



GET TO KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUES

## EJ GALLARDE

**If** you've seen the movie *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* by Eric Roth then you're probably familiar with the following lines from the closing monologue:

"For what it's worth: it's never too late or, in my case, too early to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit. Stop whenever you want. You can change or stay the same. There are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you've never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again."

I'm pretty sure that everyone who has seen it has probably associated themselves with those wonderful lines – one way or another. As for me, it meant a lot.

For over ten years, being a Software Engineer was all I knew. It never occurred to me that one day I'll be leaving the comforts of the four corners of my IDE. Not that I didn't want to, but the thought of change has always been rather daunting. Change is hard. It is stressful. It is scary. And lastly, change is inevitable – especially to those who desire it. And those who long for it usually get the best of it!

I began my career with IBM Philippines and IBM Australia as a Java developer back in 2007. During my stay there, I also became a Quality Analyst, an ABAP developer, and an Informatica ETL developer. By May 2013, I started working with LexisNexis as Software Engineer I for the Batch R3 team. Through hard work and dedication, I was promoted to Software Engineer III in 2016. In a sense, my world simply revolved around codes and tons of debugging breakpoints.

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During the third quarter of this year, an opportunity to lead a young QA Automation team presented itself. After days of contemplation, I decided to apply for the role. As fate has it, by mid-September I was leading the team. I myself could not believe that I have made that decision of 'change' and that I was capable of it.

To be honest, it was an unfamiliar ground. I was a bit misoneistic at first. However, I needed to come in day in and day out and provide to the table what I have to offer. Eventually, I learned to give something beyond what I would normally do. And that is actually what all of us need! We need that passion for winning; to innovate!

So what am I trying to say here? As you all know, the plan for the QA team is to automate most, if not all, of our processes and dive into performance testing.

This is being done in order to cope up with the ever-changing demands of the market. Products need to be delivered to the market faster to have better penetration. Aside from that, it must have the same high quality as before but with lower base or maintenance cost. And without change, these wouldn't be possible.

With this, I encourage all of you to embrace and lead change. Yes it will be hard – even messy – but I assure you, it will be fruitful in the end!



## INSURANCE RULES QA

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TOP, L-R : Jay Sandoval, Paul Andrew Enriquez, Anna Lisa Gonzales, Evangeline Villegas Dela Cruz, Marvin Cruz

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