sdet-and-qa/

In my opinion, the role of an SDET (Software Development Engineer in Test) places a significant emphasis on coding skills. As an SDET, your responsibilities extend beyond creating test cases and conducting various types of tests. You are also required to maintain and enhance the test framework, collaborate with developers and upper management to create test strategies, possess a thorough understanding of the product, and evaluate test coverage.

Joe M.

Hi , Doug

It’s a pleasure to mee you .

1. I became an sdet as a path to becoming a developer ,which is what currently do .

2. The duties of an sdet varies from company to company . In some cases , sdet are part of the development team and contribute to the code base whereas in other cases , sdet are QA first and foremost. Be prepared for either .

3. There is always something to learn

Ahmad T.

Charles Schwab

Hello Doug,

Thank you for reaching out. I would love to tell you more about my experience as an SDET, and why I think it is one of the most rewarding career paths within software.

First, to your questions:

1. There are a variety of factors that played a huge role. One of the first is the first time I was introduced to QA, which was at a talk during my final year in college (University at Buffalo SUNY) where the guest speaker was (probably still is) an engineer at Microsoft. He was working on testing the new Xbox one at that time. He spoke about some of the cool test cases he had worked on and what were the business use cases behind them. After listening to him, I understood that testing is what bridges the gap between business and engineering.

A few months down the line after I graduated, I was lucky enough to start work as a software engineer and I was responsible for building out the test automation framework. In order to do this, I was working very closely with the entire QA team, especially the SDET on site. Once that project was completed, it was clear how much the entire organization benefited from it, and that was a highly motivating factor for me. After that I have worked in various testing roles and not a single role has been the same as the other. It is truly a very exciting career.

2. A) My advice is never turn down a project because the technology is not something you have experience with. B) Make clear communication your number one priority. 3) take time to understand the architecture and the system as a whole in order to come up with thoughtful test scenarios. Chances are that you will never be able to do truly exhaustive testing and cover each and every scenario.

3. This position gives me room to be creative, and to “think outside the box”. I enjoy looking at the technical specs., requirements, architecture diagrams and think about how it can fail or what can be the bottleneck in different scenarios, for example high traffic, complex queries.

To add to all of this, I think being an SDET you never feel stuck in the organization. Probably the opposite! You will have the option to move towards dev. side, business side, or stay within the realm of testing. The opportunities are endless, and how you choose to progress your career from a SDET is entirely up to you.

Once again, thanks for reaching out, and I am looking forward to staying connected!

Sincerely,

Ahmad

Richard Bradshaw

(CEO) at Ministry of Testing

Q: I hope you can spare a few moment of your time. I've been doing manual QA for 15+ years. I want to become an SDET. What are your recommendations? I'm also curious, where do you see the future of software heading in light of A.I. and other tools.

A: Your first question, I think companies will be able to do more with less. But the transition to utilising AI at most companies will be slow outside of start ups/bootstrapped places. I think we have many years until those places catch up, and aI mean team using AI to be more productive.

I think Ai in products has a long way to go, and many legal battles to overcome. A lot of teams struggle with data they can control, their products quality would plummet with AI i feel.

I have three main suggestions:

1) Get involved with Ministry of Testing. Go Pro and utilise all our great content. Or just be an active member and follow all the great advice shared in the community.

2) Check out Test Automation University, lots of free courses and new course releases all the time.

3) Be public with your progress. Build a portfolio on GitHub, share what you are trying to do. The majority of people will be very supportive.